

## Glossary

**Ancient Egypt is a fascinating subject. Here's a list of some words and terms that you might find useful when completing the following activities. Take a moment to have a read and see what you think.**

**How many of these did you already know about?**

**Embalming** - The scientific and religious practice of preserving and preparing (or 'mummifying') the body of a person who has passed away. A person doing this work is called an embalmer. Usually only rich or important people could afford to be mummified in this way.

**Shabti** - A small figurine, usually made of pottery and glazed to make it shiny. Placed inside tombs/sarcophagi. Used to represent servants or workers so the mummified person does not have to work in the afterlife.

**Tomb** - A large underground building, sometimes with a pyramid, where mummified people were buried with all their precious belongings. Example: The Great Pyramids of Giza

**Canopic Jars** - Containers for internal organs of a mummified person - usually the stomach, intestines, lungs and liver. Placed inside the tomb.

**Scythe** - A sharp, curved metal tool used to harvest crops, such as wheat - used by farmers

**Anubis** - The Ancient Egyptian god of care of the dead.

**Maat** - The Ancient Egyptian goddess of truth and justice.

**Linen** - A strong, lightweight fabric made from a plant called flax. Had many uses in Ancient Egypt, including for clothing. This fabric is still worn today.

**Sarcophagus/Sarcophagi** - A coffin for a mummified person. Often decorated with meaningful images and hieroglyphs. Placed inside a tomb.

**Natron** - A natural substance, a bit like salt mixed with bicarb. Used by embalmers to dry out the body of the person being mummified.

**Hieroglyphs** - Small pictures or marks used by Ancient Egyptians as written language. Can represent a sound, a syllable, a word, etc.

**Afterlife** - The place Ancient Egyptian people wanted to go to when they died. The rituals, ceremonies and processes involved in mummification and burial were believed to help the person to safely reach the paradise of the afterlife.

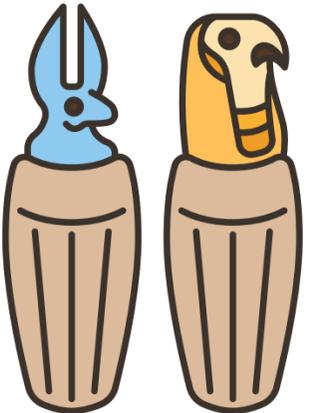
# Life in Ancient Egypt

## Life, Death and Afterlife: Mummification

The Ancient Egyptian people held many spiritual and cultural beliefs, and practiced rituals and customs that would have been very important to them and impacted their lives from birth to death - and beyond!  
The process of embalming, or, mummification, was one of these. This involved preserving the body of the person, and providing everything they believed the person would need in the afterlife.

**Activity: Draw a line between the embalmer's tool/object, and its purpose. Answers on P.10**

Metal hook  
 Linen bandages  
 Canopic jars  
 Adze  
 Bowl of water  
 Shabtis  
 Ceremonial/blessings  
 Amulets  
 Cedar oil  
 Knife  
 Removing the brains  
 Natron salts  
 Jewels and gold  
 Making incisions (cuts)  
 Spiritual protection  
 To help preserve the skin  
 To act as servants in the Afterlife  
 Washing the body  
 Drying out the body  
 Wrapping the body  
 Containing organs  
 decorate & ensure riches in afterlife





# Life in Ancient Egypt

## Life, Death and Afterlife - Belief

It appears the Ancient Egyptian people thought a lot about dying and death, but we also know they also loved life. To an Ancient Egyptian person, they could think of no better place to be than where they were already and wanted their life to carry on forever. They called this 'forever' the afterlife. Everything an Ancient Egyptian person owned in their life, including their body, would need to be with them in the afterlife. That is why tombs have been found filled with everything from food, furniture and clothing, to shabtis, statues, jewels and, of course, the mummified bodies of the dead. The person's soul - called the 'Ka' - needed to be able to recognise its body in order to return to it safely in the afterlife. The many gods and goddesses the Ancient Egyptian people worshipped played a vital part of their lives and their beliefs about the afterlife.

