

## Y3 HISTORY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: HOW MUCH DID THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS ACHIEVE?

### Key Vocabulary

<b>Archaeologists</b>	people who study the past by examining remains and objects.	<b>Afterlife</b>	a life some people believe begins when you die.
<b>Canopic jars</b>	containers holding organs from the body	<b>Preserve</b>	protect from decay or damage.
<b>Embalmed</b>	preserved with special substances	<b>Eternity</b>	time without end
<b>Pharaoh</b>	king or queen	<b>Influential</b>	makes people take notice
<b>Sarcophagus</b>	decorative container for a body	<b>Temples</b>	places of worship

### Key Ideas

- For 3000 years Ancient Egypt was home to some of the most influential inventions and discoveries in history. The Egyptians developed systems for writing (including hieroglyphics) and maths; they used paper (papyrus) and wrote texts on religion, astronomy and medicine. The Egyptians built magnificent buildings, temples and tombs, decorating them with pictures, paintings and carvings. This great civilisation continued until the death of Cleopatra VII in 30BC when Egypt fell to the Roman Empire.
- Located in the Nile Valley, in Northeast Africa, the Ancient Egyptians settled into permanent homes near the River Nile, where they could grow crops on fertile land. The Egyptians were skilled farmers and invented tools and technology to allow them to produce the food that a great civilisation would need. They invented methods of irrigation using large canals to provide fresh water to crops. The shaduf is an example of this.
- Ancient Egyptians were very skilled builders, and there were more than 100 pyramids in Egypt. The most famous is the Great Pyramid. The pyramids were designed to be a comfortable place to enjoy the afterlife, and also acted as a display of power and wealth. They were built by peasant farmers who provided labour for the king in return for food, oil and cloth. The building work usually took place when farmland was flooded.
- Egyptians believed in immortality and developed complex burial rituals, including mummification. The pyramids were built as tombs for their dead pharaohs. Not every Ancient Egyptian was buried in a great pyramid but belief in the afterlife meant that even the poorest Egyptians were buried with items to take with them on their journey to the next life after death. Without this careful preparation of the body the Egyptians believed you would be unable to stay in the heavenly afterlife.

#### How do we know about the Ancient Egyptians?

-By looking at the remains of things left behind by ancient people, historians and archaeologists can begin to understand how people lived and what their daily lives were like. There are lots of Egyptian artefacts to provide first hand (primary) evidence, ranging from huge pyramids to small items of jewellery and pottery. Very old artefacts can give us vital clues about how great civilisations began.



