



Background understanding for teachers and parents



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 mathematics; 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. The civilisation continued until the death of Cleopatra VII in 30 BCE when Egypt fell to the Roman Empire.

N.C. Links: Achievements of the Earliest Civilisations

When? (Chronology of Key Events)

7500BC	First settlers in Nile valley
3500 BC	First use of hieroglyphic symbols
2650 BC	First step pyramid built
1336 BC	Tutankhamen becomes pharaoh
30 BC	Egypt becomes a Roman Province
1922 AD	Howard Carter discovers Tutankhamen's tomb

What? (Key Vocabulary)

Afterlife	The place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died.
Canopic Jars	Special jars that held the organs of mummies.
Hieroglyphics	A type of writing that used a combination of pictures and symbols.
Mummification	The process of preserving a body after death in preparation for the afterlife.
Papyrus	A plant that grew on the banks of the Nile. It was used as an early version of paper.
Pharaoh	The supreme ruler of all Ancient Egypt.

Impact (on us at St Joseph the Worker)

Every piece of paper you use today is influenced by the early Egyptians papyrus.
The Egyptian pharaohs can be seen throughout the book of Exodus and linked with Moses.
Many architects have been inspired by the pyramids and obelisks of Ancient Egypt.

Who? (Notable People)

Tutankhamun	Youngest Pharaoh, famed for his burial tomb in the Valley of the Kings.
Cleopatra VII	Often considered the last Pharaoh of Egypt. Kept power by making alliances with Romans.
Amun	Mythical King of the Egyptian Gods
Howard Carter	Archaeologist who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb.

Key Enquiry Skills

What can we learn from the Egyptians?
 How did the achievements of early civilisations influence the world? (Ancient Sumer; The Indus Valley; Ancient Egypt; The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China) How do they compare?

Pre Learning Score

Post Learning Score

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