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# Pharaohs

These activities are for you to do at home. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

**Activities**

**1a.** Find Egypt on a map, using an atlas or Google Earth. Locate the Nile river, the Mediterranean Sea and countries that surround Egypt. Draw a simple sketch map and include a key to show some of the geographical features of the country.

**1b.** Use information from the maps and other sources to answer these questions about Egypt.

- What are the differences in vegetation between the north and south of Egypt?
- What effect does the Nile have on the vegetation of Egypt?
- Which part of Egypt has the most towns and cities? Why might that be?
- Where else in Egypt can settlements be found? Why might that be?

**2.** The fertile northern area of Egypt is called the Nile Delta. Use a range of sources to find out how deltas form and how they benefit the area. Record your findings and draw a labelled sketch of the Nile Delta.

**3.** Use your knowledge and research skills to create an information text or poster about the Nile in ancient Egypt. Include information about why the ancient Egyptians lived near the river, and why the river was so important to ancient Egyptian society. Compare how people used the river then and today.

**4.** The list below shows some important events that happened during the development of the ancient Egyptian civilisation. Choose one of the events to research in more detail, using a range of sources. Record your findings.

**c6000 BC** – Early people settle in the Nile Valley.
**c3500 BC** – Craftsmen begin to create wall paintings using hieroglyphics.
**c2500 BC** – Egyptians build the Great Sphinx and the Great Pyramid of Giza.
**c1325 BC** – King Tutankhamun is buried in the Valley of the Kings.
**c332 BC** – Alexander the Great invades Egypt and the ‘New Kingdom’ era ends.
**c30 BC** – Queen Cleopatra dies.

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**5a.** Draw a labelled hierarchy pyramid to show the ancient Egyptian hierarchical system, which included different social classes.

**5b.** Use your diagram and research skills to answer the questions and record any additional information about ancient Egyptian society that you have learned from the hierarchy pyramid.

- Who was the most powerful person in ancient Egyptian society, and what was their role?
- What was the role of scribes, and why were they more important than craftsmen?
- Why were there more slaves than government officials, priests and nobles?

**6.** Use information books and the internet to find out about the following ancient Egyptian royals: Ramses II, Nefertiti, Akhenaton and Tutankhamun. Record your findings in a table, including a picture and up to four facts about each of the rulers.

**7.** Use information books and the internet to find images of artefacts from the ancient Egyptian civilisation. Choose one artefact that interests you. Draw or print a picture of the artefact and record key information, such as its name, what it's made from, where it was found, its use or purpose and what it tells us about life in ancient Egypt.

**8.** Find out about the gods and goddesses, Anubis, Ra, Ma'at and Tefnut. What do they look like? What are their roles.

**9a.** Ancient Egyptian writing is called hieroglyphics. Use your knowledge, the internet or information books to answer the questions about this ancient Egyptian writing system.

- What are hieroglyphics and how are they different from our writing system?
- What does hieroglyph mean?
- What is a *cartouche*?
- What is a *stele*?
- What is the Rosetta Stone and why is it important?

**9b.** Practise writing in hieroglyphics. Challenge a friend or family member to work out what you have written.

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**10.** Finish your home learning by writing a summary of the topic, explaining what you have learned about the geography of Egypt and the ancient Egyptian civilisation.

## Useful websites

BBC Bitesize – Ancient Egypt – KS2 History

Britannica Kids – Ancient Egypt

Britannica Kids – Delta

BBC – How does the River Nile help people survive in Egypt?

British Museum – Egypt

BBC Bitesize – Who was Tutankhamun?

BBC Bitesize – What did the ancient Egyptians believe in?

## Good reads

| **Title** | **Author** | **ISBN** |
|---|---|---|
| Ancient Egyptians The Study Book (Discover and Learn) | CGP | 9781782949688 |
| Everything: Ancient Egypt | National Geographic Kids | 9780008267803 |
| Geography Matters in Ancient Egypt | Melanie Waldron | 9781406291209 |
| Daily Life in Ancient Egypt | Don Nardo | 9781406288070 |
| Awesome Egyptians (Horrible Histories) | Terry Deary and Peter Hepplewhite | 9781407178653 |
| Ancient Egypt: Tales of Gods and Pharaohs | Marcia Williams | 9781406338324 |