

Ancient Egyptians

Lesson 1: Who were the Ancient Egyptians?

Lesson Objectives

- To find out when and where the Ancient Egyptians lived
- To use a timeline to explore key events from Ancient Egyptian times

Resources:

- Slides: Lesson 1
- Resource 1a
- Resource 1b
- A2 paper, cut in half vertically to make a long strip

Starter

Ask the pupils to imagine that they are Egyptologists and their first job is to study a picture that was found in a real Ancient Egyptian tomb.

Hand out copies of *Resource 1a* and ask pupils to work in pairs. Using the sheet, pupils should find the different items in the picture and note down any other clues from the picture that might tell them something about life in Ancient Egyptian times. Extend pupils by encouraging them to write down any questions or puzzles generated by looking at the picture.

Main Input

Use the *Main Input* slides to find out more about who the Ancient Egyptians were and where they lived.

Using the map slide, ask pupils to apply their own prior knowledge by locating other countries on the world map and seeing which is closest to Egypt. Some pupils may have visited Egypt and will be able to comment on the distance and climate.

On the timeline slide, take some time to discuss how other periods of history that you have already studied fit into the BC/AD timeline too.

Use the final *Main Input* slide to discuss some of the things that the Ancient Egyptians were famous for, drawing out new vocabulary as you go. Pupils may have their own preconceptions and these can be unpacked further across this unit.

Activity

Explain to pupils that they are going to put into order some of the key events from the Ancient Egyptian period.

Give out copies of *Resource 1b* and the half strips of A2 paper. Ask pupils to cut out the cards and sort the events into chronological order. They should arrange the cards into a timeline and stick them onto their paper strips. N.B. The dates given on the timeline are approximate.

More Support: Support children who need more help working out how to place the years in chronological order, ironing out any confusion that may arise in ordering BC dates.

More Challenge: As an extension task or homework project, ask pupils to choose one event from their timeline and research it in more detail. They should write a short report or mini presentation about what they find out.

Spot check

Use the *Spot Check* slide to check that pupils have understood the basic facts about how the Ancient Egyptians fit into the wider context of history.

Plenary

Give pupils a few minutes to read the words on the *Plenary* slide and define the words (either by writing the definitions on a whiteboard or by discussing in pairs, depending on your pupils).
Use the *Something to Think About* slide to return to the image we studied at the beginning of the lesson. Ask pupils to imagine if historians thousands of years into the future found a picture that had clues about what your life is like in modern times. What sort of clues would pupils want them to see? If you have time, draw a quick sketch!



Resource 1a

Become an Egyptologist

This picture is from a collection called 'The Book of the Dead'. It was discovered in Ancient Egyptian tombs and gives historians lots of information about Egyptian beliefs and practices.

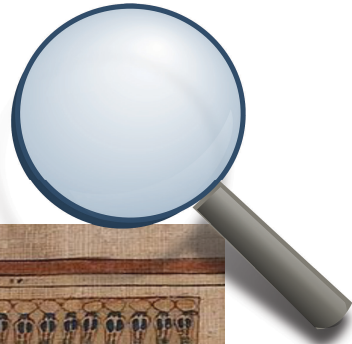


Image source: British Museum / Public Domain

Circle these things when you find them:

- ☐ Picture messages (called hieroglyphics)
- ☐ An animal headdress
- ☐ A lotus flower
- ☐ White robes
- ☐ A feather
- ☐ A falcon bird with one large eye

What else do you notice in the picture?

What questions does this picture give you about Ancient Egypt?



Resource 1b

Ancient Egyptian Timeline

Cut out the cards and place them to make a timeline in chronological order.



Cleopatra VII begins her reign as the last Pharaoh



51 BC

Early settlers made their home along the River Nile



5500 BC

Early hieroglyphic writing was being used



3500 BC

The Great Sphinx and Giza Pyramids were built



2550 BC

The Romans invaded and Egypt became part of the Roman Empire



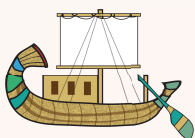
31 BC

The first Pharaoh (King Narmer) united Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt.



3100 BC

Alexander the Great invaded Egypt



332 BC

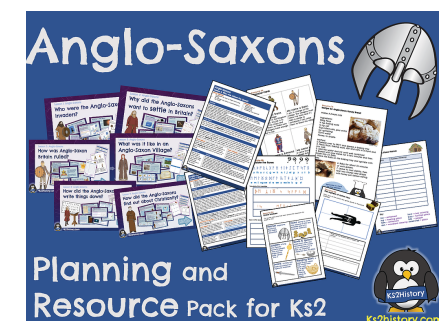
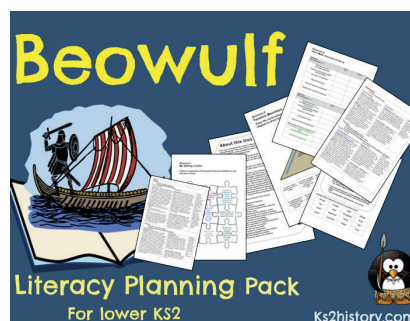
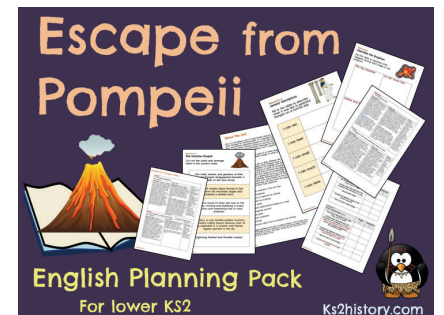
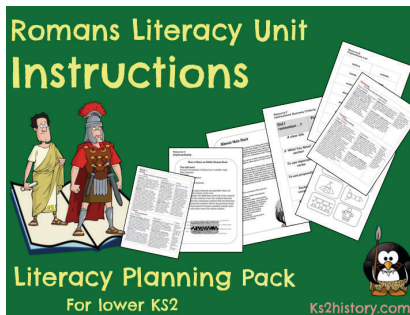
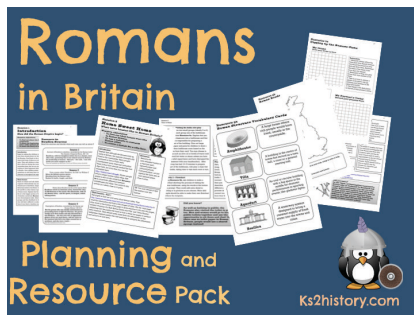
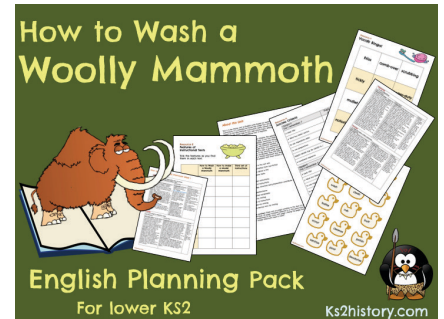
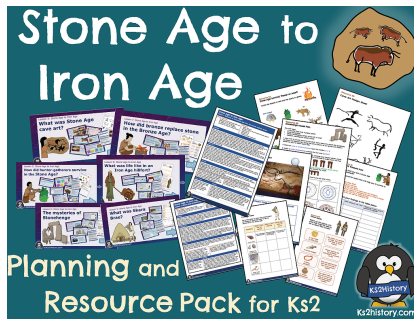
King Tutankhamun ruled for 10 years



1332 BC

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