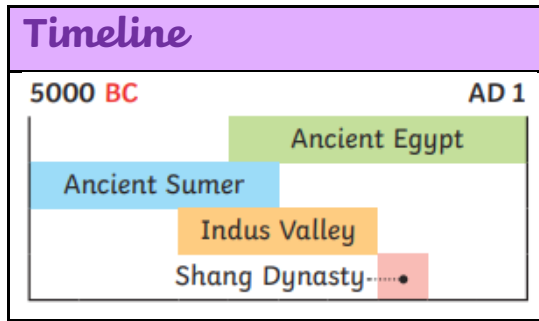


What can we learn from the things the Ancient Egyptians left behind?

Key Vocabulary	
BC	Used to refer to dates before the year AD 1. BC stands for Before Christ and refers to any date before the year Christians believe Jesus was born. This is counted backwards so 200 BC is before 100 BC .
civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.
irrigation	A system of canals or channels Egyptians dug to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would reach naturally.
silt	Fine particles of soil, clay or sand, which enrich the soil for crops, carried and deposited by water.
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters. It was often used for religious texts and inscriptions, as well as for counting taxes. Scribes had to go to a special school to learn how to read and write.
cartouche	An oval shape in which the names of kings and queens were often written in hieroglyphics to place on their tomb.



The Rosetta Stone

The Rosetta Stone is an important artefact that was discovered in 1799. It has an inscription in **hieroglyphs** and two other languages – ancient Greek and Demotic, a more common Egyptian way of writing. It took linguists 20 years to translate the **hieroglyphs** by comparing the languages. We can now read the **hieroglyphs** found on many other artefacts, including on cartouches, to find out about different aspects of Egyptian life.

Everyday Life

The River Nile was central to life in ancient Egypt; most Egyptians still live along and around it today. It had many uses as it provided:

- Slit from annual floods
- **Irrigation**
- Water for drinking and washing
- Fishing
- Trade
- Mud for making bricks
- Papyrus planta for making paper

The job of many people in Ancient Egypt, such as farmers, merchants and builders, relied on the river.



Gods and Goddesses	
Ra	Sun god, lord of the gods. Sailed his boat through the sky during the day and through the underworld at night.
Amun	Created all things. Usually invisible unless mixed with another god, e.g. as Amun – Ra.
Horus	God of the sky. Pharaohs were believed to be a god-like, living version of Horus.
Thoth	God of wisdom. Believed to have invented hieroglyphics and to keep a record of all knowledge.
Ma'at	Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and to be fair and honest.
Isis	Queen of the goddesses.
Osiris	God of the dead.
Hathor	Goddess of love, music and dance.
Anubis	God of mummification. Weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If your heart was lighter, you would live forever.
Sekhmet	Goddess of war, fire and medicine. Sekhmet means 'the powerful one'.

Mummification	When they died, pharaohs and important or wealthy people in ancient Egypt were mummified. Their organs, with the exception of the heart, were removed. Their body would then be dried in natron salt and wrapped in linen fabric with amulets and a Book of the Dead to take with them in the next life. The mummy would then be put in a sarcophagus (decorated coffin) and placed in a tomb. Ordinary Egyptians were simply buried in the desert.
Which account do you think is more reliable?	Some say that Howard Carter found a curse written in hieroglyphs in Tutankhamun's tomb, but he hid it to avoid alarming the workers. However Lord Carnarvon, who funded the discovery, died within six months of the tomb being opened. Other people involved in the opening of the tomb died in the years following. People say that this evidence suggest that the curse of Tutankhamun's tomb is real.
	Shortly after Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered, Lord Carnarvon, who funded the discovery, was bitten by a mosquito. The bite later became infected and he died of blood poisoning. However, Howard Carter and most other people with a link to the project went on to live long lives. People say that this evidence suggests there is no curse associated with Tutankhamun's tomb.

