

# The Ancient Egyptians

## Non-fiction

### Content domain focus:

**2a** give/explain the meaning of words in context

**2b** retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction

**2d** make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text

### Text summary

This is a non-fiction text that gives information about Ancient Egypt. The information is presented as a series of questions and answers.

### Unit summary

The majority of the questions in the unit are straightforward information-retrieval questions. Making inferences from non-fiction is often quite challenging so this skill is explored through a couple of the questions. Finally, children focus on working out the meaning of words from the context of the passage.



### Teaching prompts

- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children what they know about Ancient Egypt. If necessary, offer prompts such as: *Tell me what you know about the pyramids. What do you know about mummies?*
- Ask the children to tell you about the techniques they know and can use to find information efficiently and effectively. Establish that it is very helpful to use clues in questions that help to identify the kind of information they are looking for.
- Remind them that it is often helpful to skim a text before they start to find the answers to questions. If necessary, revisit skimming techniques such as reading headings and sub-headings, and focusing on the first and last sentences in paragraphs.
- Discuss how the children can work out the meanings of words that they come across. Suggest that they try making links between the word and other information in the sentence or paragraph.

### Revisiting the text

Ask the children to:

- use an atlas to find out exactly where Egypt is
- draw a map of Africa showing Egypt and the River Nile
- create a KWL grid about the Ancient Egyptians
- carry out research to answer questions on their KWL grids
- create fact files about the Ancient Egyptians and their lives
- write and make presentations of their research
- develop quizzes about Ancient Egypt and challenge classmates to take the quizzes.

 **Answers**

Links to content domain requirements are in brackets after the answer.

- 1. 8,000 years ago. [2b]
- 2.

	True	False
Because they had plenty of water.	✓	
Because they built temples for their gods.		✓
Because they were successful farmers.	✓	

[2b]

- 3. They had armies and ships and courts of law, temples and pyramids, and they made beautiful things. [2d]
- 4. "Some people think" [2a]
- 5. Because there were valuable things in the tombs, e.g. clothes and jewellery. [2d]
- 6. monkeys, crocodiles, cats and other sacred animals [2b]
- 7. the heart [2b]
- 8. through the nose [2b]
- 9. 40 days [2b]

- 10. craftspeople → a body that has been dried out
- mummy → workers who make things by hand
- sarcophagus → a king or ruler
- pharaoh → stone coffin

[2a]

 **Assessment**

The children are secure in their ability to work out the meanings of words in context if they read the rest of the sentence, make links between the focus word and other words that are familiar to them, and use morphology, e.g. root words.

The children are able to retrieve information efficiently and effectively if they use clues in the question, e.g. the "When?" in question 1 and the phrase "How long?" in question 9 show that they should be looking for numbers in the extract.

The children are secure in their ability to make inferences if they have been able to link the information in the relevant paragraphs and to make connections with their existing knowledge.

**Next steps**

Discuss the children's knowledge of non-fiction, e.g. the way it can be organised into paragraphs; the signposts that help indicate how to read a spread, e.g. headings, sub-headings, captions; the types of language used, e.g. technical vocabulary.

Establish that non-fiction usually gives straightforward facts and information but that sometimes a reader has to work out information for themselves by making inferences. Discuss the kinds of technical vocabulary that the children can come across in non-fiction and explore techniques that they can use to work out the meanings of these words and phrases.