### Discussion Topic

**What sort of objects would you like to take into the afterlife? Your favourite outfit? A fidget toy? Maybe you'd take some shabtis to do your homework or chores for you!**



### Activity

**The names of these gods and goddesses have been split in half and mixed up. Can you correctly put their names back together?**

#### **Answers on P.??**

Bas	.....	hor
Ma	.....	bis
Anu	.....	ris
Osi	.....	tet
Hat	.....	at
Hor	.....	wet
Tara	.....	us

### Fact File

**The Ancient Egyptians also believed in many different gods and goddesses, or 'deities.' They built temples and statues for them and provided offerings and prayers to them for all sorts of reasons. They often resembled animals, or had animal parts.**



# Life in Ancient Egypt

## Who did what?

While the lives of the Pharaohs, like King Tutankhamun, is an important and fascinating aspect of learning about Ancient Egyptian civilizations, have you ever wondered what it meant to be everyday citizen living in Egypt in ancient times? What if you were not rich and royal. but, like most people, a working person living a far less extravagant existence? Perhaps you are a builder working on the tombs, a scribe writing important documents, a priest mummifying a pharaoh, a craftsperson making clay pottery to sell, or a farmer preparing for harvest. Everyone had a role to play in Ancient Egypt, much like today.

**Activity:** Complete this wordsearch to learn more about life & work in Ancient Egypt. The answers are placed left to right, up to down, and diagonally.



### Wordsearch

- |            |           |           |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Scribe     | Soldier   | Painter   |
| Farmer     | Builder   | Artisan   |
| Servant    | Architect | Weaver    |
| Stonemason | Priest    | Merchant  |
| Priestess  | Baker     | Carpenter |

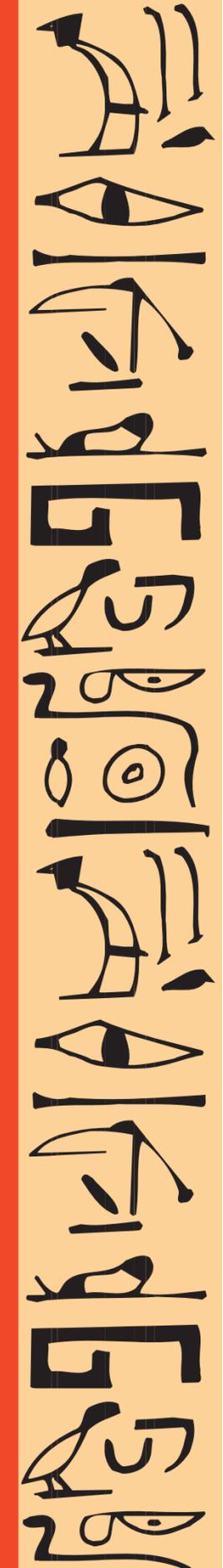
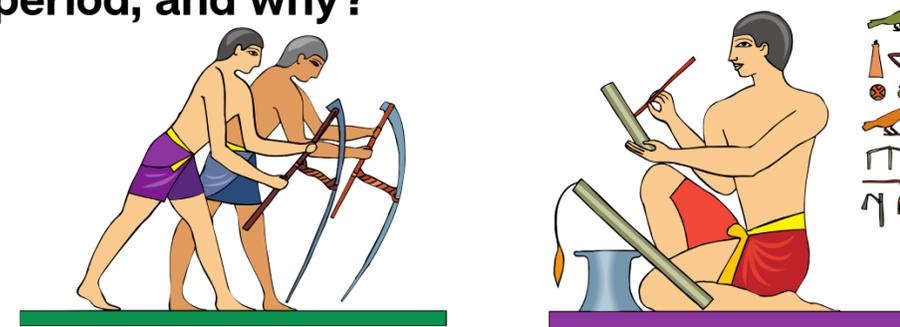
S	C	R	I	B	E	P	Z	I	W	E	S
O	E	B	E	P	A	I	N	T	E	R	T
L	F	R	K	V	C	K	I	B	A	T	O
D	P	O	P	Y	R	M	E	R	V	E	N
I	Q	K	V	A	N	U	M	R	E	C	E
E	A	C	T	O	A	E	J	K	R	T	M
R	P	R	I	E	S	T	E	S	S	H	A
A	R	C	H	I	T	E	C	T	U	G	S
N	I	C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R	O
L	E	F	A	R	M	E	R	X	A	H	N
F	S	W	N	M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T
Z	T	J	M	D	B	U	I	L	D	E	R

