

Ancient Egypt: Life Along the Nile

Learning objective: To understand the importance of the River Nile to Ancient Egyptian civilisation and identify key features of their society.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of Ancient Egyptian history to provide detailed answers. Remember to use full sentences.

Ellie the elephant has been reading ancient scrolls! She discovered that the Ancient Egyptians relied entirely on the River Nile. Every year, the river flooded, leaving behind rich, dark soil called silt, which allowed farmers to grow crops in the middle of the desert. The Pharaoh, who was seen as a god on Earth, ruled over the land. Egyptians believed in an afterlife, which is why they built grand tombs and carefully preserved the bodies of the deceased. They recorded their history using a complex system of picture-writing called hieroglyphics, which they often painted on scrolls made from papyrus plants.

Word bank: Pharaoh · Irrigation · Silt · Hieroglyphics · Papyrus · Afterlife · Sarcophagus · Canopic jars

1. Why was the annual flooding of the River Nile so important for the survival of the Ancient Egyptians? (2 marks)

2. Explain the role of the Pharaoh in Ancient Egyptian society. (2 marks)

3. The Egyptians used a plant called papyrus. What was this plant used for, and why was it significant for their history? (2 marks)

4. Why did the Ancient Egyptians go to such great lengths to preserve bodies and build elaborate tombs? (2 marks)

5. If you were a scribe in Ancient Egypt, would you prefer to write on stone walls or papyrus scrolls? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the River Nile. Include the river itself, the fertile green land along the banks, the sandy desert beyond, and one pyramid in the distance.



Extension challenge: Research one Ancient Egyptian invention (other than papyrus or pyramids). Write three sentences explaining what it was and how it made daily life easier for the people living in the Nile Valley.