Ellie’s Ancient Egyptian Adventure

Learning objective: To understand key features of Ancient Egyptian civilisation, including the importance of the River Nile and the role of the Pharaoh.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Remember to look back at the text to help you find your answers.

Ellie the elephant loves exploring history. Recently, she studied the wonders of Ancient Egypt, a civilisation that began over 5,000 years ago. Life in Egypt relied entirely on the River Nile. Every year, the river flooded, leaving behind rich, dark mud called silt. This silt was perfect for growing wheat and barley to feed the people. Without the Nile, the land would have been a dry, sandy desert.

At the top of Egyptian society was the Pharaoh, who was considered a powerful ruler and a link to the gods. The Egyptians were brilliant inventors; they created a form of paper called papyrus from reeds that grew along the riverbanks. They also built magnificent stone tombs, known as pyramids, to protect their Pharaohs after they passed away. Ellie finds it fascinating how they used clever maths and engineering to build these structures without modern machines. Their history is filled with colourful paintings, golden treasures, and mysterious hieroglyphs that tell stories of a time long ago. By studying these ancient clues, we can learn how people lived, worked, and worshipped thousands of years before we were born.

Word bank: civilisation · pharaoh · irrigation · tomb · papyrus · silt

1. Why was the silt left behind by the River Nile important to the Ancient Egyptians? (2 marks)

2. What material did the Ancient Egyptians use to make their version of paper? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think the Egyptians wanted to build such large, strong pyramids for their Pharaohs? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what does the Pharaoh’s role as a 'link to the gods' suggest about how they were viewed by the people? (2 marks)

5. Ellie says the Egyptians were brilliant inventors. Which of their inventions do you think is the most important, and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of the River Nile with a pyramid in the background and a boat sailing on the water.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer discovering a hidden tomb. Write three sentences describing one treasure you might find inside.