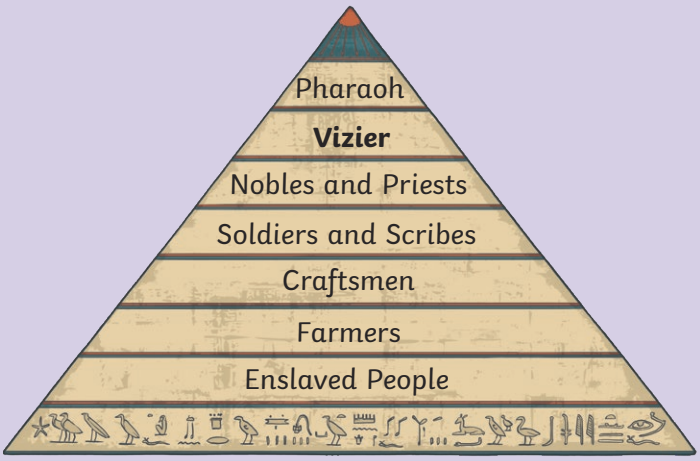
Life in Ancient Egypt

The ancient Egyptian period began over 5,000 years ago and lasted for around 3,000 years. During this time, ancient Egyptian life saw many changes.

Society

Ancient Egyptians were skilled farmers and strong believers in religion. They made one of the first solar calendars as well as a language called **hieroglyphics**. The ancient Egyptians were great inventors, and some of the things they invented are still in use today.

People of ancient Egypt were put into different classes. This was shown as a pyramid with the pharaoh at the top.





Markets and Merchants

Markets were important to life in ancient Egypt. The people grew lots of grain and used a 'barter system'. Stones named 'debens' were used to value items. Trading with other countries made sure people got the food and other items they needed.

Some of the most popular items included linen, papyrus, grain and precious metals and stones.

Transport and the Nile

Due to the hot **climate**, ancient Egyptian life grew around the river Nile. For transport, trade and day-to-day activities, the Nile was key.

Towns and cities sprung up all along the river's banks. During the summer, wet weather would cause the Nile to flood, which made the ground perfect for growing crops.

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Did You Know...?

- There were over 2,000 gods and goddesses.
- The people believed that they would live forever in an afterlife when they died.
- When someone died, their body was **mummified.**



Glossary

climate – Weather conditions in a place over a period of time.
hieroglyphics – Language using symbols and pictures.
mummified – Wrapped in cloth to keep safe and dry.
vizier – An important person below the pharaoh.

Questions

1. Which of the following are items used for trade? Tick **two**.

   - ○ flags
   - ○ linen
   - ○ weapons
   - ○ papyrus

2. How many gods did the ancient Egyptians believe in? Tick **one.**

   - ○ 500-1,000
   - ○ 1,000-1,500
   - ○ 1,500-2,000
   - ○ over 2,000

3. Number the sections from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

   - ☐ Did You Know...?
   - ☐ Transport and the Nile
   - ☐ Society
   - ☐ Markets and Merchants

4. Draw 3 lines to match the word to its meaning.

mummified	**Language using symbols and pictures.**
vizier	**Wrapped in cloth to keep safe and dry.**
hieroglyphics	**An important person below the pharaoh.**

5. What were 'debens'?

   _____

6. Fill in the missing words.

   Ancient Egyptians were skilled _____ and strong believers in _____. They made one of the first solar calendars as well as a language called _____ .

