



Teacher Resource

Ancient Egyptian Discovery

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN Ancient Egyptian Discovery story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Briefly summarise the Ancient Egyptian Discovery story.
2. What did archaeologists discover recently?
3. What is the Egyptian queen's name?
4. How long ago did she die?
5. Complete the following sentence. Her husband was the first _____ of Egypt's 6th dynasty.
6. Why did ancient Egyptians build elaborate monuments for their dead royals and fill them with treasure?
7. What is mummification?
8. How did embalmers preserve the bodies?
9. Describe the papyrus scroll that was discovered.
10. What was surprising about this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Ancient Egyptian Discovery story in small groups or as a class. Ask students to record what they know about ancient Egypt. What questions do they have? Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What words do you associate with ancient Egypt? Make a list.
- What was discovered in Egypt recently?
- Archaeologists and historians are saying it will 'rewrite history'. What do you think that means?

Using the [Ancient Egyptian Timeline](#), ask students to identify the 6th dynasty when Queen Neit and her husband King Teti lived.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Ancient Egyptian Discovery story. Here are some words to get them started.

SARCOPHAGUS

ARCHAEOLOGIST

ANCIENT

ARTEFACTS

PHARAOH

FUNERARY

EPISODE 1

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KEY LEARNING

Students will develop their historical knowledge and understanding of ancient Egypt. Students will identify a range of questions about the past to inform a historical inquiry on ancient Egypt.

CURRICULUM

History – Year 7

How historians and archaeologists investigate history, including excavation and archival research.

Significant beliefs, values and practices of the ancient Egyptians, with a particular emphasis on ONE of the following areas: everyday life, warfare, or death and funerary customs.

The importance of conserving the remains of the ancient past, including the heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.



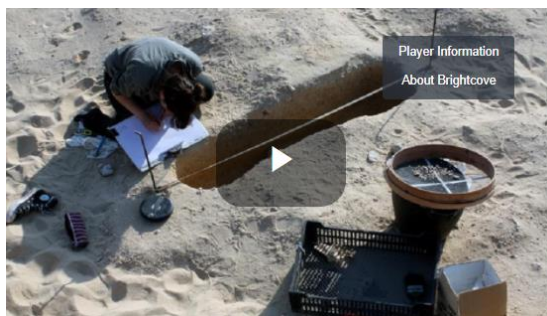
Activity: Investigating the Ancient Past

Finding out about the ancient past can be difficult. Some ancient peoples and civilisations have left behind evidence of the past which help us learn about how they lived. Working in pairs or small groups, ask students to consider the following questions:

- Why do you think people investigate the ancient past?
- How do we know about the ancient past? For example, archaeologists make discoveries, looking at artefacts in museums.
- What are some examples of evidence or places which help us understand the ancient past? For example, Aboriginal rock art in Australia, Mungo Man at Lake Mungo, Stonehenge in England.
- Why is it important to conserve the remains of the ancient past?
- What are some characteristics of Egypt's ancient societies?
- What can the recent discoveries of mummies, wooden coffins and the temple of Queen Neit tell us?

Students will explore the work done by archaeologists to discover and preserve ancient artefacts. Ask students to record what they know about the work archaeologists do.

Go to *chapter 5 - Archaeology in Egypt* in the [Investigating ancient Egypt](#) digibook. Watch the video to learn more about what it's like to be an archaeologist working on a dig in Egypt. Students can then respond to the following questions:



- How do archaeologists record their findings?
- What is photogrammetry and how is it used to document findings?
- What did you learn about the work of an archaeologist in this video?

Further investigation

Students will create a flow chart that shows the process an archaeologist undergoes from finding the artefact, preserving it and using it to interpret the past.

Activity: Funerary Customs & Mummification

Go to *chapter 1 - Beliefs and funerary customs* in the [Investigating ancient Egypt](#) digibook. Watch the video to learn more about funerary customs and mummification.

- Why is our understanding of ancient Egyptian religion, funerary customs and beliefs mostly based on the burials of the elite (wealthy people)?
- What did ancient Egyptians believe about death and the afterlife?
- Why did ancient Egyptians place objects in the tomb? Give examples of these objects. (Canopic jars, lucky amulets, food and papyrus scrolls)
- What information in this video was surprising?



[The Australian Museum](#) has more information about funerals in Ancient Egypt.

