



Year 3

Ancient Egypt Reading Booklet

Lesson Series:

- 1. Locating Egypt and the River Nile**
- 2. Life in Ancient Egypt**
- 3. Religion and the Afterlife**
- 4. Tutankhamun and Howard Carter**
- 5. Hieroglyphics**

Name: _____

Class: _____

Lesson 1 - Locating Egypt and the River Nile

Egypt is a country which is in the continent of Africa. Even though most of Egypt is desert, the ancient Egyptians were among the first people to learn how to farm. This is because the Nile River runs through Egypt and floods each year, creating fertile land suitable for farming.

The River Nile is the longest river in the world. It begins in the mountains of central Africa and travels north for thousands of miles before reaching the deserts of Egypt. Once a year, the Nile in Egypt overflows, flooding the land beside the river. For about ten miles along either side of the river, the soil turns black. It is rich and full of minerals that help plants to grow.

The Ancient Egyptians discovered they could plant seeds in the rich soil and grow plants for food. This meant that they did not need to move around and hunt for food. People settled on the banks of the River Nile and built towns and cities. They began to build a civilization.



Lesson 2 - Life in Ancient Egypt

The society of Ancient Egypt was divided into a strict hierarchy with the Pharaoh (king) at the top, then his vizier (trusted advisor) and the members of his court, priests and scribes, artists and craftspeople, the peasant farmers, and at the bottom were the slaves.

Children inherited their jobs from their parents. Men usually worked while women stayed at home and provided food and looked after children. Thanks to the annual flood, the area around the Nile was very fertile. This meant lots of different foods could be grown and harvested. Often the food you ate depended on your class. Richer people (like priests and pharaohs) ate meat, eggs, figs and grapes. Poorer people, like farmers, ate bread, fish, garlic and onions.

The Egyptians built their towns and cities from mud-brick, only using stone for their temples and tombs.



Lesson 3 - Religion and the Afterlife

The religion of Ancient Egypt lasted for more than 3,000 years. Religious practices were important to the Ancient Egyptians. Many of the ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses were thought to look like humans and animals.

It was believed that the Pharaoh was divine and acted as a messenger between the people and the gods. Egyptians were very concerned about the fate of their souls after death. In order to thrive in the afterlife, they believed they needed to have their body and take many of their belongings. This is why the Egyptians created mummies and put many of their possessions in their burial tombs.



Lesson 4 - Tutankhamun and Howard Carter

Much of what we know about the Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt has been discovered from their tombs. In 1922, an archaeologist and Egyptologist named Howard Carter and his team, including many local Egyptians, discovered the hidden tomb of King Tutankhamun.

The tomb was found in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, a traditional burial place for Pharaohs. The tomb was untouched and in almost perfect condition. It was full of jewellery, decorated furniture and many artefacts that Ancient Egyptians believed would be needed in the afterlife. Over the years many Ancient Egyptian tombs have been discovered by raiders who steal their riches. Tutankhamun's tomb was untouched, which makes it very special.



Lesson 5 - Hieroglyphics

Ancient Egyptians used a writing system called Hieroglyphics. This was one of the earliest forms of writing. The system of hieroglyphics uses over 700 symbols and pictures to represent sounds. The writing can be read from top to bottom or across the page from right to left, or from left to right.

The word Hieroglyph comes from two Greek words; hieros meaning holy and glyphe meaning writing. The word 'hieroglyph' is a noun and refers to the individual characters, whereas the word 'hieroglyphics' is an adjective which describes the alphabet.