7. Why was the river Nile so important to life in ancient Egypt?

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Answers

1. Which of the following are items used for trade? Tick **two**.

   ○ flags
   ✓ **linen**
   ○ weapons
   ✓ **papyrus**

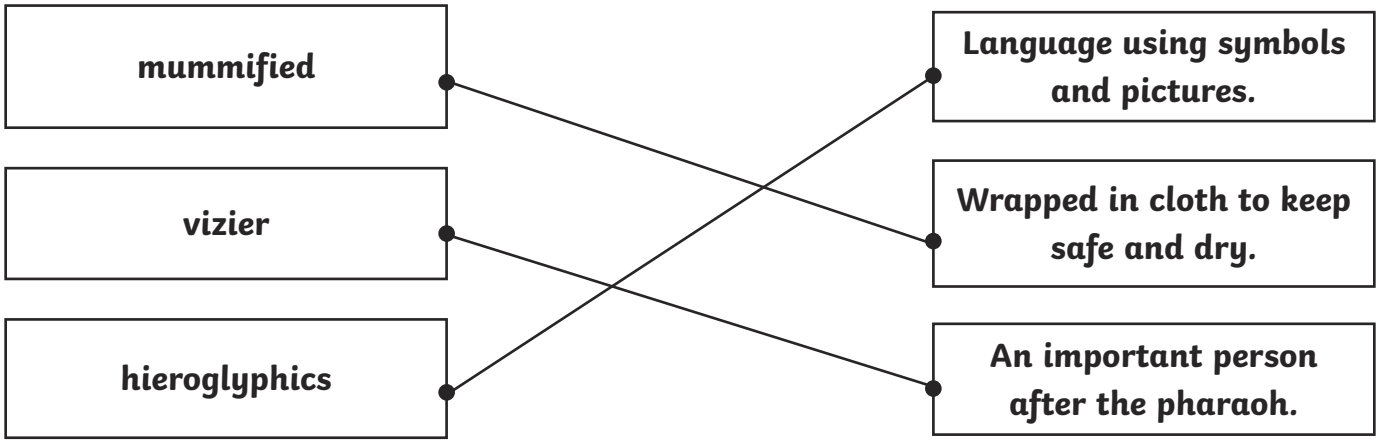
2. How many gods did the ancient Egyptians believe in? Tick **one.**

   ○ 500-1,000
   ○ 1,000-1,500
   ○ 1,500-2,000
   ✓ **over 2,000**

3. Number the sections from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

   4 Did You Know...?
   3 Transport and the Nile
   1 Society
   2 Markets and Merchants

4. Draw 3 lines to match the word to its meaning.



5. What were 'debens'?

   Stones used to value items.

6. Fill in the missing words.

   Ancient Egyptians were skilled **farmers** and strong believers in **religion.** They made one of the first solar calendars as well as a language called **hieroglyphics.**

7. Why was the river Nile so important to life in ancient Egypt?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Towns and cities sprung up on its banks/the flooded water made good farming land/it was important for transport and trade.

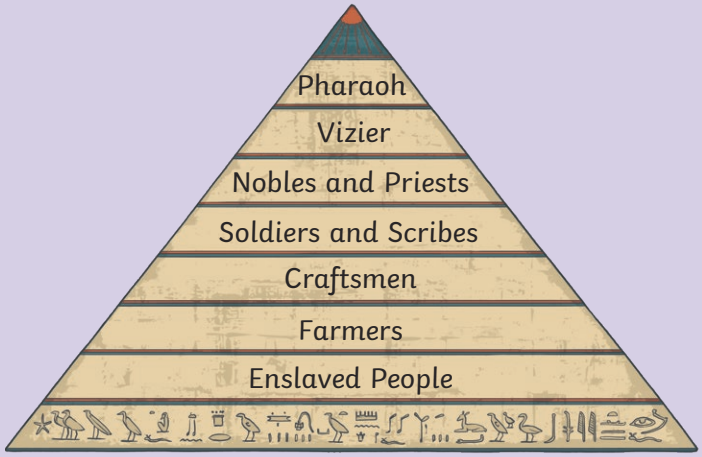
Life in Ancient Egypt

The ancient Egyptian period began over 5,000 years ago in North Africa. It was a place of beliefs, inventions and a long-lasting legacy.

Society

Ancient Egyptian culture lasted for over 3,000 years. Many features of society can be found in ancient Egypt. For example, ancient Egyptians were expert farmers and made one of the first calendars as well as a writing system called **hieroglyphics**.

People of ancient Egypt were split into different classes. The pharaoh was at the top of this pyramid.





Pharaoh
God on earth.



Vizier
Pharaoh's second-in-command.



Nobles and Priests
Made laws and performed rituals.



Soldiers and Scribes
Warriors and record-keepers.



Craftsmen
Tradespeople.



Farmers
Farmed the land.

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7

Enslaved People

Forced to work for more powerful people.



Markets and Merchants

Markets were important for trade. Ancient Egyptians grew lots of grain and used it to trade. Stones named 'debens' weighed the value of items during a trade.

Trading with other people and countries was vital to make sure people had the food and materials they needed to live well. Some popular items for trade included linen, papyrus, grain and various precious metals and stones.