The preservation of the body was an essential part of ancient Egyptian funerary belief and practice. In order to have a life after death, the Egyptians believed their bodies had to be preserved. The mummification process involved removing the internal organs, drying out the body and wrapping it in bandages. Students will research the significance of the afterlife to ancient Egyptians by investigating mummification. Here are some questions to help guide students' research:

- Who was mummified in ancient Egypt?
- Why were they mummified?
- Why was the mummification process important?
- How were ancient Egyptians mummified?
- Why were mummies and sarcophagi's important to ancient Egyptians?

Resources to help students with their research:

[Egyptian Cat Mummies](#) - BTN

[Mummification](#) explains the embalming of the body and then the wrapping and burial of the body.

[How were mummies made in ancient Egypt](#) - Metkids

[Click on the coffin, the mummy and the objects](#) to learn more about them.

[How were ancient Egyptians mummified?](#) – Australian Museum



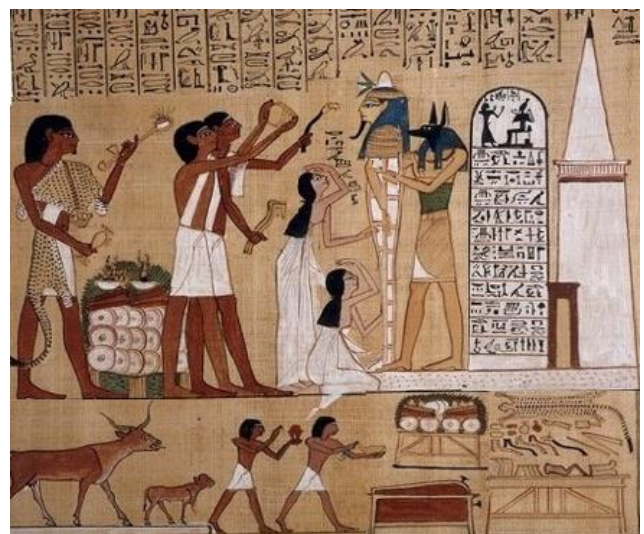
Activity: Egyptian Papyrus

Papyrus was used for everyday writing in ancient Egypt but also for documents that were put into the tomb with the dead. Archaeologists and historians use clues from papyrus to help them interpret the past. To learn more about papyrus, students will respond to the following:

- What is papyrus and how was it used in ancient Egypt?
- What is the Book of the Dead? How was it used as part of funerary customs?
- What are hieroglyphs and where would you see them in ancient Egypt?

Students look at the scene from the Book of the Dead of Hunefer showing a funeral, and then identify the following:

- The mummy
- The tomb
- Hieroglyphics
- The mourners
- The priests
- Ceremonial objects on a table



Scene from the Book of the Dead of Hunefer

Activity: Investigate Ancient Egypt

What were the roles of key people in ancient Egyptian society, such as the nobility, bureaucracy, women, and slaves?

What was the role of sacred animals in ancient Egypt? Which animals were associated with which gods and goddesses? What were the connections between the role of a deity and their associated animal?

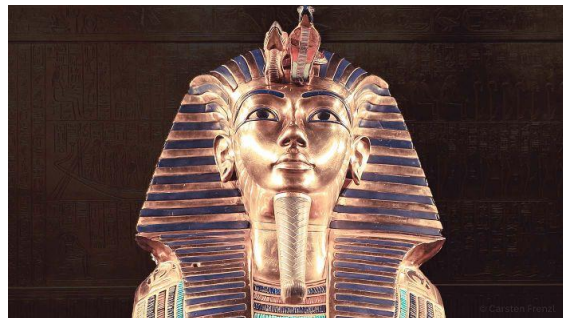
Why were the pyramids built? Consider the significant beliefs, values, and practices of the ancient Egyptians.

Investigate an important person such as Tutankhamen or Nefertiti in ancient Egypt.

BTN Ancient Egypt stories



[Egypt Exploration](#)



[Tutankhamun Exhibition](#)



[Mummies](#)



[Egyptian Cat Mummies](#)

Useful Websites

- [Investigating Ancient Egypt](#) – ABC Education
- [How were ancient Egyptians mummified?](#) – Australian Museum
- [Egypt: Discoveries will 'rewrite history'](#) - Newsround
- [Egypt unveils 3,000-year old coffins in latest discovery at Saqqara necropolis south of Cairo](#) – ABC News
- [Ancient Egyptian Timeline](#) – Australian Museum
- [How were mummies made in ancient Egypt](#) - Metkids