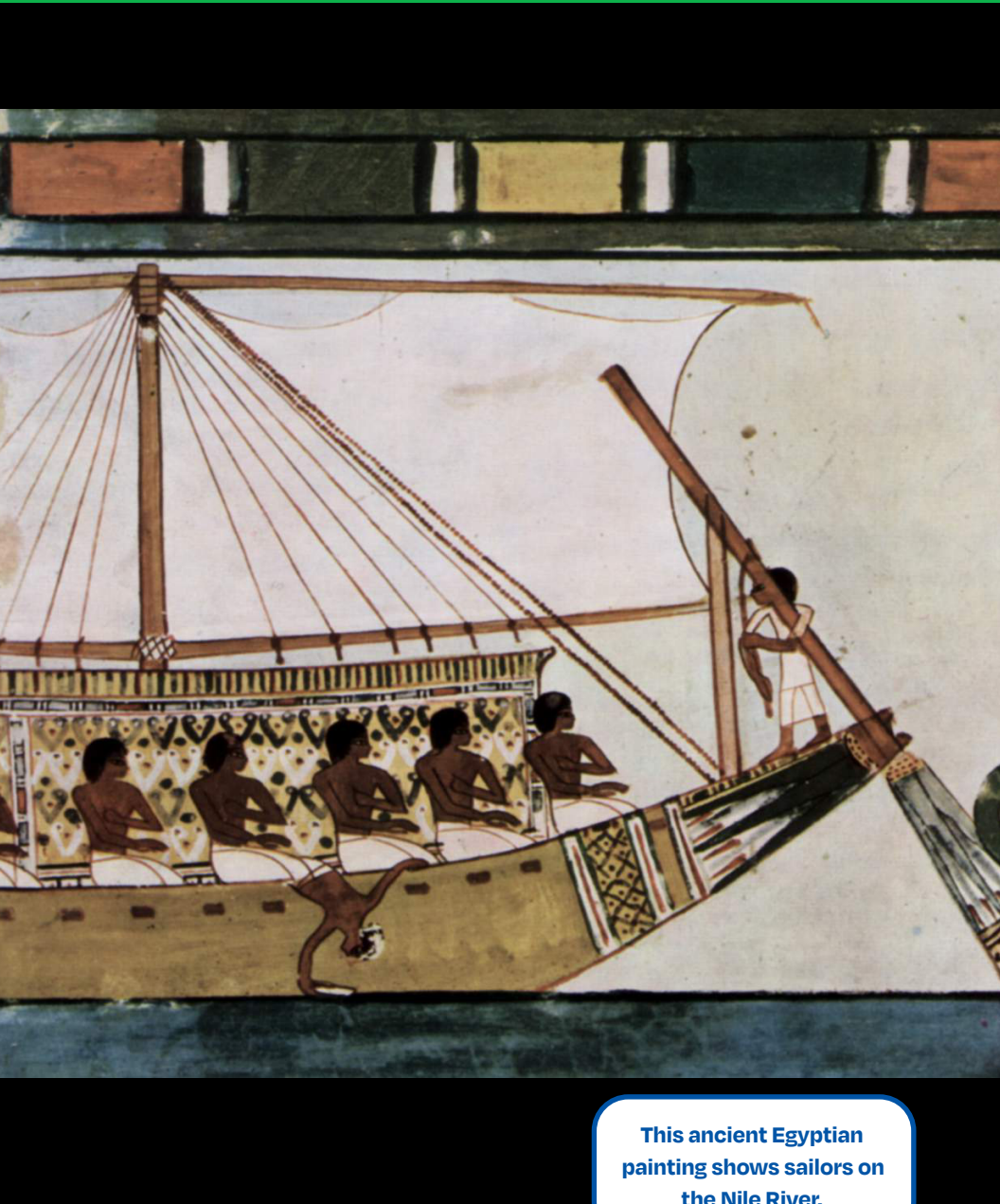


Ancient Egypt





This ancient Egyptian painting shows sailors on the Nile River.

Egypt in Ancient Times

The Nile River runs through the country of Egypt. Until about 200 years ago, the Nile River flooded every year. This same flooding occurred for thousands of years. The floods left rich soil on the land for six miles on each side of the river. The soil was good for growing crops.

The river also helped Egypt's people travel from one place to another. People could easily buy and sell things by moving them on the river. The good crops and easy travel helped make Egypt a rich country.

Today, there still is a country of Egypt. When we talk about these things that occurred in Egypt thousands of years ago, though, we call it Ancient Egypt.

Key Notes:

How did flooding of the Nile affect ancient Egyptians?



**These symbols are
hieroglyphics for the King
of Upper and Lower Egypt.**

Writing in Ancient Egypt

All of the words in English use the same 26 letters. These letters make up the English alphabet. The letters in the alphabet help us sound words out.

Before people used an alphabet, they wrote with pictures and signs. The system of pictures ancient Egyptians used is called hieroglyphics. Every word had its own picture or sign. Learning hieroglyphics was difficult. Those who could write had honored jobs as scribes, but becoming a scribe meant going to school for twelve years.

People in Egypt today no longer use hieroglyphics. Instead, they use an alphabet, as we do in English. Alphabets made writing and reading easier because they allow people to make many words from a few letters.

Key Notes:

Why was it difficult to learn to write with hieroglyphics?



**This museum shows how
a room might have looked
where mummies were made.**

Mummies

After ancient Egyptian kings and queens died, their bodies were made into mummies. When many people think of ancient Egypt, they think of these mummies.

The process of making a mummy began right after death. First, priests took out most of the body's internal organs. The brain, liver, and lungs were placed in stone jars. However, one internal organ, the heart, was usually left inside the body. Priests then placed special plants on the body and wrapped it with strips of cloth.

In modern times, people discovered several mummies and removed the strips of cloth. Because of the process the ancient Egyptians used and the dry climate of Egypt, the mummies looked much like the bodies had looked right after the people died.

Key Notes:

What new things about mummies did you find out?



The four sloping sides of a pyramid had to be built carefully so they could form a point.

The Pyramids

The mummies of some kings and queens were kept in special buildings called pyramids. A pyramid has four slanting sides that meet in a point at the top. The biggest pyramid, called the Great Pyramid, was built by a king to be his home after death.

There are more than 2 million stone blocks in the Great Pyramid. To get an idea of the size of the Great Pyramid, picture a refrigerator. Each of the 2 million blocks in the Great Pyramid is as heavy as 25 refrigerators.

The workers had to put these heavy stone blocks in just the right place. If the workers made a mistake and misplaced a stone block, the four slanting sides wouldn't meet at the top.

Key Notes:

What is a pyramid?

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