Did You Know...?

- The ancient Egyptians believed the 2,000 gods and goddesses were linked to many natural forces.
- The afterlife was incredibly important. As such, ancient Egyptians prepared for what would happen after they died.
- Powerful people's bodies were preserved through mummification. The god Anubis weighed their hearts.



Transport and the Nile

Due to the hot **climate**, the Nile was critical. Ancient Egyptian life grew around it. The heavy rainfall that came during the monsoon season caused the river to flood. Towns and cities relied on the **fertile** ground that the water created.

In addition to this, the Nile was an important route for people to travel and trade. All over the area, the ancient Egyptians used skiffs (simple sailboats) to trade.

Glossary:

climate – Weather conditions in a place over a period of time.

fertile – Land able to produce lots of crops.

hieroglyphics – Language using symbols and pictures.

Questions

1. Which of the following is **not** an item used for trade? Tick **one.**

   - ○ linen
   - ○ papyrus
   - ○ flags
   - ○ wheat

2. How long ago did ancient Egyptian civilization begin? Tick **one**.

   - ○ 2,000 years ago
   - ○ 3,000 years ago
   - ○ 4,000 years ago
   - ○ over 5,000 years ago

3. List the top three classes in ancient Egyptian society.

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

4. Draw three lines to match the social class to its description.

Vizier	**Tradespeople.**
Craftsmen	**Pharaoh's second-in-command.**
Farmers	**Farmed the land to grow food.**

5. Find and copy a phrase which describes how important the river Nile was to ancient Egyptians.

   _____

6. Fill in the missing words.

   Important people's bodies were preserved through _____.

   The god _____ weighed their _____.

7. What system did the ancient Egyptians use for trade in their markets?

8. Why are some words written in **bold** in the text?

Answers

1. Which of the following is **not** an item used for trade? Tick **one.**

   ○ linen
   ○ papyrus
   ⊘ ***flags***
   ○ wheat

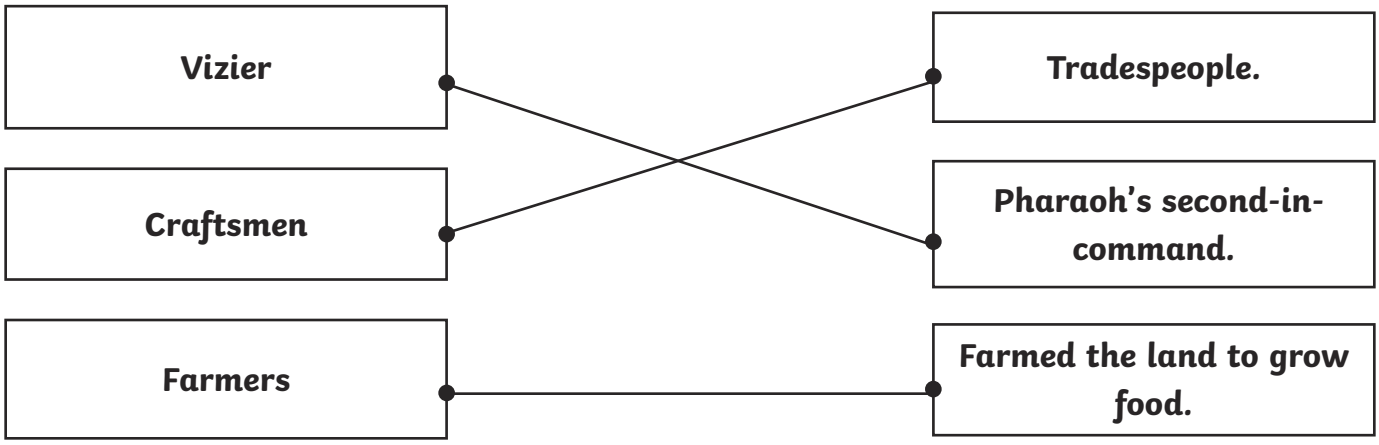
2. How long ago did ancient Egyptian civilization begin? Tick **one**.

