

Grade 4
Reading - History

“The Ancient Egyptians: A Civilization by the Nile”

The Ancient Egyptians were one of the earliest civilizations to flourish on Earth. They settled along the Nile River in northeastern Africa around 5,000 years ago. The Nile was crucial to their success because it provided water, food, and transportation, creating a fertile valley in an otherwise desert region.

Each year, the Nile flooded, depositing rich soil along its banks, which allowed the Egyptians to grow crops such as wheat and barley. This agricultural abundance led to the growth of powerful cities and a strong civilization. The Egyptians became skilled farmers, architects, and builders. They are perhaps best known for their impressive structures, the pyramids, which were built as tombs for their pharaohs, or kings.

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the most famous of all Egyptian pyramids and one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was built for Pharaoh Khufu around 2560 BCE and originally stood at 146.6 meters (481 feet) tall. Constructing the Great Pyramid was a monumental task that required precise planning, incredible engineering skills, and the labor of thousands of workers.

The Ancient Egyptians also made significant contributions in the fields of art, science, and mathematics. They developed a system of writing called hieroglyphics, which used pictures to represent words or sounds. They were skilled astronomers and mathematicians, creating a calendar based on the lunar cycle and developing geometry to help in the construction of their pyramids.

Despite the end of the Ancient Egyptian civilization over 2,000 years ago, their legacy continues to influence us today. Their achievements in architecture, agriculture, and art remain a testament to their ingenuity and resourcefulness.

Multiple Choice Questions:

Where was the Ancient Egyptian civilization located?

- A. Along the Amazon River
- B. In northeastern Africa
- C. In southeastern Asia
- D. Along the Mississippi River

What did the Nile River provide for the Ancient Egyptians?

- A. Diamonds
- B. Oil
- C. Water, food, and transportation
- D. Gold

What crop did the Ancient Egyptians grow?

- A. Corn
- B. Rice
- C. Wheat and barley
- D. Potatoes

What are the Ancient Egyptians best known for?

- A. Their music
- B. Their pyramids
- C. Their clothing
- D. Their cuisine

For whom was the Great Pyramid of Giza built?

- A. Pharaoh Tutankhamun
- B. Pharaoh Khufu
- C. Pharaoh Ramses II
- D. Pharaoh Cleopatra

How tall was the Great Pyramid of Giza originally?

- A. 100 meters
- B. 146.6 meters
- C. 200 meters

D. 50 meters

What system of writing did the Ancient Egyptians develop?

- A. The alphabet
- B. Braille
- C. Hieroglyphics
- D. Morse code

What field did the Ancient Egyptians make significant contributions to?

- A. Automobile manufacturing
- B. Space exploration
- C. Art, science, and mathematics
- D. Fashion design

What did the Ancient Egyptians create to help them build their pyramids?

- A. Robots
- B. Cranes
- C. Geometry
- D. Explosives

When did the Ancient Egyptian civilization end?

- A. 2,000 years ago
- B. 1,000 years ago
- C. 500 years ago
- D. 100 years ago

Answers:

1. B. In northeastern Africa. The Ancient Egyptian civilization was located along the Nile River in northeastern Africa.
2. C. Water, food, and transportation. The Nile River was crucial to the success of the Ancient Egyptians as it provided them with water, food, and a means of transportation.
3. C. Wheat and barley. The rich soil deposited by the Nile allowed the Egyptians to grow crops such as wheat and barley.
4. B. Their pyramids. The Ancient Egyptians are perhaps best known for their impressive structures, the pyramids, which were built as tombs for their pharaohs.
5. B. Pharaoh Khufu. The Great Pyramid of Giza was built for Pharaoh Khufu around 2560 BCE.
6. B. 146.6 meters. The Great Pyramid of Giza originally stood at 146.6 meters (481 feet) tall.
7. C. Hieroglyphics. The Ancient Egyptians developed a system of writing called hieroglyphics, which used pictures to represent words or sounds.
8. C. Art, science, and mathematics. The Ancient Egyptians made significant contributions in the fields of art, science, and mathematics.
9. C. Geometry. The Egyptians developed geometry to help in the construction of their pyramids.
10. A. 2,000 years ago. The Ancient Egyptian civilization ended over 2,000 years ago, but their legacy continues to influence us today.