

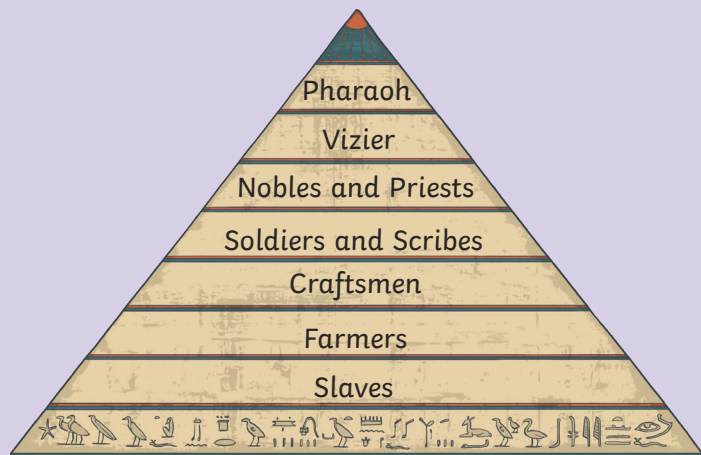
Life in Ancient Egypt

The ancient Egyptian period began over 5,000 years ago in North Africa. It was a place of beliefs, inventions and a long-lasting legacy.

Society

Ancient Egyptian culture lasted for over 3,000 years. Many features of society can be found in ancient Egypt. For example, ancient Egyptians were expert farmers and made one of the first calendars as well as a writing system called **hieroglyphics**.

People of ancient Egypt were split into different classes. The pharaoh was at the top of this pyramid.



Pharaoh
God on earth.



Vizier
Pharaoh's second-in-command.



Nobles and Priests
Made laws and performed rituals.



Soldiers and Scribes
Warriors and record-keepers.



Craftsmen
Tradespeople.



Farmers
Farmed the land.

7

Slaves

Worked for others.



Markets and Merchants

Markets were important for trade. Ancient Egyptians grew lots of grain and used it to trade. Stones named 'debens' weighed the value of items during a trade.

Trading with other people and countries was vital to make sure people had the food and materials they needed to live well. Some popular items for trade included linen, papyrus, grain and various precious metals and stones.

Did You Know...?

- The ancient Egyptians believed the 2,000 gods and goddesses were linked to many natural forces.
- The afterlife was incredibly important. As such, ancient Egyptians prepared for what would happen after they died.
- Important people's bodies were preserved through mummification. The god Anubis weighed their hearts.



Transport and the Nile

Due to the hot **climate**, the Nile was critical. Ancient Egyptian life grew around it. The heavy rainfall that came during the monsoon season caused the river to flood. Towns and cities relied on the **fertile** ground that the water created.

In addition to this, the Nile was an important route for people to travel and trade. All over the area, the ancient Egyptians used skiffs (simple sailboats) to trade.

Glossary:

climate – Weather conditions in a place over a period of time.

fertile – Land able to produce lots of crops.

hieroglyphics – Language using symbols and pictures.

Questions

1. Which of the following is **not** an item used for trade? Tick **one**.

- linen
- papyrus
- flags
- wheat

2. How long ago did ancient Egyptian civilization begin? Tick **one**.

- 2,000 years ago
- 3,000 years ago
- 4,000 years ago
- over 5,000 years ago

3. List the top three classes in ancient Egyptian society.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Draw three lines to match the social class to its description.

Vizier

Tradespeople.

Craftsmen

Pharaoh's second-in-command.

Farmers

Farmed the land to grow food.

5. Find and copy a phrase which describes how important the river Nile was to ancient Egyptians.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Important people's bodies were preserved through _____.

The god _____ weighed their _____.

7. What system did the ancient Egyptians use for trade in their markets?

8. Why are some words written in **bold** in the text?
