



# Ancient Egypt

# 6

## Contents

<b>LET'S START!</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>1 – ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HISTORY</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2 – THE LAND OF ANCIENT EGYPT</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>3 – GODS AND PHARAOHS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>4 – PYRAMIDS</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>5 – MUMMIES</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>6 – DECODING HIEROGLYPHICS</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>7 – DAILY LIFE</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>8 – ANCIENT EGYPTIAN INVENTIONS</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>READ MORE – The Legend of Isis and Osiris</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>AFTER-READING PORTFOLIO</b> .....	<b>58</b>
<b>REVIEW</b> .....	<b>60</b>
<b>WORD BANK</b> .....	<b>62</b>

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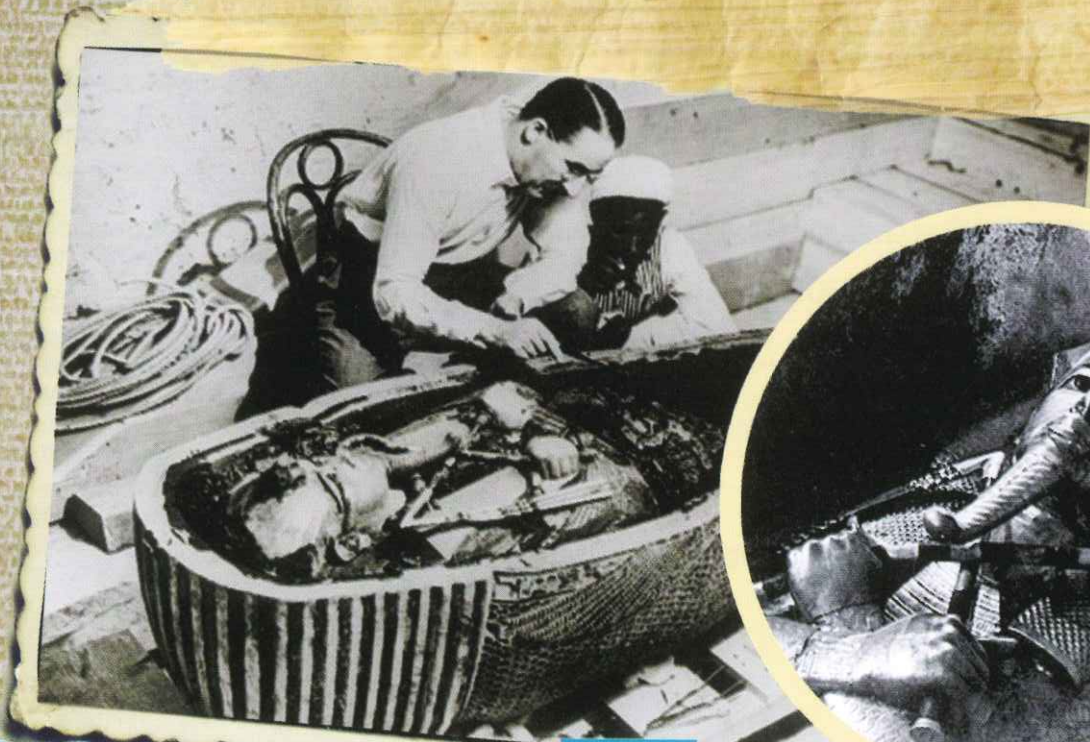


# LET'S START!

In November 1922, British archaeologist **Howard Carter** and his team were digging through the Egyptian sand. He was looking for the tomb of a famous king. With the help of his workers, he soon found a step and then a door. This door was the entrance to one of the most famous tombs in history!

**Carter** broke open the door. He stared into the dark room in amazement. The tomb belonged to an ancient pharaoh named Tutankhamun. It was full of artefacts and treasures!

They were not just beautiful. They were also important. These artefacts could teach us about the people who made them – the ancient Egyptians.







**Ancient Egypt** was  
one of the most important and  
powerful **civilisations** in the  
ancient world.

It lasted for  
over 3,000 years.  
But what was it *really* like?  
Let's take a closer look!





# ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HISTORY

## • The Rise and Fall of a Civilisation

The civilisation of ancient Egypt was powerful for almost three thousand years!

