



Lowerhouse Junior School

History Overview Sheet



Year 4 – Why were waterways so significant for Ancient Civilisations?



Rationale: Know about the achievements of the earliest civilisations – an overview of where and when the first civilisations appeared and a depth study of one of the following: Ancient Sumer; The Indus Valley; Ancient Egypt; The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China.

Substantive Knowledge:

- Know that there were some advanced civilisations 3,000 years ago and that Britain was not one of them.
- Know about the link between the Ancient Egyptians and slavery.
- Know why the Pharaohs were so powerful.
- Know why the pyramids were created
- Know about how the Ancient Egyptians were influenced by their Gods.

Overview:

Lesson 1: Artefact Session: Ancient Egyptian Shaduf Painting
Lesson 2: Introduction to Ancient Egypt and the Nile River - Understand the importance of the Nile River
Lesson 3: Waterways and Daily Life in Ancient Egypt - Explore how the Nile influenced agriculture, trade, and transportation
Lesson 4: Religion and the Nile - Understand the symbolic and religious significance of the Nile in Ancient Egyptian beliefs.
Lesson 5: Historical Significance of Waterways - Explore how the Nile enabled key achievements of Ancient Egypt
Lesson 6: Reflection and Assessment - Reflect on and evaluate the overall significance of the Nile for Ancient Egyptian life and achievements.

Key Vocabulary

Pharaohs - Originally meant 'great house', but came to mean the person who resided in it
Pyramid - A geometrical term that refers to part of the burial complexes for Egyptian pharaohs
Hieroglyphs - Refers to the fact that it is carving for sacred things, but hieroglyphs were also written on papyrus
Vizier - The most powerful position after the king. A vizier was the equivalent of a modern-day prime minister
Sarcophagus - Sarcophagus is a Greek word meaning flesh-eating and refers to the mummy case
Papyrus - An Egyptian plant whose reeds are slit and placed in layers to form paper

Key Knowledge

Know that there were several advanced civilisations on Earth around 3000 years ago
Know what was happening in Britain when the Ancient Egyptians were at their most powerful
Understand how archaeologists have helped us know what happened in Ancient Egypt, Ancient Sumer, the Indus Valley and the Shan Dynasty many years ago
Know how the Ancient Egyptians were influenced by the Gods
Know how the powerful Egyptians created a culture of slavery

Assessment/Key Skills

Most Children will: • Understand what was important to people during ancient Egyptian times, compare the powers of different Egyptian gods, find Egypt on a map and raise questions when confronted with an artefact in order to understand more about this ancient civilisation and select information that is useful in understanding the use of hieroglyphs as a form of communication and recording.