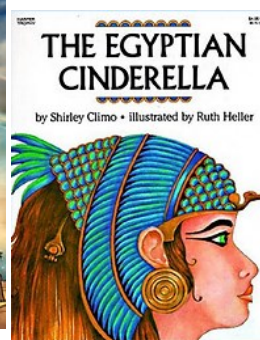
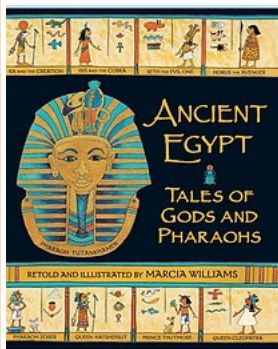


### Theme Overview

“Pharaoh Queen” is a competency-based thematic unit with a history focus, telling the inspirational story of Hatshepsut. She is famous for being only the third woman to become pharaoh in 3000 years of Ancient Egyptian history and the first to attain the full power of the position. We will learn, through her life story, all about her achievements and ongoing legacy.

### Recommended Reading...



Access books online for free through Hampshire School Library Service. Ask your child's teacher for their barcode/login information.

### What we should know...

#### Where in the world?

Egypt is in the north eastern corner of Africa. A small part of the land belonging to Egypt is located in Asia and the other, much larger part, is in Africa.



### Ancient Architecture

The Ancient Egyptians were famous for their monuments and buildings, for example, the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. Hatshepsut's building projects were among the most ambitious. Her vast mortuary temple, Djoser-Djeseru, (roughly the length of two and a half football pitches) was of the most impressive architectural achievements in the ancient world. It is an elegant, terraced sandstone complex in Thebes.



### Ancient Egyptian Rulers

The Ancient Egyptian era ran from around 3100 BC / BCE until 30 BC / BCE. Hatshepsut took over as ruler in 1478 BC / BCE and she became a powerful and intelligent leader. She ruled for about twenty-two years, even though she was only supposed to be standing in while her stepson was very young. There were people in the government who were very loyal to her and after a few years of being Regent, she decided to become Pharaoh instead of Thutmose III, and took charge of the country. Pharaohs were always male. Hatshepsut wanted people to think that she was a man, so she ordered that she be portrayed as a male pharaoh in statues and pictures, with a beard and large muscles. Strangely, almost all of the evidence of Hatshepsut's rule, including the images of her as king on the temples and monuments she had built, were destroyed... Maybe this was to hide the fact that Egypt had a successful female ruler?

Scholars of ancient Egypt knew little of Hatshepsut's existence until 1822, when they were able to decode and read the hieroglyphics on the walls of Deir el-Bahri.





## The River Nile

The Ancient Egyptian year was split into three seasons, which were named after the land conditions produced by the River Nile: the “inundation”, when the land flooded; the season when the land emerged from the flood; and the time when water was short. The Aswan Dam was constructed between 1960 and 1970. Its aim was to improve agricultural production, by increasing the amount of hydroelectric power produced and regulating the flooding of the River Nile. This ended the flooding and drought cycle – an example of human influence over physical processes. The Aswan High Dam captures floodwater during rainy seasons and releases the water during times of drought.



## Key Vocabulary you should discuss with your child

**Afterlife:** the place where the Ancient Egyptians believed they would go after they died

**Archaeology:** the study of things that people made, used, and left behind the

**Hieroglyphics:** ancient Egyptian system of writing, using symbols

**Mummification:** the process of preparing the body for the afterlife

**Pharaoh:** the supreme leader in Egypt, worshipped as a god

**Nile:** the longest river in the world; worshipped by the ancient Egyptians

**Regent:** a person who temporarily governs a kingdom in place of a monarch

**Sarcophagus:** a stone coffin, often decorated

**Sphinx:** a mythological beast with the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh or god. The Egyptians built sphinx statues to guard tombs.

**Temple:** a building that people use for worshipping gods

## Concept Flow

To know the location of Egypt

To know about significant Ancient Egyptian places and individuals

To know about Ancient Egyptian beliefs and practices

To understand how evidence is used to make historical claims

To understand the importance of the River Nile in Ancient Egyptian times

Please talk to your children about the information on this sheet. The more children discuss their learning the more likely they are to embed the learning to their memory. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.