

Ancient Egypt Scavenger Hunt

Investigate the ancient past of Egypt – birthplace of one of the world’s first civilisations.

1. How did the River Nile influence the ancient Egyptians?
2. What bordered the country on the east, south, and west?
3. Where did most people of ancient Egypt live?
4. What is hieroglyphics?
5. What were the three main social classes during the New Kingdom (about 1539-1075 B.C.)?
6. Who were the upper classes?
7. Who were the middle class?
8. Who were in the lower class?
9. How did people improve their status?
10. Who was the head of the family in ancient Egypt?
11. What type of rights did women have?
12. Which children went to school?
13. What schools did they attend?
14. Who were scribes?
15. What were the main subjects taught to students in scribal schools?
16. What type of education did those in the middle and lower classes receive?
17. What type of roles were girls trained for?
18. What was the chief food in the diet of most ancient Egyptians and their favourite beverage?
19. What type of clothing did ancient Egyptians wear?
20. What materials were Egyptian houses made of?
21. What type of houses did poor Egyptians live in?
22. What was the typical house of a middle-class Egyptian?
23. What type of houses did wealthy Egyptians live in?
24. How did Egyptians overcome the heat?
25. What leisure activities did ancient Egyptians enjoy?
26. Who was the main god worshipped by ancient Egyptians?
27. Who was the most important goddess?
28. Name what each god represented?
Re; Renenutet; Isis; Osiris; Horus; Ptah; Thoth; Khnum.
29. How were deities pictured?
30. Where did most ancient Egyptians pray?
31. What was the largest temple in ancient Egypt?
32. What was the main job of a priest?
33. Who was considered the chief priest of Egypt?
34. Why did ancient Egyptians mummify the dead?
35. What kind of artefacts did Egyptians fill their tombs with and why?
36. Watch the video: How ancient Egyptians made a mummy. Answer the following questions.
 - i. How long did the process of mummification take?

- ii. Put the steps in the mummification process in order:
- __ Remove internal organs (intestines, stomach, liver and lungs)
 - __ Cover the body with powder to dry it out
 - __ Remove the brain
 - __ Place linen in body
 - __ Plug the nose with wax
 - __ Place the body in the coffin
 - __ Wrap the body in bandages

Now scroll down to the Government subsection and answer the following questions.

37. Who ruled ancient Egypt?
38. What belief helped strengthen the authority of kings?
39. Who became King/Pharaoh?
40. Who were the viziers?
41. How was tax paid in ancient Egypt?
42. Who governed the nomes (provinces)?

To learn more about Ancient Egypt see the *Related Information* tab located at the top of your screen.

ANSWERS:

1. The mighty Nile River was the lifeblood of ancient Egypt. Every year, it overflowed and deposited a strip of rich, black soil along each bank. The fertile soil enabled farmers to raise a huge supply of food. The ancient Egyptian called their country Kemet, meaning Black Land, after the dark soil. The Nile also provided water for irrigation and was Egypt's main transportation route.
2. Deserts bordered the country on the east, south and west.
3. Most people of ancient Egypt lived in the Nile River Valley. The rest of the population lived in the delta and in oases west of the river, in the Libyan Desert.
4. Hieroglyphics is a system of picture symbols that stood for ideas and sounds that the ancient Egyptians used as their written language. It consisted of over 700 picture symbols. A simpler hieroglyphic form called hieratic and demotic were developed for everyday use.
5. During the New Kingdom, ancient Egypt had three main social classes – upper, middle and lower.
6. The upper classes consisted of the royal family, rich landowners, government officials, high-ranking priests and army officers, and doctors.
7. The middle class was made up chiefly of merchants, manufacturers, and craftworkers.
8. The lower class, the largest class, consisted of unskilled labourers. Most of them worked on farms.
9. People in the lower or middle class, as well as slaves, could move to a higher position. They improved their status mainly through marriage or success in their jobs. Even slaves had rights and could be given their freedom.
10. The father headed the family upon his death, his oldest son became the head.
11. Women had almost as many rights as men. They could own and inherit property, buy and sell goods, and make a will. A wife could obtain a divorce.
12. Only a small percentage of boys and girls went to school in ancient Egypt, and most of them came from upper-class families.
13. These students attended schools for scribes.
14. Scribes made written records for government offices, temples, and other institutions. They also read and wrote letters for the large number of Egyptians who could not read and write.
15. The main subjects were reading, literature, geography, mathematics, and writing.
16. Most Egyptian boys followed their father's occupations and were taught by their fathers. Some learned a trade, but the majority became farmers. Many parents placed their sons with master craftsmen who taught carpentry, pottery making, or other skills.
17. Most girls were trained for roles of wife and mother. Their mothers taught them cooking, sewing, and other skills.
18. Bread was the chief food and beer was the favourite beverage in the diet of most ancient Egyptians.
19. The Egyptians generally dressed in white linen garments. Women wore robes or tight dresses with shoulder straps. Men wore skirts or robes. They often wore coloured, shoulder length headdresses. Rich Egyptians wore wigs. The rich wore sandals and common people went barefoot. Young children rarely wore clothes.
20. The Egyptians built their houses with bricks of dried mud. They used trunks of palm trees to support the flat roofs.
21. Most poor Egyptians lived in one to three room huts.
22. The typical middle-class Egyptian lived in one or two storey house with several rooms.
23. Many rich Egyptians had houses with as many as 70 rooms. Some of these homes were country estates with orchards, pools, and large gardens.
24. Egyptian houses had small windows placed high in the walls to help keep out the sun. The people spread wet mats on the floors and hung them on the walls and porches to help cool the air inside their houses. On hot nights, they often slept on the roof, where it was cooler.
25. Fishing, swimming and sailing on the Nile River was a popular family activity. Adventurous Egyptians hunted crocodiles, lions, hippopotamuses, and wild cattle with bows and arrows or spears. Watching wrestling matches and playing senet, a board game were also enjoyed by ancient Egyptians.
26. The ancient Egyptians worshipped many deities. The main god was the sun god Re.

27. Isis was the most important goddess. She represented the devoted mother and wife.
28. Re: sun god who was relied on for good harvests
 Renenutet: goddess relied on for good harvests
 Isis: goddess who represented the devoted mother and wife
 Osiris: god who ruled over vegetation and the dead
 Horus: god of the sky and lord of heaven.
 Ptah: local deity who was the creator god of Memphis
 Thoth: local deity who was the god of wisdom and writing in Hermopolis
 Khnum: local deity who was the creator god of Elephantine.
29. Many deities were pictured with human bodies and the heads of animals. Such a head suggested a real or imagined quality of the animal and made identification of the deity easy.
30. Most ancient Egyptians prayed at home because the temples did not offer regular services for people.
31. The temple built to honour Amun-Re at Karnak.
32. The priests' main job was to serve the deity or king, who was represented by a statue in the temple.
33. The king reigning at the time was considered the chief priest of Egypt.
34. The Egyptians believed that the bodies of the dead had to be preserved for the next life, and so they mummified corpses to prevent them from decaying.
35. The Egyptians filled their tombs with items for use in the afterlife. These items included clothing, wigs, food, cosmetics, and jewellery. The tombs of rich Egyptians also had statues representing servants who would care for them in the next world. Scenes of daily life were painted on the wall. They also had texts containing prayers, hymns, spells and other information to guide souls through the afterlife and protect them from evil.
36.
 - i) 70 days
 - ii)
 2. Remove internal organs (intestines, stomach, liver and lungs)
 5. Cover the body with powder to dry it out
 1. Remove the brain
 3. Place linen in body
 4. Plug the nose with wax
 7. Place the body in the coffin
 6. Wrap the body in bandages
37. The King or Pharaoh.
38. The Egyptians believed that each of their kings was the god Horus in human form.
39. The position of king was inherited. It was passed to the eldest son of the king's chief wife. Some chief wives gave birth to daughters but no sons, and several of those daughters claimed the right to the throne.
40. Viziers helped the king govern ancient Egypt. By the 1400's B.C. the king appointed two of them. One vizier administered the Nile Delta area, and the other one managed the region to the south. They acted as mayors, tax collectors, and judges, and some even controlled the temple treasuries.
41. The government collected taxes from taxes in the form of crops. Skilled workers paid taxes in the goods or services they produced. The government also levied a corvee (tax paid in the form of labour) to obtain troops and government workers.
42. The king appointed an official known as nomarch to govern each province.