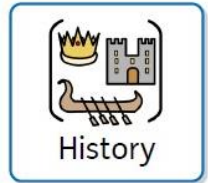




Year 3

What did the ancient Egyptians believe?



Prior learning: Would you prefer to have lived in the Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age?

What we are learning

Lesson 1: To develop questioning skills using sources about ancient civilisations.	Lesson 2: To explain the significance of the River Nile to ancient Egyptian civilisation.	Lesson 3: To evaluate the importance of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.	Lesson 4: To use a range of sources to explore the importance of gods and goddesses in ancient Egypt.	Lesson 5: To investigate beliefs about the afterlife in Ancient Egypt.	Lesson 6: To evaluate continuity and change by identifying what happened to the pharaohs when they died.
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Key vocabulary

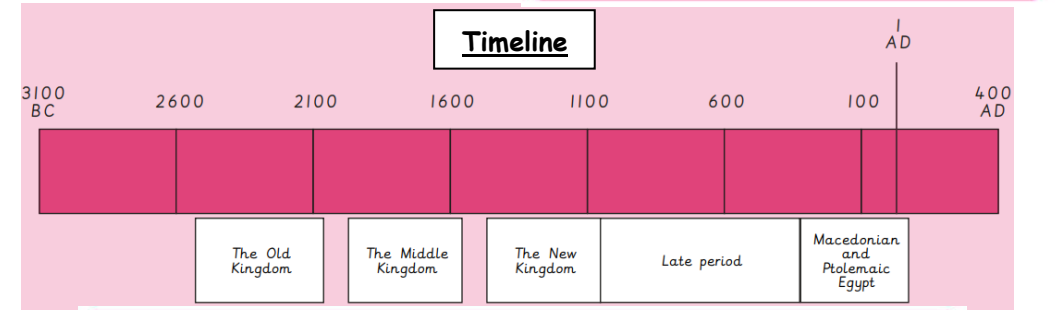
civilisation	A large group of people with a common language, way of life and governance.	
Egypt	The country on the continent of Africa where the ancient Egyptian civilisation was created.	
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that consists of pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.	
historically significant	A person or event that deserves attention.	
River Nile	A river that runs through Egypt. It was essential to life in ancient Egypt.	
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt.	
pyramid	Named after its shape, a large stone tomb built for a pharaoh.	
tomb	A sealed room where a person was placed after death.	
sarcophagus	A large stone box that held a mummy's coffin. Often richly decorated for Pharaohs.	

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.

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.



Weighing of the heart ceremony

The ancient Egyptians thought the heart recorded all the good and bad things a person did. If the heart weighed the same as the Feather of Ma'at, the person went to the afterlife.