

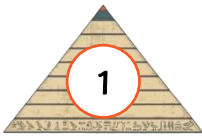
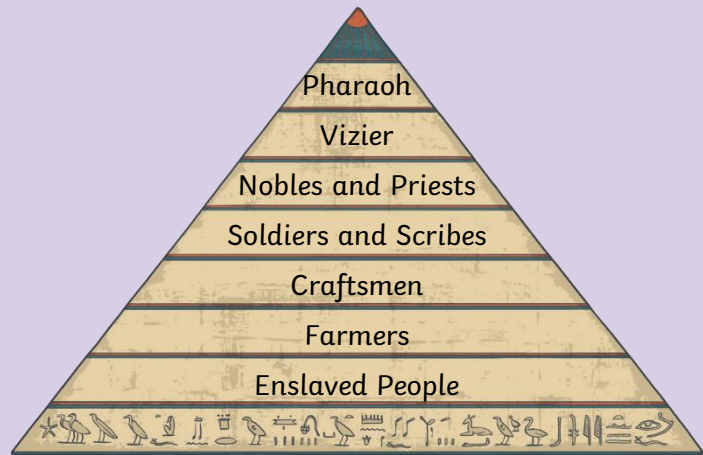
# Life in Ancient Egypt

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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## 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**, 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.

### 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.

3. Find and copy a phrase which describes how important the river Nile was 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?

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

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