



# EGYPTIAN MUMMIES

EXPLORING ANCIENT LIVES

## WORD BANK

HISTORICAL TERMS AND CONCEPTS

This word bank could be used in multiple ways:

1. Use the word bank as a way of introducing the topic. Choose words that are relevant for your class and create a mix and match activity.
2. Use the word bank to determine the previous knowledge of your learners, e.g. in the form of a graphic organiser. At the end of the unit use the word bank to assess your learners e.g. Kahoot!
3. Turn the word bank into a flipped classroom. Get students to research one of the words as homework and get them to report back to the class.

Adze	A tool like an axe, with an arched blade at right angles to the handle used during the 'Opening of the Mouth' ceremony.
Akh	The part of a person's soul that would live on in the Afterlife. The life of the akh was only possible if the proper funeral rites were performed.
Akhet	One of the three seasons in ancient Egypt between July and November. It was the season when the Nile flooded.
Amulet	A charm worn like jewelry or placed between the bandages on a mummy.
Anubis	The Egyptian god of the dead, mummies and embalming. He is depicted with the head of a dog called a jackal.
Ba	The part of a person's soul that was their personality. The ba was represented as a human-headed bird.
Book of the Dead	A book of spells and hymns that were thought to help the dead through the Afterlife.
Burial Chamber	The room in a tomb or pyramid where a mummy was placed. It was filled with objects that would be needed in the Afterlife.
Canopic Jar	Decorated jars inside which a mummy's internal organs were stored. In the New Kingdom, they took the form of the four sons of Horus: a man, a falcon, a jackal, and a baboon.
Capstone	The pyramid-shaped stone at the top of a pyramid, also called a pyramidion.
Cartouche	An oblong shape that symbolised eternity. Pharaohs believed that their name would live on forever if it was written inside a cartouche.
Delta	The region of land where the Nile River split into several branches before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea.
Egyptologist	Someone who specialises in the study of Ancient Egypt.
Embalm	To preserve a body from decay.
Heb Sed	An ancient Egyptian festival held to celebrate the rule of the pharaoh. It was celebrated after 30 years of a pharaoh's reign and then every three years afterwards.
Hieroglyphics	A form of Egyptian writing, using signs that resemble pictures.
Inundation	The annual flooding of the Nile. Each summer, rains upstream caused the Nile to burst its banks, laying down a fresh layer of rich, fertile earth across the floodplain on both sides.

Ka	The part of a person's soul that needed food and drink to survive. On death, it was thought to leave the body. The ka was represented as a pair of upraised hands.
Lower Egypt	The northern area of Egypt.
Ma'at	The principle of truth, justice and morality that was strictly followed by the ancient Egyptians.
Middle Kingdom	A period in ancient Egypt's history from about 2040 to 1640 BC. During this period, Egypt traded widely and conquered Nubia.
Mummification	The process of preserving a body. It was carried out by people called embalmers. First they removed all the inner organs except for the heart, placing them in canopic jars (except for the brain, which was discarded). Next, they packed the body with salt, sand and spices and rubbed it with oils and resin, before wrapping it in layers of long linen bandages. It took about two months to mummify a body.
Mummy	A body that has been preserved after death and then wrapped in cloth.
Natron	A mineral salt used for thousands of years as a cleaning agent and disinfectant. In mummification it was used to dry and preserve the body, as well as prevent the growth of bacteria. Natron pellets were also used as funerary offerings.
New Kingdom	A period in ancient Egypt's history from about 1560 to 1070 BC. New Kingdom pharaohs were buried in underground tombs instead of in pyramids.
Nile	The river that flows through the centre of Egypt. The river flooded every year, providing fertile soil for farming.
Old Kingdom	A period in ancient Egypt's history from about 2575 to 2134 BC. During this time, the belief in the Afterlife became an important part of Egyptian religion. This was the age of pyramid-building.
Opening of the Mouth	A funeral ceremony believed to give the mummy its senses and movement in the Afterlife. A priest touched the hands, feet, eyes, ears, nose and lips of the mummy with a tool called an adze.
Papyrus	A reed that grows along riverbanks and can be used to make every day utensils, boats and a material for writing on.
Peret	One of the three seasons in ancient Egypt between November and March. Peret was the Egyptian winter, when the Nile's flood waters retreated, leaving behind a layer of fertile soil.
Pharaoh	The king, high priest, and ruler of ancient Egypt. The Egyptians believed that the pharaoh was descended from the Sun god, Re, and that the spirit of the falcon god Horus entered the pharaoh when he was crowned.
Pyramid	A pharaoh or queen's stone tomb with four sloping triangular sides. The pharaoh's body was placed in the pyramid, alongside his treasures. The entrance was then sealed to deter robbers. It took thousands of workers more than 20 years to build one pyramid.
Sarcophagus	The outer stone coffin into which a wooden coffin was laid.
Senet	A board game played by the Ancient Egyptians.
Shabti	A small figure in the shape of a mummy. Shabti were placed in tombs to act as servants in the Afterlife.
Shemu	One of the three seasons in ancient Egypt between May and September. Shemu was the time of year when the River Nile was low and the crops were harvested.
Upper Egypt	The southern area of Egypt.

