

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 3–4

Ancient Egypt

An early civilization along the Nile

Quick facts

Where	North-east Africa, along the river Nile.
When	c.3100 BCE – 30 BCE (over 3,000 years!)
Capital cities	Memphis, then Thebes, then Alexandria.
Ruler	Pharaoh — believed to be a god on Earth.
Famous pharaohs	Tutankhamun, Ramesses II, Cleopatra.
Writing	Hieroglyphs — picture writing on papyrus and tomb walls.
Beliefs	Many gods (Ra, Anubis, Osiris). Belief in the afterlife.
Mummification	Bodies preserved with natron salt over 70 days.
Pyramids	Tombs for pharaohs. Great Pyramid built c.2560 BCE.
Why the Nile	Annual flood gave fertile soil. The whole civilization depended on it.

