Ancient Egypt

The achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared

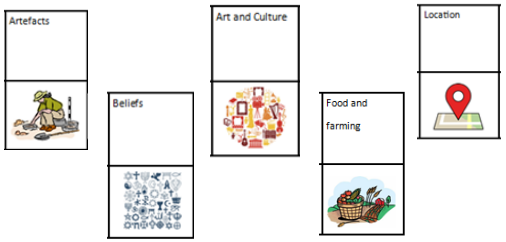
Chronological knowledge—Know that the features of the particular periods studied will determine their chronological place in history. Know that change is shown by the similarities and differences between specific periods in time.

Range and Depth of Historical Knowledge—Know that events, and developments are seen as significant because they result in change and had consequences for people in that era and/or over time

Historical interpretation— Know that there are different interpretations of historical accounts. Know that sources of evidence can be linked.

Historical Enquiry—Know that primary and secondary sources vary in reliability.

Key categories and concepts



Wonder

Enjoyment

Love of Language

Belonging

Empathy

Courage

Kindness

Previous learning

Geography – Europe

History and maths – Roman numerals

History – Ancient Greece

History—The Romans

Making comparisons

RE – Christianity, the story of creation

Key information

Tutankhamun's death mask

For 3000 years, Ancient Egypt was home to some of the most influential inventions and discoveries in history. The civilisation continued until the death of Cleopatra VII in 30 BCE when Egypt fell to the Roman Empire.

The river Nile was essential to life in ancient Egypt. Every year it flooded, leaving behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to irrigate field in other areas. The river was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river was used for bricks and papyrus plants was used to make paper.

The pyramids were built to bury kings and queens. They were designed as a place to enjoy the afterlife, and a display of power and wealth.

Writing

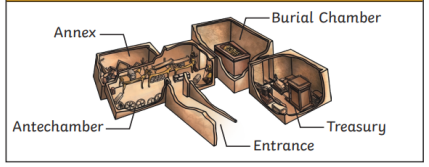
Hieroglyphs were written by scribes, who had to go to a special school to learn how to write. Almost all scribes were men, although there is some evidence of female doctors being able to read hieroglyphs in medical texts.

Hieroglyphs were used for religious texts and inscriptions on statues and tombs. They were also used for counting crops and animals so that the right taxes could be taken.

The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799, was written in hieroglyphs and two other languages, including ancient Greek, which linguists (language experts) could still read.

Linguists translated the hieroglyphs by comparing the languages. It took 20 years to translate all the text into modern language.

Tutankhamun's Tomb



Achievements

Systems for writing and mathematics; they used paper (papyrus) and wrote texts on religion, astronomy and medicine.

Magnificent buildings, temples and tombs, decorating them with pictures, paintings and carvings.

Key Vocabulary

BC	Before Christ Used to show that a date is before the year 0. This is counted backwards, so 200 BC is before 100 BC.
AD	Anno Domini Use to show that a date is after the year 0. This is counted forwards, so AD 100 is before AD 200.
irrigation	S system of canals or channels Egyptians dug to supply water to grow crops over a larger area
silt	Fine particles of soil, clay or sand carried and left by water.
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.
cartouche	An oval shape in which the names of kings and queens are often written in hieroglyphics to show that they are special.
Pharoah	A ruler of ancient Egypt.
architect	A person who designs buildings.
civilisation	An organized group of humans with their own culture.
empire	A group of countries ruled by a single country or leader.
fertile	Able to produce lots of crops.