Ellie’s Ancient Egyptian Expedition: A Timeline Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the chronological order of key developments and eras in Ancient Egyptian history.

Ellie the elephant has been digging through history books to create a timeline of Ancient Egypt. Unfortunately, her notes have become muddled! Read the eight historical events below and sort them into the correct chronological order from 1 to 8. Then, write a brief sentence explaining why each event was significant to the civilisation.

Word bank: Old Kingdom · Pharaoh · Hieroglyphs · Great Pyramid of Giza · Tutankhamun · River Nile · Mummification · New Kingdom

1. 1. The first farming communities settle along the banks of the River Nile. (1 mark)

2. 2. King Djoser commissions the Step Pyramid, marking the start of the Old Kingdom. (1 mark)

3. 3. The Great Pyramid of Giza is constructed for Pharaoh Khufu. (1 mark)

4. 4. The Middle Kingdom begins, a time of stability and cultural growth. (1 mark)

5. 5. Hieroglyphs are fully developed as a complex system of writing. (1 mark)

6. 6. The New Kingdom begins, often called the 'Golden Age' of Egypt. (1 mark)

7. 7. Tutankhamun rules as a young Pharaoh before his early death. (1 mark)

8. 8. Cleopatra VII, the last active ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, passes away. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene of the River Nile showing how it might have looked during the harvest season, including a shaduf for watering crops.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a hidden tomb. Write a short journal entry (50-70 words) describing the items you found inside and what they tell us about the person who was buried there.