



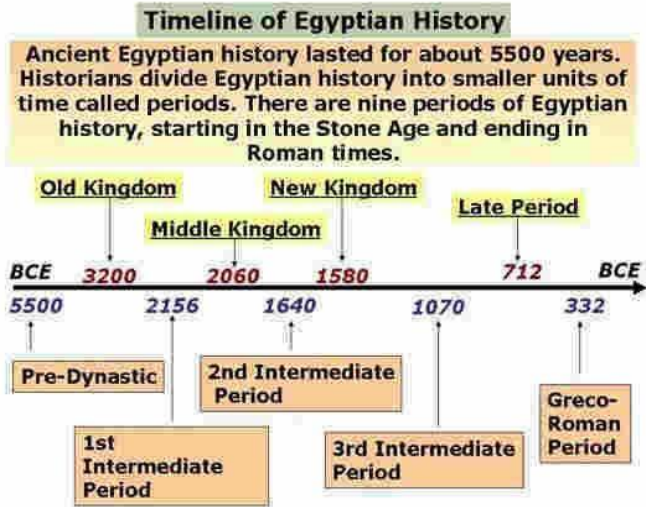
Year 3

Ancient Egypt

Was Tutankhamun's curse real?

**Timeline**

**The Nile**



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 fields in other areas.

Most people lived along and around the Nile. This is still true in Egypt today. The river was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river was used for bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper.

The map below shows the location of Egypt in relation to the United Kingdom.



**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 the 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.

**Did you know?**

Ancient Egypt was a civilisation of Ancient North Africa, concentrated on the lower reaches of the River Nile, situated in the place that is now the country Egypt.

**Key Vocabulary**

- BC**  
Used to show that a date is before the year 0. It is counted backwards, so 200BC is before 100BC
- AD**  
Used to show that a date is after the year 0. It is counted forwards, so 100AD is before 200 AD.
- hieroglyphs**  
A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.
- Silt**  
Fine particles of soil, clay or sand carried and left by the water.

- Irrigation**  
A system of canals or channels Egyptians dug to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would reach naturally.
- Cartouche**  
An oval shape in which the names of kings and queens were often written in hieroglyphics to show that they were special.
- Pharaoh**  
A ruler of ancient Egypt.



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**Some important gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt:**

**Ra**

Sun god, lord of the gods. Sailed his boat through the sky during the day and through the underworld at night.

**Amun**

Created all things. Usually invisible unless mixed with another god, e.g. as Amun-Ra.

**Horus**

God of the sky. Pharaohs were believed to be a god-like version of **Horus**.

**Thoth**

God of wisdom. Believed to have invented hieroglyphics and to keep a record of all knowledge.

**Ma'at**

Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and be fair and honest.

**Isis**

Queen of the goddesses.

**Osiris**

God of the dead

**Hathor**

Goddess of love, music and dance.

**Anubis**

God of mummification. Weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If your heart was lighter, you would live forever.

**Sekhmet**

Goddess of war, fire and medicine.

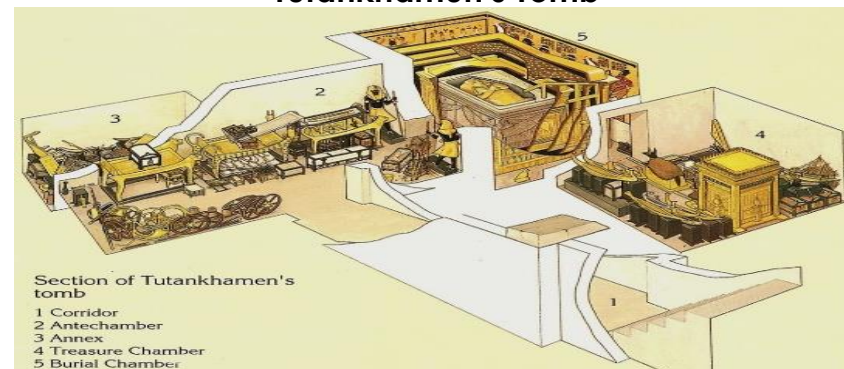
**Tutankhamun's Death Mask**



**Suggested Activities**

- Can you find Egypt on a map, atlas or globe and locate the **River Nile**?
- Write your name in **Hieroglyphs** instead of letters.
- Find 3 facts about the **Great Pyramid of Giza**.
- Draw a picture of your favourite **god** or **goddess**.
- Why was the **after-life** so important to the ancient Egyptians? What can you find out about **mummification**?

**Tutankhamun's Tomb**



**Tutankhamun** was pharaoh from approx. 1333 BC to 1323 BC and was known as the 'boy king' as he became a pharaoh aged only 9. His tomb was discovered by Howard Carter and his team in the Valley of the Kings in 1922.