

ANCIENT EGYPT

Our Learning - KS2 Autumn 1
A simple guide to what your child will learn this half term and ways you can help at home

★ **OUR BIG QUESTION** ★
What made Ancient Egypt successful and influential?

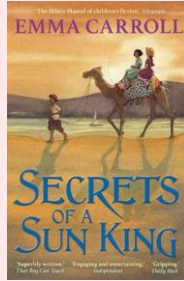
English & Maths

English

Reading: This half term we will develop guided reading skills, focusing on retrieving information, expanding academic vocabulary, and summarising key themes across non-fiction and topic texts.

Writing, grammar & punctuation: We will be Crafting structured descriptions, historical writing, and creating realistic diary entries from the viewpoint of Egyptian children.

Spelling: We will be investigating advanced spelling patterns, morphology, and domain-specific historical and scientific vocabulary linked to our Ancient Egypt unit.



Maths

Place value:

- read, write, partition and compare 7-digit integers;
- represent numbers on Place value grids and Gattegno charts;
- read and write numbers to 1,000,000;
- compare and order numbers and use number lines;
- round any integer;
- compare and order negative numbers;

Addition and subtraction:

- use formal written methods;
- use mental strategies;
- find missing numbers and inverse operation checks;

Multiplication and division:

- use formal written methods;
- use mental strategies;
- find factor pairs;
- explore prime numbers and divisibility rules;

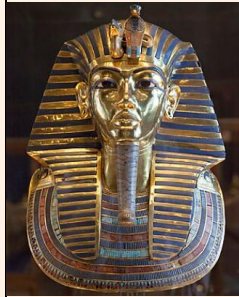
Optional maths practice at home

Why not explore maths in everyday contexts? You can use prices, sports statistics, timetables, maps, or weather forecasts to practise together. Ask your child to read and compare large numbers (up to millions), estimate total costs or differences when shopping, practise factor pairs, prime numbers and times tables, check negative temperatures, or discuss place value and rounding when looking at real-world data.

RE DAY - Beliefs & Values

Children will explore what matters to us and others, investigating what religion and worldviews mean in society. They will examine core Christian beliefs and symbols, comparing religious and non-religious worldviews.

Our Topic



History

Children will learn about Early Civilisations and locate Ancient Egypt on a historical timeline and world map. They will investigate why rivers like the River Nile were vital for settlement, farming, water supply, and trade, and examine key features of Ancient Egyptian society, including pharaohs, hieroglyphic writing, and mummification beliefs. They will finish by exploring Egyptian achievements in architecture and engineering, such as the pyramids, to explain why Ancient Egypt remains so powerful and memorable today.



Science

Children will compare and group everyday materials based on their properties, including hardness, transparency, electrical conductivity, magnetism, and solubility. They will plan and carry out fair test investigations to determine which materials are the best thermal insulators and observe how different substances dissolve in water. They will finish by applying their scientific findings to design challenges, justifying why specific materials are chosen for practical everyday uses like thermal flasks.

How you can help at home

Talk about our topic

Talk to your child about Ancient Egypt and early river civilisations, and ask what they have discovered about life along the River Nile. Encourage them to explain why rivers were vital to early settlements, how pharaohs ruled, what hieroglyphics and tomb artefacts reveal about Egyptian beliefs, and why Ancient Egypt remains so memorable today.

Complete a Home Learning challenge together

Your child will bring home an optional Home Learning Grid linked to this half term. If you wish, choose an activity together—such as building a 3D pyramid model, writing a secret message in hieroglyphics, or researching Howard Carter's tomb discovery—share ideas, and help them create something they are proud to bring in for our Home Learning Gallery.

Read every day

Encourage your child to read independently or aloud every day for at least 15–20 minutes. Discuss unfamiliar vocabulary, ask them to make inferences based on character actions or textual evidence ("How do you know that? What evidence supports your thinking?"), and ask them to summarise the main ideas, arguments, or themes across a chapter or non-fiction text.

Other Subjects

Computing



Children will learn how data is stored and organized by creating paper database records and comparing them with computer-based databases. They will navigate fields and records, sort and group information to answer specific questions, and use search tools with operators like 'AND' and 'OR' to filter and analyze complex data.

Music

Children will develop part-singing through rounds and partner songs, read pitch notation on a staff, and use Takadimi rhythm notation. They will learn to play tuned three-note melodies and rhythmic ostinato accompaniments on pitched percussion while singing, culminating in a multi-layered ensemble performance with a strong sense of pulse and balance.



Art



Children will explore how artists and designers use typography, maps, and visual language to communicate meaning. They will experiment with lettering styles, symbols, and map layouts in their sketchbooks before designing and creating a final typographic and map-based artwork. They will finish by curating and evaluating their design journey to explain their creative choices and final outcome.

PE



Children will develop their physical competence and tactical awareness through Netball and Gymnastics. In Netball, they will select appropriate passes, find space to receive, use dodging techniques to outwit defenders, pivot, and execute quick turns to get into closer shooting positions in competitive games. In Gymnastics, they will explore travelling by taking weight on their hands, create symmetrical and asymmetrical partner sequences, and perform counterbalances at different levels, focusing on smooth transitions, control, and evaluating performance.

PSHE - Emotions

Children will explore fairness, equality and how women's rights have changed over time, investigating the work of the Suffragettes. They will examine gender stereotypes in sports, media and careers, learning how to challenge assumptions and promote respect. They will also investigate how different challenges affect our feelings, understand the purpose of difficult emotions, and build a personalised 'Emotions Toolkit' with coping strategies to manage challenge and build resilience.

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