

## Knowledge Organiser—Year 3

Why is Ancient Egypt so fascinating?

### Vocabulary

**The Great Pyramid of Giza** is the oldest and largest of the Great Pyramids complex near Cairo. It is the oldest of the 7 wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one still intact. It was built for pharaoh Khufu.

**The Great Sphinx** is a large limestone sculpture of a sphinx: a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a human. At some point in the past, the nose has been removed. It is one of the oldest monuments in existence.

**The Valley of the Kings** is a place where pharaohs were buried for nearly 500 years, between 16th-11th Century BC. Tombs were cut out of the rock. Tutankhamun's famous tomb is located in the valley.

**Cartouche**— a collection of hieroglyphs were sometimes put inside an oval shape with a flat base. Where hieroglyphs are found in a cartouche, they normally spell a special name of a god or a pharaoh.

### Life Style and Activities

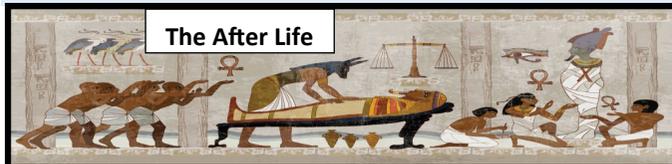
**Hunting**—The Egyptians hunted for both food and entertainment. This was normally an activity for the rich, however the poor also enjoyed hunting when there was time. They used spears, arrows and sticks. Even dangerous animals like lions were hunted.

**Farming**—The pharaoh made peasants farm on the fertile lands. The people of Egypt were able to grow things like wheat, barley, fruit, vegetables, figs and melons. Fertile Nile soil was ideal for farming. Every June, farming stopped as the Nile flooded.

**Sports**—The Ancient Egyptians enjoyed many sports. Most were designed to prepare young men for battle, for example wrestling, boxing, chariot racing and archery. Egyptians invented rules for many sports and some are still played today!

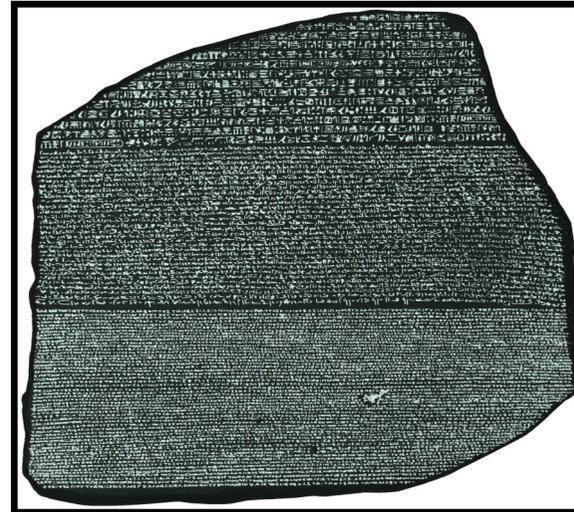
**Festivals**—Throughout the year the Egyptians held various festivals. Many of these were in honour of the gods, and there would be both offerings and celebrations. Some took place according to the moon. The most well-known festival was the Opet Festival.

**Clothes**—As Egypt is a hot country, people wore lightweight linen clothes to keep them cool. Until the age of six, most children would not wear any clothes. Linen is made from the flax plant. They wore jewels & make-up to please the gods.

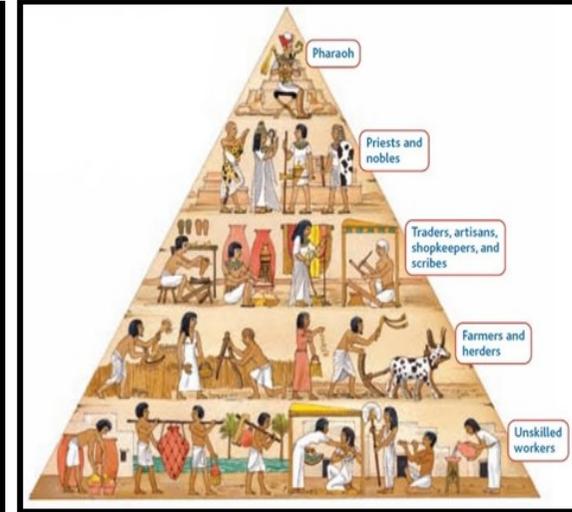


The After Life

### The Rosetta Stone



### Social Class Structure



### Key Information

#### Ancient Egypt Social Class Structure

The pharaoh and those that were linked to religion were the most powerful in society. Pharaohs were believed to be gods in human form, and so they had power over everything. Skilled workers made up the middle classes. Those at the bottom had no power, and worked long hours for little return.

#### The Rosetta Stone

The Rosetta Stone is written in three languages (the top is Hieroglyphics, the middle is Demotic and the bottom Greek). It helped researchers to decipher hieroglyphics and find out much more about what life was like for Ancient Egyptians.

#### The After Life

The ancient Egyptians also believed in a never ending afterlife. They thought it was more important than their life on Earth, so they spent a lot of time planning for their death. The Egyptians believed that when they died their soul left their bodies. After they were buried their soul would return and together with the body would live forever in the afterlife when the world had ended. Unless their body was preserved, it would be no good in the afterlife.

The ancient Egyptians preserved the bodies of important people through mummification. They built special tombs to be buried in, which they filled with all their favourite things. Some pharaohs built their tombs in the shape of giant pyramids. A death mask, that looked like the person when they were alive, was made and put on top of the mummy so that their soul (Ba) could find them.