

History Knowledge Organiser

Year 5

Spring (ii)

What are the Achievements of the Ancient Egyptians?

Substantive Knowledge - The Ancient Egyptians era is the oldest early civilisation we study. The Ancient Egyptians knew about astronomy; they invented the lighthouse (of Alexandria) which was invented by stratus of Cnidus; they had female leaders (Pharaohs) including Cleopatra and Nefertiti.

Ancient Egyptian Understanding of Astronomy

Like many ancient civilisations, the Egyptians studied the night sky, taking measurements from the stars to accurately align their pyramids and sun temples with the Earth's four main points. They took measurements from The Great Bear and Orion.

The Great Pyramid at Giza consists of approximately 6.5 million limestone blocks and its four sides are accurately aligned to face North, East, South, and West.

The Egyptians believed that the gods lived in the Duat. It is located in the sky where Orion and Sirius rise just ahead of the Sun at dawn on the Summer Solstice. Some Egyptologists think that the Giza Plaza, with its three large pyramids, the Sphinx and the Nile, is a mirror reflection of the Duat. The three pyramids represent the three stars in the belt of Orion.



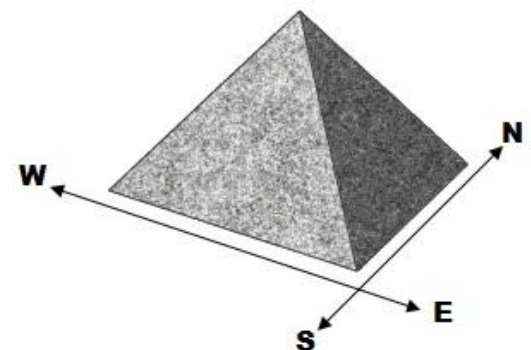
The Great Bear



Orion



The Giza Plaza



The Duat



The Sphinx

Another Invention – The Lighthouse of Alexandria

The Lighthouse of Alexandria, or the Pharos, was a tall tower built between 285 and 247 B.C.E. It was built on the island of Pharos in Alexandria, Egypt to serve as a lighthouse for sailors. The top of the tower had a mirror that reflected sunlight during the day; a fire was lit at night.



In 796 and 951, during two earthquakes, the Lighthouse of Alexandria was partially damaged but was still standing, but following three more earthquakes in 1303 and 1323, the Lighthouse finally collapsed.

It was one of the original Seven Wonders of the World.



Cleopatra

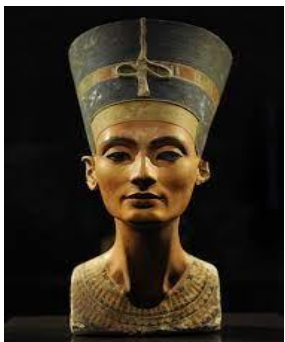
Female Pharaohs– Cleopatra and Nefertiti

Cleopatra was born in 69 B.C.E. in the city of Alexandria in Egypt. Cleopatra and her brother, Ptolemy XIII, became rulers together after their father died in 51 B.C.E. However, her brother had followers who soon drove Cleopatra from power. Cleopatra went to Julius Caesar, a powerful Roman ruler who was then in Egypt. In 47 B.C.E., Caesar defeated Ptolemy XIII's forces, and Ptolemy died. Cleopatra returned to the throne. Her youngest brother, Ptolemy XIV, became co-ruler.

Cleopatra soon followed Caesar to Rome. She stayed there until he was murdered in 44 BCE. Ptolemy XIV died in the same year. Cleopatra probably had him poisoned. After Caesar's death, Mark Antony became one of the three leaders of Rome. Cleopatra knew he could help her to gain more power. She charmed Antony, and he fell in love with her. Antony eventually left his wife Octavia to live with Cleopatra. This angered Octavia's brother Octavian, who later became the emperor Augustus. He soon declared war against Antony and Cleopatra.

Octavian defeated Antony and Cleopatra

in the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C.E. The couple fled to Alexandria. About 10 months later, Octavian captured Alexandria. Antony killed himself. Shortly afterward, in 30 B.C.E. Cleopatra also died. According to legend, she let a poisonous snake bite her. After Cleopatra's death, Egypt became a province of the Roman Empire.



Nefertiti

Nefertiti had at least 6 daughters.

Nefertiti and her husband enacted a religious revolution.

Nefertiti was regarded as a living fertility goddess.

Nefertiti may have co-ruled with her husband

Portable Knowledge - What we need to remember

There are some aspects to life which will always continue (continuity) -the human need for shelter, food, relationships - but how this looks will change dependent on inventions and developments in society.

Ancient Egyptians studied the night sky, taking measurements from the stars to accurately align their pyramids and sun temples with the Earth's four cardinal points.

Cleopatra and Nefertiti are examples of successful female Pharaohs. Female leaders were not unusual in Ancient Egypt

Core Vocabulary

Astronomy– the science of the sky (stars, Sun, Moon)

Pharaoh– a ruler in Ancient Egypt

Prestige - admiration given to someone or something