

During this half term our enquiry is:

Why was the River Nile so important to Ancient Egyptian life?

In this enquiry, the children will build on their understanding of early civilisations. Having already learnt about the achievements of the Stone Age, this provides the children with great opportunities for comparative work and to form judgements on the advancements of other societies and civilisations around the world. Providing an overview of the earliest civilisations before an in-depth study of Ancient Egypt will allow the children to place their learning into context and see how, geographically for the most part, Africa, the Middle East and Asia were the hub of human growth and development. They will investigate what societies in Mesopotamia, the Indus valley and in China all had in common and not treat each separately, which will help the children's understanding of it. Similarities between the societies will be discovered along the way! They will also recognise that different eras overlap through knowing what was happening in Britain at the same time. This enquiry will focus on the **attitudes, beliefs, and ways of life of Ancient Egyptians**, building a clear picture of a past society 5,000 years ago through the study of evidence which has come to light scarcely 200 years ago. **The River Nile** will be at the centre of this enquiry as its importance will be highlighted in **every aspect of Egyptian life including settlement, religious beliefs, food** etc. The children will be able to handle artefacts first hand and will build on their interpretation skills by working out details of people's daily lives by understanding the fragments of evidence that have survived.

Subject	Activities / areas to be covered in school	Possible learning at home
English	<p>The first book we will look at this half term is 'Charlie Small, Gorilla City.' We will follow Charlie on his adventure to see which animals he encounters on his way. While doing this we will explore the language of the book, recognising how similes and idioms are used. We will explore how each animal encounter follows a similar pattern before writing our own animal encounter for a chapter of the book.</p> <p>The second book we will look at this half term will be 'Egyptian Cinderella' by Shirley Climo. This is a similar version to our traditional English version of Cinderella however it is set in Egypt and the main character is called 'Rhodopis'. We will be focusing on reading the text and inferring characters thoughts and feelings as well as writing our own version of a traditional tale.</p>	<p>Read adventure stories at home at bedtime. Explore the meaning of any unknown vocabulary. Encourage your child to create their own book of Charlie Small on an adventure.</p> <p>Read traditional tales with your child such as Cinderella and Little Red Riding Hood. Talk about how you could change the story to be set in a different setting such as Africa or India. Use the words 'before' and 'after' when giving your child instructions. Some children struggle with the concept of 'before' so using it in everyday language will help with this.</p>

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Maths	The children will continue our learning about fractions by using practical equipment and diagrams to investigate and record equivalent fractions. They will compare unit fractions or fractions with the same denominator. Children will also begin to look at equivalent fractions. Later this half term we will look at shapes and right angles.	<p>Encourage your child to measure things at home using a ruler or tape measure. Can they measure how tall they are, how big their foot is, their hand span?</p> <p>Encourage your child to recognise fractions of food items such as pizza and cake. Talk about fractions that are the same. Ask your child to wear a watch, count in 5s around a clock face and use this knowledge to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes. Remember to count backwards from 12 to tell the time to the hour. Eg. 10 to 2. Look at calendars and notice how many days are in each month. Learn a rhyme to remind you of this.</p>
Science	In science, we will explore 'light'. We will recognise that we all need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light. We will explore these concepts through some engaging investigations. We will also notice that light is reflected from surfaces and recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes. We will explore and recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object. We will find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change. Science will be taught very much through an investigative approach, learning by seeing and doing.	<p>Look at the position of the sun and the affect it has on shadows. What happens to the size, shape and position of the shadow as the sun moves?</p> <p>Observe which colours they can see better when the light is low.</p>
Physical Education	This term all of our P.E will take place outside. We will be focusing on the control, the consistency and the coordination of running, jumping and throwing during our athletics session. As well as short distance running we will be identifying strategies of running longer. The children will also be developing the skills involved when playing rounders. They will learn how to play the game and take on board the different roles within the game.	Watch some of the events from the Olympics. Notice how they run, throw and jump. Discuss how these athletes have to train to get where they are.
PSHE	This half term in PSHE, we will be recapping some of our learning from the Autumn term thinking about healthy eating. Children will be expected to link their prior learning on the 'eatwell' plate and to consider whether or not the Ancient Egyptians had a healthy diet. We are also going to be looking very closely at our dental hygiene and be focusing on how important it is for us to look after our teeth.	<p>Create a poster on how to look after your teeth. There are lots of examples online!</p> <p>Encourage your children to think about their sugar intake – how it effects or teeth and our bodies. Can you make a healthier alternative?</p>

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Religious Education	In RE this term, we will be focusing on the religions of Christianity and Islam and will be exploring the question why do people pray? The unit will begin with children thinking about special people in their life and how religious people see God as someone special in their life they like to communicate with. We will spend time looking at how Muslims and Christians pray and why they feel this is important to them.	Children may be interested to know beliefs and opinions of family and friends and whether they like to pray or not.
DT	In DT we will build pyramid shaped dens for outdoor play in groups, using the Egyptians as inspiration and their knowledge of strengthening structures and diagonal struts. In lessons, we will discuss how lever and pulley tools were used to carry materials when Egyptians built pyramids.	Build dens and mini structures using straws, wood or poles.
Music	The children will be taught music by a member of Durham Music Service where they will begin to learn to play the ukulele.	Listen to different types of music and see what instruments you can hear.
Geography	This enquiry will begin by using the atlases to locate where Egypt is on the world map, digital resources such as Google Earth will be used to explore human and physical features. We will compare just how green the land around the Nile is compared to the desert areas and why this might be. We will then explore the physical features of the Nile and how it is from which the ancient Egyptian civilization built around. We will locate key Egyptian human features and plot them onto our maps of Egypt. Identifying where they are in relation to the river, which will help us to get a picture of just how important the River Nile was to settlement. Further into our enquiry we will explore what other Ancient civilisations have in common and how the river was also an important aspect that ensured other civilisations were able to grow.	Use Google Earth to find other Egyptian features that are close to the river. Find out where the famous pyramids are located. Create your own 3d map of Egypt, indoors or outdoors using any materials that you can. Don't forget to include the River Nile!
History	In class, we will be finding out about the way of life in Ancient Egypt and we will be identifying key features of this civilisation. We will be looking at why the pyramids were built and asking ourselves who built them? We will then be learning about other ancient civilisations – Indus Valley, Shang Dynasty and Ancient Sumer. The children will be making connections between these civilisations and that of the Stone Age in Great Britain. We will be looking at what their greatest achievements were and what they had in common.	Encourage your child to think of a thoughtful question that they would like to ask about this time period. Find out about famous Egyptian pharaohs that ruled during Ancient Egyptian times. Find out more about the Egyptian gods and decide which one is your favourite. Find out what Howard Carter discovered when he travelled to Egypt! What did his findings tell us?