   ○ 2,000 years ago
   ○ 3,000 years ago
   ○ 4,000 years ago
   ⊘ **over 5,000 years ago**

3. List the top three classes in ancient Egyptian society.

   1. **Pharaoh**
   2. **Vizier**
   3. **Nobles and Priests**

4. Draw three lines to match the social class to its description.



5. Find and copy a phrase which describes how important the river Nile was to ancient Egyptians.

   Accept any of the following:

- **the Nile was critical;**
- **ancient Egyptian life grew around it;**
- **towns and cities relied on the fertile ground;**
- **the Nile was an important route for people to travel and trade.**

6. Fill in the missing words.

   Important people's bodies were preserved through **mummification**. The god **Anubis** weighed their **hearts**.

7. What system did the ancient Egyptians use for trade in their markets?

   Pupils' own responses, such as: Ancient Egyptians used stone weights called debens. The weight of the stones would represent an item's value.

8. Why are some words written in **bold** in the text?

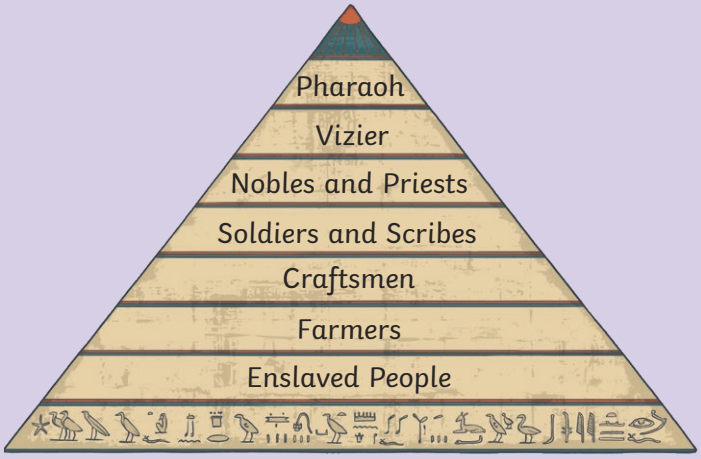
   Accept responses which indicate that the meaning of these words can be found in the glossary.

Life in Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt began over 5,000 years ago in modern-day North Africa. It was a culture of beliefs, invention, and a legacy that inspires people to this day.

Society

Lasting for 3,000 years, ancient Egyptian life saw many changes and laid the foundations for many features of modern society. For example, ancient Egyptians were masters of farming, produced one of the first solar calendars as well as a writing system based on images, called **hieroglyphics**. The power of the pharaohs was absolute. Believing them to be gods on earth, the pharaohs were respected above all others, and it was from their position at the top of the **hierarchy** that all other positions and responsibilities came.





Pharaoh

God on earth, who made laws and oversaw all of their land.



Vizier

Top official and pharaoh's second-in-command.



Nobles and Priests

Made laws/led worship and performed rituals.



Soldiers and Scribes

Warriors and those who kept official records.

5

Craftsmen

People who had specific trades, such as carpenters.

6

Farmers

Farmed the land to grow food.

7

Enslaved People

Forced to work in temples and for wealthy families.





Markets and Merchants

Markets and trade were vital to life in ancient Egypt. Grain was often plentiful and used as part of a 'barter system'. Stone weights named 'debens' were used to weigh the value of items during a trade. Having established trade links was all a part of ensuring citizens got the food and materials they needed to prosper.

Some of the most popular items for trade included: linen, papyrus, grain and various precious metals and stones. Many of the ancient Egyptian trading partners were from the Mediterranean, Middle Eastern countries such as Lebanon and Afghanistan, and many neighbouring nations in east Africa.

Did You Know...?



- The ancient Egyptians believed the 2,000 gods and goddesses were linked to many natural forces.
- The afterlife was incredibly important. As such, ancient Egyptians prepared for what would happen after they died.
- Powerful people's bodies were preserved through mummification.
- The god Anubis was responsible for weighing the hearts of the citizens to decide if they had lived a good life.

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Transport and the Nile

Ancient Egyptian life grew around the river Nile. Due to the hot and dry conditions, the water was critical to all areas of life. For transport, trade and day-to-day activities, the Nile was key.

Towns and cities sprung up on the river's banks due the **fertile** ground the water created. During the summer months, the monsoon weather would cause the river to flood, which led to perfect conditions for growing crops.

Additionally, the Nile was an important route for people to travel and trade. All over the Mediterranean and Africa, the ancient Egyptians used skiffs, simple sailboats, to trade gold, linen, papyrus and much more.

The river Nile truly was the source of life to the people of ancient Egypt.

