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ALL ABOUT ANCIENT EGYPT





PACKED WITH FASCINATING FACTS!




ALL ABOUT
ANCIENT
EGYPT

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The Egyptian civilisation

Ancient Egypt was a powerful civilisation that grew up along the River Nile in northern Africa. It lasted for more than 3,000 years, and is remembered today for its pharaohs, gods and goddesses, art and architecture, as well as some amazing inventions.





ANCIENT HISTORY

Human ancestors evolved an incredible 6 million years ago, but modern humans, *Homo sapiens*, are much younger – only about 300,000 years old. Early humans lived in small, isolated groups. However, over thousands of years larger societies formed, and out of these grew some mighty civilisations.

What makes a civilisation?

Ancient civilisations were more than just groups of people. They were advanced societies with cities, systems of government, social structures and religious beliefs. These ancient people had ways of writing and record-keeping, and they established laws to help everyone live together. They traded goods with each other and formed armies to protect their lands.

'c.' is short for 'circa', a Latin word meaning 'around' or 'about'. So c. in this timeline means around that time, as we don't know the dates for certain.

Major moments

C. 3500-539 BCE
Mesopotamia (modern Iraq and north-east Syria)

C. 3100-30 BCE
Ancient Egypt (modern Egypt)

C. 2100 BCE -CE 220
Ancient China (modern China)

C. 3300-1300 BCE
Indus Valley Civilisation (modern Pakistan and north-west India)

C. 2600-1400 BCE
Minoan Civilisation (modern Greek islands)



The first civilisations

No one can say for sure which was the first great civilisation. Probably several powerful societies developed at about the same time, somewhere between 5,000 and 6,000 years ago. They grew up around rivers, because people could settle in one place there and make a living by farming. You can see some of the most famous ancient civilisations on the timeline below.

A lasting impact

The impact of ancient civilisations echoes through time to the present day. During this period of history, people invented writing, mathematics, laws and calendars. They built extraordinary monuments and created art and literature that inspires people even today. Experts still study ancient civilisations to learn how people lived in the past and how human society has changed over time.



c. 1600-1100 BCE
Mycenaean Civilisation (modern mainland Greece)

c. 559-331 BCE
Persian Empire (modern Iran, Egypt and Türkiye)

c. 2000 BCE -CE 1600
Maya Civilisation (modern southern Mexico and Central America)

c. 753 BCE -CE 476
Ancient Rome (modern Italy)

c. 510-323 BCE
Classical Greece (modern Greece)



THE RISE & FALL OF ANCIENT EGYPT

The civilisation of Ancient Egypt lasted a very long time – around 3,000 years. Throughout its history, the civilisation's fortunes rose and fell several times. There were periods of peace and stability. There were also times of invasion, unrest and famine.

Early Egypt

People began to live in Egypt more than 8,000 years ago. As time passed, these small settlements of hunters and fishermen merged to become villages and then states. Eventually there were two large kingdoms – Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt. In around 3100 BCE, these united to form one potentially powerful civilisation.



FASCINATING FACT

The River Nile flows from south to north, so the Ancient Egyptians considered the southern part of the region to be 'up'. That's why Lower Egypt was the northern kingdom and Upper Egypt was the southern one.

The Three Kingdoms

The history of Ancient Egypt is broadly divided into three 'kingdoms'. These weren't geographical areas, but periods of time: the Old Kingdom (2686–2181 BCE), the Middle Kingdom (2055–1650 BCE) and the New Kingdom (1550–1070 BCE). During these times, Egypt enjoyed peace and prosperity.



Tuthmose II was a pharaoh of the New Kingdom.

Intermediate periods

In between the years of the Three Kingdoms were 'intermediate periods'. During these times, Ancient Egypt suffered under weak leaders. There was political instability, and life was hard for the Egyptian people.

The end of Ancient Egypt

After the New Kingdom, Ancient Egypt began to decline. One after another, foreign powers invaded and controlled the region. In 30 BCE, the Roman leader Octavian conquered Egypt, marking the end of the Ancient Egyptian civilisation.



Octavian became Roman Emperor Augustus in 27 BCE.