

"Hi! I'm Max!

This month, my travels through time take me to ancient Egypt! This land in the Sahara desert may be hot, hot, HOT, but thanks to the cooling waters of the river Nile and natural riches like gold from neighbouring Nubia, its people were amazingly advanced in building, learning, art and medicine. Get your sandals on and come see for yourselves...

Sands of time



Among the scorching sands of the biggest hot desert on the planet, one of history's most incredible civilisations sprang up about 5,000 years ago.

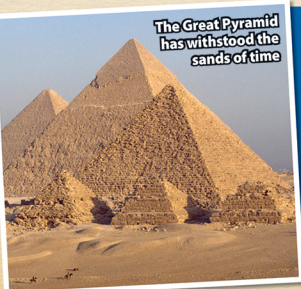
Villages had already existed for hundreds of years on the banks of north Africa's river Nile, which flooded every year, and provided lush, fertile land for growing crops. But, in around 3,000 BC, all the regions of ancient Egypt came together under one powerful ruler, and an era of health, wealth, learning and art began, which lasted more than 3,000 years.



Did you know...?

The Nile is the world's longest river, stretching over 6,600km!

The Great Pyramid has withstood the sands of time



MIGHTY MONUMENTS

Even today, many of ancient Egypt's buildings remain among the most amazing man-made sights on Earth. Most famous of all is the Great Pyramid at Giza, one of nine pyramids close to Egypt's modern capital city, Cairo.

Built of 2.3 million stone slabs and standing 146m high, this structure is the only survivor among the seven wonders of the ancient world. The pyramid's very sand-worn now, but originally, it was covered in polished limestone, which must have been a dazzling sight in the desert Sun!

Doctor, doctor!



The ancient Egyptians were very smart when it came to medicine – the earliest known surgery was performed here in around 2,750 BC!

They also invented mummification, a way of preserving the bodies of important people, like pharaohs, after they had died. Their organs would be removed, and the brain dragged out through the nostrils with a hooked tool – eww! The body would then be dried with a kind of salt, coated in plant resin, and wrapped in strips of linen before being buried.

Did you know...?

Archaeologists discovered many more mummies of cats than people!

It's thanks to mummification that many ancient Egyptian bodies still survive more or less intact today!



The clever Egyptians used pictures to tell stories

Write on



'Medu neter' or 'words of the gods' was the name ancient Egyptians gave to what is thought to be one of the world's oldest forms of writing. Hieroglyphs were a kind of complicated alphabet made with over 700 drawn symbols.

The tradition had died out by the 4th Century AD, and couldn't be translated again until 1822, when the 'code' was cracked by Frenchman Jean-Francois Champollion.

Below are some hieroglyphic symbols and the letters they stand for – see if you can use them to solve the Picture Perfect puzzle on the next page!