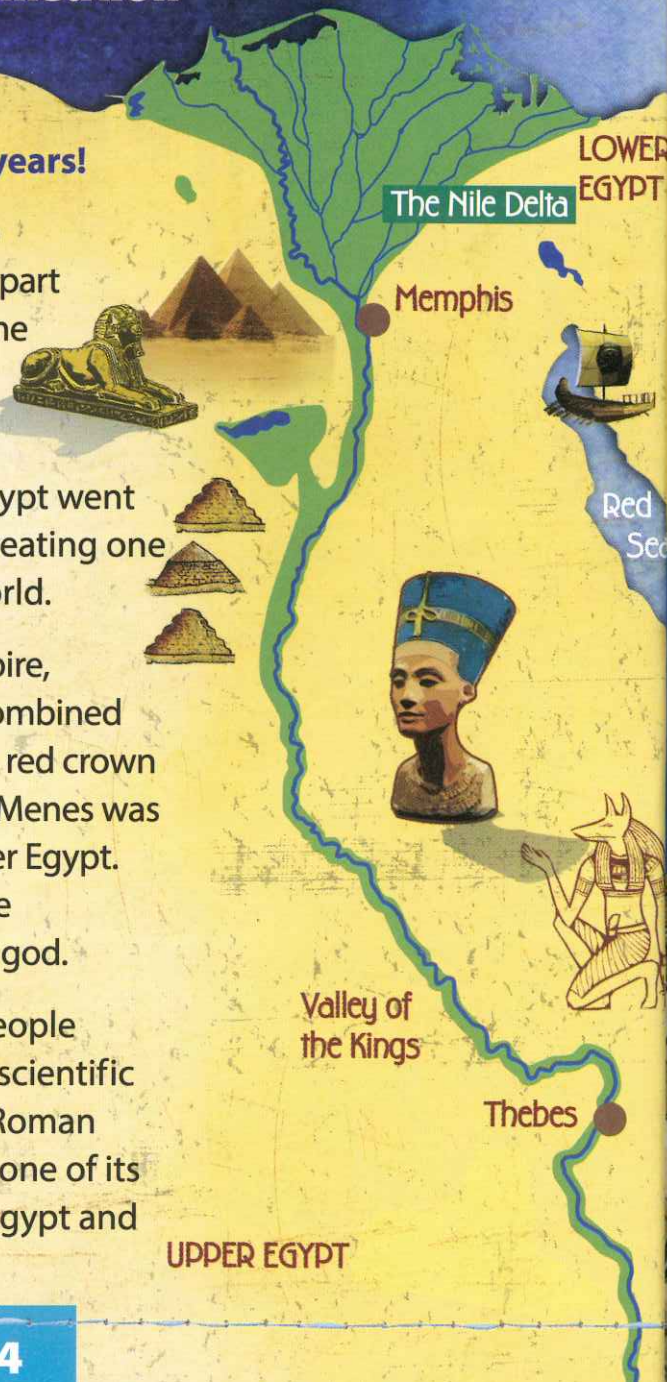
Around 3100 BCE, Egypt was divided into **Upper Egypt**, the land in the southern part of the kingdom, and **Lower Egypt**, in the northern part.

According to legend, sometime around **2925 BCE** King Menes from Upper Egypt went to war and united the two kingdoms, creating one of the most powerful empires of the world.

Menes built a capital city for his new empire, Memphis. Menes wore a new crown. It combined the white crown of Upper Egypt with the red crown of Lower Egypt. Wearing this meant that Menes was not just the king of both Upper and Lower Egypt. He was the first Egyptian pharaoh, and he demanded that people worship him as a god.

Ancient Egypt changed the world. Its people created new inventions and made new scientific discoveries. This all changed when the Roman Empire grew strong and Egypt became one of its territories. This was the end of ancient Egypt and its pharaohs.

