# What did the Ancient Egyptians believe?

### Unit Outcomes and rationale

- I will be able to identify ancient civilisations and Key events from Ancient Egypt.
- I will be able to describe the features of Egypt.
- I will know the Egyptian creation story.
- I will know characteristics of Gods and Goddesses.
- I will be able to explain why and how pyramids were built.
- I will be able to find links between mummification and beliefs about the afterlife.

Our past two topics have been focused on British history. This topic is focused on global history. This gives us an opportunity to compare civilisations and beliefs throughout the world with those in Britain and to consider the beliefs of others.

### Important things I will know

- The Egyptians lived around the River Nile for trade.
- The Egyptian Gods were responsible for different parts of Egyptian life.
- Pyramids were built as tombs and monuments for Egyptian Pharaohs.
- Egyptians believed the body was home to the soul, when the person dies the soul travelled to the afterlife to be reunited with the preserved body.

# The afterlife

The Egyptians believed that after a person died, they travelled to the afterlife - a kind of paradise or heaven in which people became immortal. The journey to the afterlife was full of challenges, and at its end, the god Osiris decided whether a person would go to the afterlife or the underworld.

### Gods and goddesses

The ancient Egyptians worshipped over 1,500 gods and goddesses, responsible for all aspects of daily Egyptian life. For example, Thoth was the god of writing. Temples were built for the gods, and festivals were dedicated in their honour.



### **Disciplinary concepts**

- Change and continuity
- Historical significance
- Sources of evidence
- Historical interpretations
- Cause and consequence

## **Historical enquiry**

- Posing questions
- Gathering, organising and evaluating evidence
- Interpreting findings, analysing and making connections
- Evaluating and drawing conclusions
- Communicating findings

### Substantive concepts

- Power
- Civilisation (social and cultural)
- Beliefs
- Achievements and follies of mankind

	Important vocabulary I will learn and use	
Book of the Dead	A long sheet of papyrus that had spells written on to guide the dead to the afterlife.	
civilisation	A group of people sharing a language, way of life and governance.	<u>۸۸۶</u>
historically significant	A person or event from the past that deserves attention.	
immortal	Able to live forever.	X
mummification	The Egyptian process of preserving a body so it could travel to the afterlife.	
preserve	To prevent a body from decaying.	
pyramid	A large stone tomb built for a pharaoh.	$\bigwedge$
Ra	The Egyptian sun god, who later merges with Atum, the creator god.	
River Nile	The longest river in the world, which the ancient Egyptians built their civilization along.	
sarcophagus	A decorated stone coffin used by ancient Egyptians.	
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3100 26 BC 26	00 2100 1600 1100 600 100	400 AD
	The Old Kingdom The Middle Kingdom The New Late period Macedonian Ptolemaic Egypt	