YEAR 7 HASS

Ancient Egypt

Investigate the Nile, pharaohs, beliefs and daily life

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Score:** _____ / 7

Gift of the Nile

The Greek historian Herodotus called Egypt 'the gift of the Nile'. Each year the river flooded, spreading rich black silt across the fields. Farmers grew wheat, barley and flax in this fertile soil. Without the Nile, Egypt would have been almost entirely desert.

Egyptian society was shaped like a pyramid. At the top was the pharaoh, believed to be a living god. Below were priests and nobles, then scribes, then craftspeople and merchants, and at the bottom farmers and enslaved people.

Egyptians believed in life after death. They mummified bodies so the soul could recognise its body in the afterlife. Pharaohs were buried with treasures, food and furniture. The Great Pyramid of Giza was built for the pharaoh Khufu around 2560 BCE.

Egyptians wrote using hieroglyphs, a script of pictures and symbols. For centuries no one could read them, until the Rosetta Stone, carved with the same text in three scripts, helped scholars decode them in the 1820s.

Choose the best answer.

1. Why was the Nile's yearly flood important?
   (a) it left fertile silt for farming (b) it destroyed enemies (c) it cooled the desert
2. Who was at the top of Egyptian society?
   (a) scribes (b) farmers (c) the pharaoh
3. Why did Egyptians mummify bodies?
   (a) so the soul could recognise its body in the afterlife (b) to scare robbers
   (c) to make medicine
4. The Rosetta Stone was important because it...
   (a) marked the Nile (b) helped scholars decode hieroglyphs (c) was the pharaoh's crown
5. Scribes were valued because they could...
   (a) read and write (b) fight (c) farm

Number Egyptian society from top (1) to bottom (5).

- [ ] Scribes
- [ ] Farmers and enslaved people
- [ ] Pharaoh
- [ ] Craftspeople and merchants
- [ ] Priests and nobles

Write your answer.

7. Is the pyramid a primary or secondary source? What can it tell historians?

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Choose the best answer.

1. a) it left fertile silt for farming
2. c) the pharaoh
3. a) so the soul could recognise its body in the afterlife
4. b) helped scholars decode hieroglyphs
5. a) read and write

Number Egyptian society from top (1) to bottom (5).

6. Top to bottom: 3, 5, 1, 4, 2

Write your answer.

7. Primary source. It shows Egyptian engineering skill, beliefs about the afterlife and the power of pharaohs.

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