Mediterranean Sea

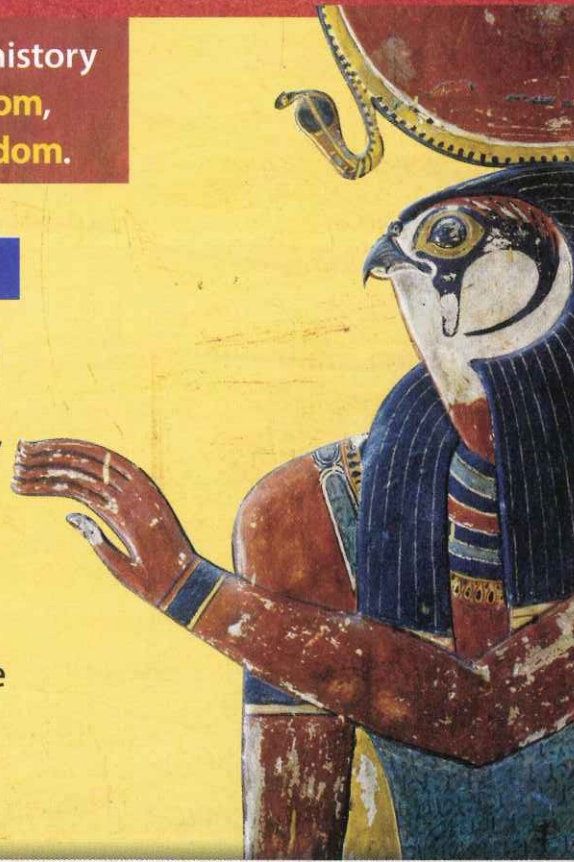




Archaeologists divide ancient Egyptian history into three main periods – **The Old Kingdom**, **The Middle Kingdom** and **The New Kingdom**.

### • **The Old Kingdom (\*c. 2649-2150 BCE)**

This period is also called the Age of the Pyramids. During this time a large number of pyramids were built. Of all the pyramids, Khufu's Pyramid, or the Great Pyramid of Giza, was the biggest. This was a time of peace and the sun god Ra was important in Egyptian religion. Upper and Lower Egypt were united and the pharaohs chose Memphis, to the north, as their capital.



### • **The Middle Kingdom (c. 2030-1640 BCE)**

During this period the pharaohs became very powerful. These pharaohs came from Thebes in Middle Egypt. They moved the capital to Thebes and worshipped their own god, Amun. People began to worship Amun, later known as Amun-Ra, as king of the gods. This period was an important time for trade, the arts, science and literature. The royal tombs were moved closer to the city of Memphis. The pharaohs were buried inside hidden tombs that were very hard to find. The Egyptians started to use irrigation systems to carry water from the River Nile to their crops. Egypt's army became stronger.

*\*c.(circa): about*





# 1

# ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HISTORY

## 1 Read and match.



- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>1</b> very strong                               | <b>a</b> bank        |
| <b>2</b> an old story, not always true             | <b>b</b> magnificent |
| <b>3</b> a person who comes from another country   | <b>c</b> trade       |
| <b>4</b> something that belongs to a king or queen | <b>d</b> powerful    |
| <b>5</b> the side of a river                       | <b>e</b> scientific  |
| <b>6</b> buying and selling goods                  | <b>f</b> legend      |
| <b>7</b> amazing                                   | <b>g</b> royal       |
| <b>8</b> related to science                        | <b>h</b> foreigner   |

## 2 Read and complete.

**• tombs • chariot • empire • inventions • united • religion**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1</b> King Menes built a capital city for his new .....       | <b>4</b> Upper and Lower Egypt were ..... during the period of the Old Kingdom. |
| <b>2</b> The sun god Ra was important in Egyptian .....          | <b>5</b> The Hyksos kings introduced the horse, the ..... and bronze weapons.   |
| <b>3</b> Ancient Egyptians buried their pharaohs in hidden ..... | <b>6</b> Ancient Egyptians created a lot of important .....                     |

## 3 Match the events to the timeline.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1</b> The beginning of the Old Kingdom. | <b>4</b> The beginning of the Middle Kingdom. |
| <b>2</b> The beginning of the New Kingdom. | <b>5</b> The Romans take over Egypt.          |
| <b>3</b> King Menes builds Memphis.        | <b>6</b> The Hyksos kings rule Egypt.         |



#### 4 Read and correct the sentences.

- 1 Ancient Egypt was powerful for almost three hundred years.  
.....
- 2 The Middle Kingdom period is also called the Age of the Pyramids.  
.....
- 3 The Egyptians started to use irrigation systems during the New Kingdom period.  
.....
- 4 Thebes was the capital city that King Menes built.  
.....
- 5 All Egyptian pyramids were built on the east bank of the Nile.  
.....
- 6 The Hyksos kings ruled Egypt during the Old Kingdom period.  
.....

#### 5 OVER TO YOU: @ Look, read and match. Use the Internet to help you.



1

**A** the crown of United Egypt



2

**B** the crown of Upper Egypt



3

**C** the crown of Lower Egypt