

What have archaeologists taught us about Ancient Egypt?

Vocabulary

BC	Used to show a date is before the year 0.
AD	Used to show that a date is after the year 0.
Irrigation	A system of canals or channels to supply water to grow crops.
Silt	Fine particles of soil, clay or sand carried and left by water
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols.
Cartouche	An oval shape where the names of Kings and Queens were written
pharaoh	A ruler of Ancient Egypt
Ra	Sun god, lord of the gods. Sailed his boat through the sky during the day and through the underworld at night
Horus	God of the sky, Pharaoh were believed to be a god-like, living version of Horus
Thoth	God of wisdom. Believed to have invented hieroglyphics and to keep record of all knowledge
Isis	Queen of the goddesses
Osiris	God of the dead
Ma'at	Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and to be fair and honest.
Anubis	God of mummification. Weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If your heart was lighter, you would live forever

Tutankhamun Facts

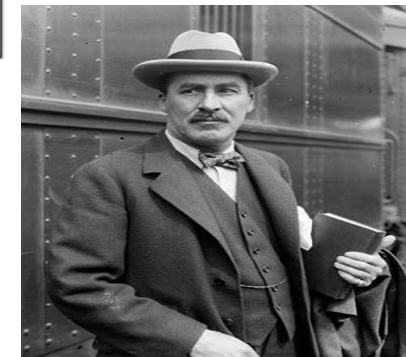
- Born: around 1342 BC
- Died: around 1323 BC
- Pharaoh from approx. 1333 BC to 1323 BC
- Known as the 'boy king' as he became pharaoh aged only 9
- Tomb discovered by Howard Carter and his team in the Valley of the Kings in 1922
- Tomb contained over 3000 treasures
- Historians believe Tutankhamun died suddenly as the tomb was finished hastily.



Writing

Hieroglyphics were written by scribes, who had to go to a special school to learn how to write. Almost all scribes were men, although there is some evidence of female doctors being able to read within medical texts.

Hieroglyphics were used for religious text and inscriptions on statues and tombs. They were also used for counting crops and animals so that the right taxes could be taken.



Howard Carter

The Nile

The river Nile was essential to life in Ancient Egypt. Every year, it flooded, leaving behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to irrigate fields in other areas. Most people lived along and around the Nile. This is still true in Egypt today. The river was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river was used for bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper.