

Ancient Egypt

KS2 History · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Why was the River Nile so important to Ancient Egypt?

Step 1 · Think about Egypt's desert surroundings

Most of Egypt is desert, unsuitable for farming

Step 2 · The Nile's yearly floods left rich soil along its banks

This soil allowed Egyptians to grow crops

Answer: The Nile provided water and fertile soil (from its yearly floods) that made farming possible in an otherwise dry desert

Check: Without the Nile, the great Egyptian civilisation likely couldn't have thrived where it did.

2. Now try one with the steps

Why did the Egyptians go to such enormous effort to build pyramids for their pharaohs?

Step 1 · Think about their beliefs about the afterlife

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is the name of the great river that Ancient Egypt was built around?

2. What were Egypt's rulers called?

3. What is the name for Ancient Egyptian picture-writing?

4. What were the pyramids built for?

5. Explain what mummification was and why the Egyptians did it.

6. Why do historians know so much about Ancient Egypt compared to some other ancient civilisations?

4. Before you hand it in

Thinking the pyramids were built by aliens or through some kind of magic, rather than by skilled human workers.

Remember: the pyramids were an incredible feat of human planning, engineering and labour.

Thinking all of Egypt was fertile farmland.

Picture Egypt desert with a thin green strip of farmland along the river.