

Ellie's Ancient Egyptian Archaeological Audit

Learning objective: To analyse the significance of Ancient Egyptian social structures and daily life through an archaeological perspective.

Ellie the Elephant has discovered a series of artefacts at an excavation site. To help her record these items, you must act as the Lead Archaeologist. For each item listed, identify the social group likely to use it and provide a justification for your classification based on your knowledge of the Ancient Egyptian hierarchy.

Word bank: Pharaoh · Scribe · Farmer · Merchant · Artisan · Priest · Papyrus · Shaduf · Amulet · Chisel

1. Item: A gold-inlaid pectoral necklace. Identify the owner and explain why this object signifies high status in the social hierarchy. (2 marks)

2. Item: A reed pen and a palette of dried ink. Which social group used these tools, and why were they essential for the administration of the kingdom? (2 marks)

3. Item: A wooden shaduf. Describe how this tool was used by farmers and explain why it was vital for agriculture near the River Nile. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the daily lives of an artisan and a farmer. What might happen to the economy if the artisans stopped their work? (3 marks)

5. Justify why the Pharaoh was considered both the political leader and the religious figurehead of the civilisation. (3 marks)

6. Explain why the discovery of a 'weights and measures' set suggests the presence of a merchant class. How did trade impact the growth of Egyptian cities? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Social Pyramid' of Ancient Egypt. At the base, sketch the agricultural tools used by farmers; at the peak, draw the regalia (headdress and crook/flail) of the Pharaoh. Label each layer clearly.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer who has just found a hidden tomb. Write a 150-word diary entry describing three items you found and what they reveal about the person buried there. Use sophisticated vocabulary such as 'archaic', 'meticulous', 'hierarchical', and 'civilisation'.