### Fact File

- A common labourer might have been paid in bread and beer for their work
- A role such as a scribe (a writer) or a vizier (an advisor) would be considered a more important job than a servant or farm worker.

### Discussion Topic

What job would you have most liked to do if you lived during the Ancient Egyptian period, and why?



# Life in Ancient Egypt

## Where is Egypt?

Did you know that Egypt is part of the African continent? Read the information below and use it to help you solve the ANAGRAMS! (answers on P.10)

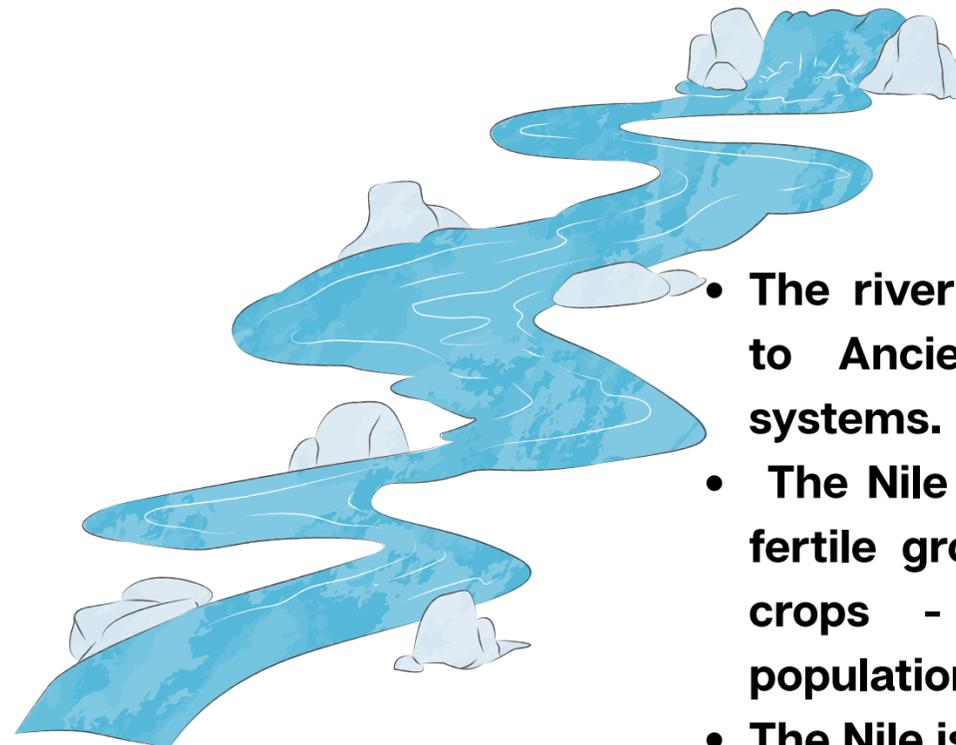
Over the millennia, the geography and borders of certain parts of the globe have changed, but **Egypt** has always been in **Africa**. During certain times during this period of history, the people of Ancient Egypt traded, exchanged culture, and sometimes went to war with, a place called **Nubia**. You could say these two had a complicated friendship! You won't find Nubia on a modern map. Part of it existed where the country **Sudan** is now. The river **Nile**, which runs through Egypt, is unusual. Most rivers run north to south, but the Nile starts in East Africa and runs all the way north into the Mediterranean Sea. **Thebes** was the capital city of Ancient Egypt between around 1570-1069 BCE, during a time we call The New Kingdom. It's important to remember that the Ancient Egyptian period lasted for around 3000 years! A very long time.



