

2 Ancient Egypt

What is an archaeologist?

- Archaeology is the study of human history.
- Humankind is 4 million years old but things have only been written down for about 5,000 years.
- Artefacts tell us more about what happened in the past.
- An artefact is an object made by a human e.g. pottery, jewellery, building materials, coins, weapons and tools.
- Archaeologists often carry out excavations or digs to discover artefacts

Why were pharaohs important in Ancient Egypt?

- In 3000 BC, King Menes united two Egyptian kingdoms to build an empire that is known as Ancient Egypt.
- Ancient Egypt was a civilization that lasted 3000 years.
- The rulers of Ancient Egypt were called pharaohs.
- Pharaohs were powerful rulers like kings. They made laws, controlled the land and its resources.
- When pharaohs died, their bodies were preserved as mummies.
- Egyptians buried mummies in tombs that were usually in pyramids. They buried treasures along with the mummies.
- Egyptians believed that pharaohs lived on as gods in the afterlife.
- One of the best-known pharaohs is Tutankhamun. He ruled in 1300 BC from about the age of 8 until he died 10 years later.



Emperor Tang



Fu Hao

How did the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb teach us about Ancient Egypt?

- The artefacts discovered in the tomb helped archaeologists to learn about life in Ancient Egypt. These were primary sources of information.
- Some of the artefacts were removed and are now in museums.

Why is Howard Carter a significant archaeologist?

- Howard Carter was an archaeologist.
- He discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922.
- This was an important discovery because the tomb was intact and it had many artefacts that taught us about Ancient Egypt.

Ushabtis
(wooden/stone figures).



Tomb paintings



Jewellery



The golden funeral mask of
Tutankhamun.



Chariots



Tutankhamun's
tomb statue.



King Menes unites two Egyptian kingdoms to build an empire.

Tutankhamun becomes Pharaoh.

Tutankhamun dies.

The Egyptian Empire is defeated by the Romans.

Howard Carter discovers Tutankhamun's tomb.

Approx
3000 BC

Approx
1300 BC

Approx
1320 BC

30 BC

1922 AD

Source
Something that tells us about history.

Primary source
A source created at or from the time studied.

Secondary source
A source created after the event, based on primary sources.

Artefact
being ranked according to status.

BC
Before Christ. Based on the Christian calendar as a way of marking time.

AD
Anno Domini. Latin for 'in the year of the Lord' marking years since the birth of Jesus. Christian calendar.

Pharaoh
A powerful ruler in Ancient Egypt.

Civilization
An organised group of people living together.

Mummies
A body that has been preserved/protected after death.

Tomb
A place where a dead person is buried.

Egyptian Pyramid
A giant structure with four triangular sides built out of limestone blocks.

Archaeologist
A person that studies the past by discovering artefacts.