Knowledge Organiser - Year 4—History: The Ancient Egyptians

**Ancient Civilisations**

- **Ancient Mesopotamia**
  - 5000BC to 333BC

- **Ancient Egypt**
  - 3200BC to 332BC
  - 3200BC to 1700BC
  - 1766BC to 1046BC

**Ancient Egyptian Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Key Events</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3100BC</td>
<td>Old Kingdom—Egypt unified under King Narmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>2600BC</td>
<td>Pyramids built at Giza</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400BC</td>
<td>Akhenaten changed Egyptian religion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1324 BC</td>
<td>Tutankhamun dies after ruling for ten years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>332BC</td>
<td>Alexander The Great conquers Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922 AD</td>
<td>Howard Carter discovers Tutankhamun’s tomb</td>
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</tbody>
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**Key Concepts**

- **Society**
  - Community of people living in a particular country or region and having shared customs, laws, and organisations.

- **Civilisation**
  - Advanced society with agriculture, division of labour, cities, organised religion, science/technology, written language and some form of government.

- **Empire**
  - Group of nations or peoples ruled over by an emperor, empress, other powerful sovereign or government.

- **Sources**
  - Something that tells us about history—such as: documents, pictures, sound recordings, books, films, objects. Any artefact from the period in question that conveys information.

- **Archaeology**
  - The study of things that people made, used, and left behind to understand what people of the past were like and how they lived.

**Key Vocabulary**

- **Hieroglyphics**
  - Writing system using picture symbols; used in ancient Egypt. They have been found carved in stone and painted on walls of ancient tombs.

- **Cartouche**
  - Oblong, or oval, magical rope which was drawn to contain the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics that spelt out the name of a King or Queen.

- **Papyrus**
  - Tall plant like a reed. It was used to make paper by the Ancient Egyptians. The stalk was cut into thin strips, dried and pressed together to make paper.

- **Mummification**
  - A way to preserve a dead body to stop it from decaying by embalming and wrapping it in linen bandages.

- **Canopic Jar**
  - Jar used to store the soft inside parts of a dead body. As part of mummification process to preserve a dead body.

- **Sarcophagus**
  - A stone container for a coffin or a body. They were often painted or decorated ornately.

- **Pharaoh**
  - King (or occasionally Queen) in Ancient Egypt. Often thought to be a god by the people they ruled over.

- **Artefact**
  - Remains of past human life and activities. Including the earliest stone tools to man made objects that are buried or thrown away in the present day.

**Key Places**

- **Cairo**
  - Capital city of Egypt today.

- **The Sphinx**
  - Large human-headed lion carved from a mound of natural rock. It stands close to the Great Pyramids.

- **The Pyramids**
  - Stone pyramid-shaped structures built to be used as tombs for Ancient Egyptian kings and queens.

- **River Nile**
  - Provided water to drink, grow crops, wash and allowed transport by boat.

- **Thebes**
  - The ancient capital of Egypt very close to the Nile River.

- **Valley of the Kings**
  - Valley on the west bank of the Nile at Luxor with ancient tombs that once contained mummies and valuables.

- **Valley of the Queens**
  - Close to the Valley of the Kings. Burial tombs of ancient Queens.

Key Question — What did we learn from the Ancient Egyptians?