### Activity:

#### ANAGRAMS

1. BEHEST
2. A CAR IF
3. AND US
4. NEAT REMINDER
5. LIVER REIN
6. CUT RULE
7. AI BUN
8. ANT NICE
9. PAGE TINY
10. DOG MINK



### Fact File

- The river Nile was incredibly important to Ancient Egyptian life and belief systems.
- The Nile flooded once a year, providing fertile ground for farming and growing crops - essential for feeding the population.
- The Nile is around 4,130 miles long!

# Life in Ancient Egypt

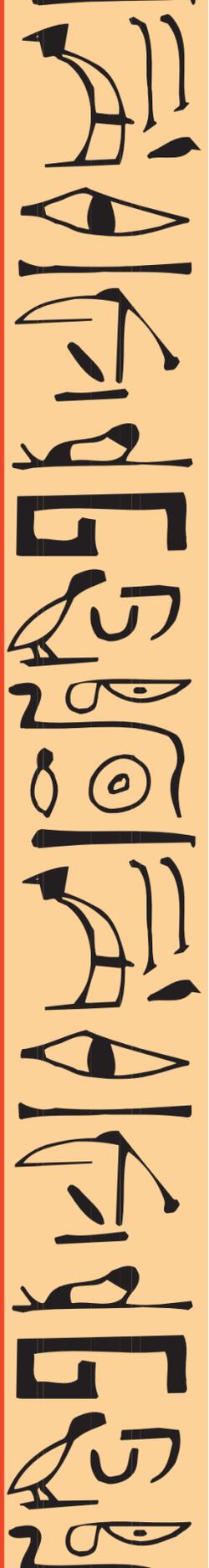
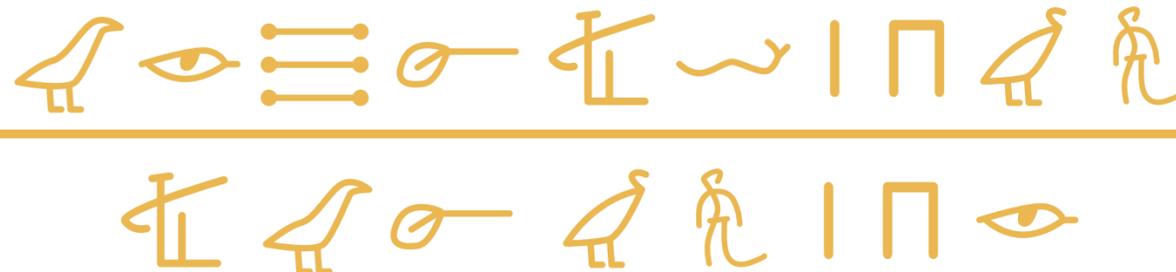
## True or False?

Below you can find some statements about Ancient Egypt. Test your knowledge by deciding if these facts are true or false!

Answers on P.10



1. The Ancient Egyptian period lasted for 500 years
2. The River Nile was very important to the Ancient Egyptian people
3. Pharaohs could only be male
4. People often received payment for their work in grain, like wheat or barley
5. Shabtis were gods
6. The brain was not thought to be very important
7. Egypt is a country in Africa
8. Canopic jars were used for storing food
9. Natron salts were applied to a dead person to help prevent them from rotting
10. Maat was considered the goddess of funerals



