

Year 5 Topic

Pharaohs



Let's travel back 5000 years to ancient Egypt, cruising along the Nile and entering a world of mysteries and mummies.

In this topic, we are going to learn first-hand about the gruesome, yet fascinating, process of mummification. We'll write a report about Howard Carter's famous discovery and use different sources to research Tutankhamun's tomb. We'll also consider whether it was right to open Tutankhamun's tomb, or whether it should have been left as it was. Our work will inspire us to write some exciting Egyptian mystery stories and non-fiction books and the internet will provide us with information to make fact files. We'll draw Egyptian artefacts in detail, focusing on symbols and design features. Studying historical sources will help us learn more about the Pharaohs and the Egyptian ancient beliefs. We'll find out about the food that was eaten at the time, make some Egyptian bread and use recycled materials to build model tombs.

At the end of the topic, we'll think about how the ancient Egyptians contributed to world history, then create and present a guide about ancient Egyptian sites.

Help your child prepare for their project

It's amazing that a civilisation from 5000 years ago still influences the way we live today, from mathematics to bowling! Why not try a variety of fruits for dessert that the ancient Egyptians would buy from their local market? You could taste juicy cantaloupes, sweet dates or flavoursome plums. You could also visit your local library to learn about the amazing world of ancient Egypt. Alternatively, use online maps to look at famous Egyptian landmarks and track the course of the Nile.

What will you choose to do?

- Create a fact file about the River Nile and compare it to other famous world rivers. Include photographs and wow your classmates by showing them the range of amazing animals that live in and by the river.
- Find out who or what 'Ka' was. Design a colourful symbol that might represent 'Ka' in Egyptian hieroglyphics.
- Make a model pyramid from building blocks – how high can you go? Photograph your achievement and record the number of blocks you used.
- Use the words ANCIENT EGYPT to create an acrostic poem.
- Make flatbread and serve it to your family with authentic Egyptian dips or salads. Find out more about the food of ancient Egypt.
- Visit a museum exhibition on ancient Egypt and write a recount of your trip. Bring back souvenirs to show your class.
- Design 2-D or 3-D Egyptian-style jewellery.
- Use hieroglyphics to write a message to a friend or family member. Can they crack your Egyptian code?
- Make an illustrated scroll to show the journey to the afterlife.
- Find out why animals were so important to the Egyptians. Create an information collage to show your findings, combining text and images.
- Find out what happened to Egypt after the death of Cleopatra VII, the last pharaoh.