Glossary

fertile – Land able to produce lots of crops.
hierarchy – Ranking people according to how powerful they are.
hieroglyphics – Language using symbols and pictures.

Questions

1. List the social classes from top to bottom.

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____
   4. _____
   5. _____
   6. _____
   7. _____

2. Draw three lines to match the social class to its description.

Enslaved People	**Pharaoh's second-in-command**
Vizier	**Kept official records.**
Scribes	**Forced to work for wealthy families.**

3. What were debens used for?

   _____

4. Complete the sentence.

   Powerful people's bodies _____

   _____ .

5. Describe the climate of ancient Egypt.

   _____

   _____

6. **Look at the section titled 'Transport and the Nile'.**

   Why did the author choose to discuss the river Nile in such detail?

7. Why did the author describe ancient Egyptian culture as one of belief and invention?

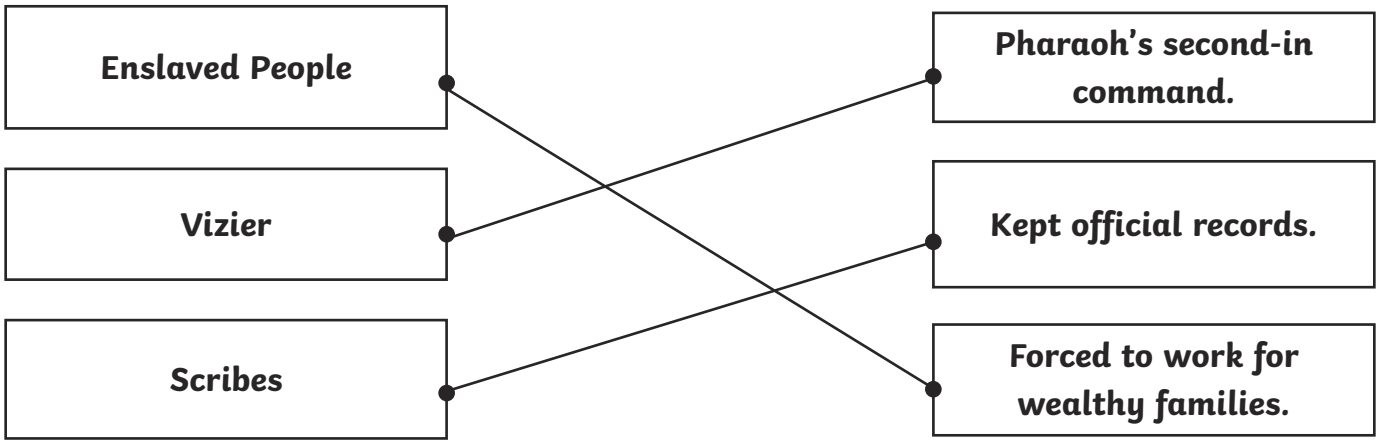
8. Why was it important for ancient Egyptians to live a good life?

Answers

1. List the social classes from top to bottom.

    1. **Pharaoh**
    2. **Vizier**
    3. **Nobles and Priests**
    4. **Soldiers and Scribes**
    5. **Craftsmen**
    6. **Farmers**
    7. **Enslaved People**

2. Draw three lines to match the social class to its description.



3. What were debens used for?

    Debens stone weights used as part of the barter system of trade.

4. Complete the sentence.

    Powerful people's bodies **were preserved through a process of mummification.**

5. Describe the climate of ancient Egypt.

    The ancient Egyptian climate was hot and dry except for during the monsoon season when the river Nile would flood.

6. **Look at the section titled 'Transport and the Nile'.**

    Why did the author choose to discuss the river Nile in such detail?

    The river Nile was critical to all life in ancient Egypt. From trade, to transport, farming and more, it was the source of life there.

7. Why did the author describe ancient Egyptian culture as one of belief and invention?

   Pupils' own responses, such as: The author chose these words because the ancient Egyptians believed in over 2,000 gods. They also believed many natural forces were caused by these gods. The ancient Egyptians also invented many things we see today, such as calendars, farming and written language.

8. Why was it important for ancient Egyptians to live a good life?

   Pupils' own responses, such as: The ancient Egyptians chose to lead good lives because of their belief that the afterlife was as important as their mortal one. Also, they would expect to have their heart weighed by the god Anubis once they died.