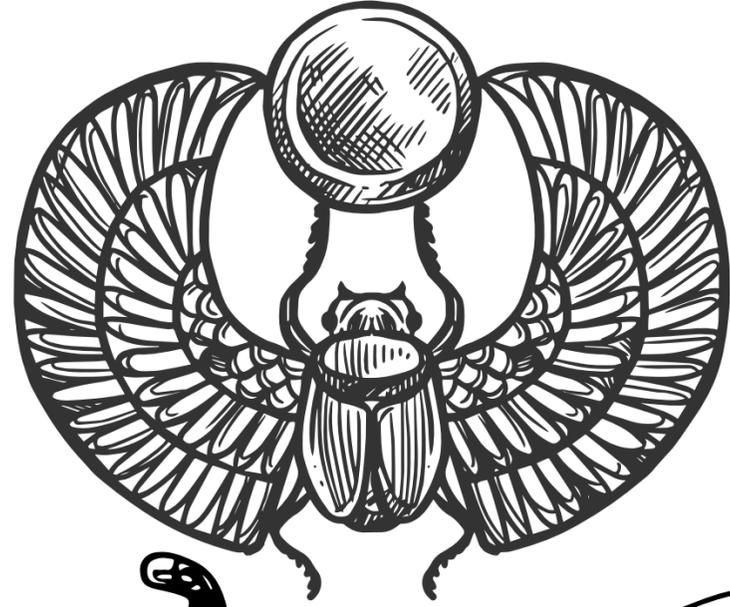
# Life in Ancient Egypt

## True or False?

### Answers

1. The Ancient Egyptian period lasted for 500 years = **FALSE! What we call the Ancient Egyptian period of history lasted around 3000 years!**
2. The River Nile was very important to the Ancient Egyptian people = **TRUE! The Nile's floods made the land fertile, which meant farmers could grow and harvest crops. It was also used for other purposes such as washing, making beer, and travel.**
3. Pharaohs could only be male = **FALSE! There were female pharaohs who ruled. Hatshepsut was a queen who ruled on her own between around 1473 - 10 BCE and is one of the most well-known.**
4. People often received payment for their work in grains, like wheat or barley = **TRUE! Until around 500 BCE, the Ancient Egyptians did not use currency, and certainly not like we do. They relied on exchanging and negotiating. Grains and beer were often paid to workers.**
5. Shabtis were gods = **FALSE! Shabtis were small figurines meant to represent workers or servants. Work still had to be done in the afterlife, and if you didn't want to do it yourself, you needed people to do it for you.**
6. The brain was not thought to be very important = **TRUE! The brain was often thrown away during mummification. The heart was considered the organ of most significance.**
7. Egypt is a country in Africa = **TRUE! Egypt is located in the African continent, and links to the Middle East.**
8. Canopic jars were used for storing food = **FALSE! Canopic jars were where embalmers placed the mummified person's organs - the intestines, stomach, lungs and liver. These jars were then placed in the tomb, so the mummified person had their organs in the afterlife.**
9. Natron salts were applied to a dead person to help prevent them from rotting = **TRUE! Natron was used as part of the embalming process.**
10. Maat was considered the goddess of funerals = **FALSE! Maat is the goddess of truth, justice and balance.**





## Life, Death and Afterlife: Mummification - Answers

- Metal hook <-----> Removing the brains  
Adze <-----> Ceremonial/blessings  
Amulets <-----> Spiritual protection  
Bowl of water <-----> Washing the body  
Linen bandages <-----> Wrapping the body  
Cedar Oil <-----> To help preserve the skin  
Shabtis <-----> To act as servants in the afterlife  
Knife <-----> Making incisions (cuts)  
Jewels and gold <-----> Decorate and ensure riches in afterlife  
Canopic jars <-----> Containing organs  
Natron salts <-----> Drying out the body

## Where is Egypt? Anagrams - Answers

1. BEHEST = Thebes
2. A CAR IF = Africa
3. AND US = Sudan
4. NEAT REMINDER = Mediterranean
5. LIVER REIN = River Nile
6. CUT RULE = Culture
7. AI BUN = Nubia
8. ANT NICE = Ancient
9. PAGE TINY = Egyptian
10. DOG MINK = Kingdom

## Life, Death and Afterlife: Belief - Answers

**Bas - tet = Bastet:** Goddess, of cats, childbirth, joy, dancing

**Ma - aat = Maat:** Goddess of truth, justice, balance

**Anu - bis = Anubis:** God of mummification, afterlife, care of the dead

**Osi - ris = Osiris:** God of afterlife, fertility, linked to flooding of Nile

**Hat - hor = Hathor:** Goddess of joy, music, beauty. Linked with motherhood and new life

**Hor - us = Horus:** God of war, the sky, hunting, kingship

**Tara - wet = Tarawet:** Protection, new life and family, protection of children