

English: We will be closely linking all of our English work for the half to our Curriculum topic on the Ancient Egyptians. We will begin by exploring the process of mummification and how the Ancient Egyptians treated their dead. We will write instructions and explanation texts about this topic. We will then explore Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. We revisit the features of diary writing before writing from the point of view of Mr Carter, documenting his discoveries. We will finish off the half term by using the book Egyptology to inspire some exciting story writing.

Science: We will be exploring the topic 'Animals, including humans'. We will begin our topic by learning about food, nutrition, balanced diets and how we digest food and extract nutrients from what we eat. We will then move on to learning about the muscular-skeletal systems of animals and humans, making comparisons between them. Links will be made with the mummification process employed by the ancient Egyptians and we will examine why the Egyptians preserved certain organs and put them in canopic jars.

Art and DT: We will take inspiration from our Curriculum learning and the book Egyptology to inspire a variety of Art and Design activities this half term. We will learn about Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and try writing our own names, messages and codes. We will also take inspiration from our learning on mummification, designing and making our own Canopic jars from clay. Once dry, we will paint them using acrylic paints in some of the colours common in Ancient Egyptian artwork.

Who were the Ancient Egyptians?

Geography: We will explore where the Ancient Egyptian civilisation was located on a global and national scale. Using atlases and a variety of maps, we will learn to use grid references and compass points to locate specific points on a map. We will also learn to write geographical descriptions using key vocabulary such as equator, hemispheres, climate zones and continents.

Physical Education: We will continue to take part in a series of skills-based lessons focussed loosely around the sports of Netball and Korfball. We will revisit chest, bounce and overarm passes as well as the correct catching technique. We will practise shooting and marking our opponents. We will employ all of these skills in a variety of game-based activities and scenarios.

Texts:

- Egyptology: Search for the tomb of Osiris.



RE: Our learning over the next 7 weeks will stem from the question 'What difference does being a Muslim make to daily life?' Building on our work from last half term, we will learn more about Islam, how/where Muslims worship and some of the teaching contained within the Qur'an. We will learn about the 5 pillars of Islam and how these underpin the Islamic faith.

French: We will take part in a variety of games, discussions, role play activities and songs to learn key vocabulary and to begin to develop some basic conversational language skills. We will learn about numbers, colours, foods and sports.

Schools of Sanctuary: Emphasis will be placed on Ancient Egypt being an African civilisation that predates (and was hugely influential in) the development of Ancient Greece.

PATHS: This half term we will be learning about Relationships, Health and Sex Education. Our focus will be on the formation of healthy relationships and understanding that families can be different from one another in a multitude of ways – and this difference is something to be accepted and celebrated.

HISTORY: Over the next 7 weeks, we will be learning about the history of the Ancient Egyptians. We will begin by developing an understanding of when the Ancient Egyptian civilisation existed relative to other significant global historical events. We will use timelines to record this information in a clear and easy to understand format. We will also learn about key events and rulers within the Ancient Egyptian civilisation.

Maths: We will begin our half term by learning about fractions and decimals. We will explore 'linked fractions' such as halves and quarters, tenths and fifths and thirds and sixths before examining how fractions relate to decimal numbers. We will revisit formal calculation methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division so as to enable us to explore more complex reasoning and problem-solving based activities. We will use this half term as a further opportunity to assess and address any misconceptions and gaps in our knowledge linked to the lockdown and home learning period.

Optional Activities:

Although we don't set any formal homework at Avenue Junior School we do ask that your children read for a minimum of 10 minutes each day. Reading is a skill that underpins so many aspects of your children's learning and regular practise of this skill is vital to enabling your children to be successful learners. Reading can take a variety of different forms: your children reading to you, you reading to your children, a mixture of both, independent reading, reading online using the Rising Stars online library and comprehension questions.

Times tables are also another great thing to work on at home! By the end of Year 4, children are expected to quickly recall their times tables facts up to 12x12. This is certainly something that takes a considerable amount of practise. The 2x, 5x and 10x tables are a good initial focus, before moving onto the others. There are many ways to practise and learn timetables – little and often is the key however!

Our topic this half term is on the Ancient Egyptians. We have always found that this is a topic that inspires the children and really captures their imaginations. We always love when children go home and take the lead on some independent work or research that's been kick-started by something they've been doing at school.

Perhaps your children could conduct some research on a famous Egyptian pharaoh and their accomplishments and present this as part of a poster or PowerPoint. They could create some clay jewellery or pottery inspired by some of the amazing archaeological finds to come out of the temples, tombs and sands of Egypt...

There are some really fun activities where you can mummify your own 'fleshy' fruits or vegetables – oranges and tomatoes work well. There are lots of different websites with instructions on how to do this!