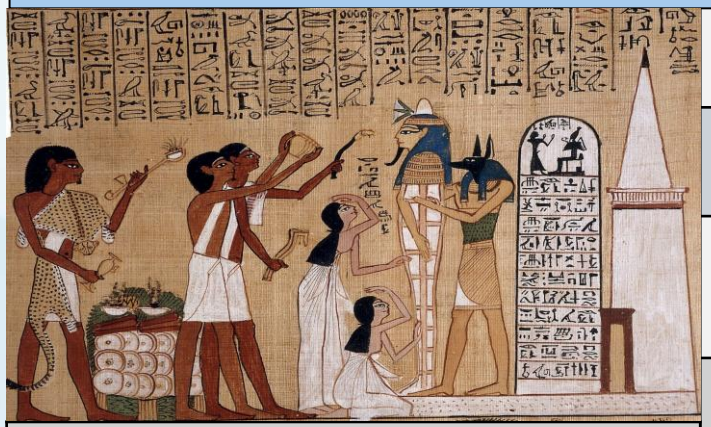
# What made Ancient Egypt a successful civilisation?

## Key knowledge



We learn about Ancient Egypt through artefacts and discoveries made by archaeologists.

Ancient Egypt began around 3000 BCE and lasted for over 3,000 years.

Egypt was ruled by pharaohs, who were believed to be gods on Earth.

Society was organised into a hierarchy, with different roles and jobs.

Ancient Egyptians believed in the afterlife and prepared carefully for it.

They wrote using hieroglyphics, a system of symbols and pictures.

## Historical Skills:

Develop an understanding of chronology by placing events, periods and key figures on a timeline using BCE/CE to show when they happened.

Ask and answer questions about the past, such as why events happened, what people believed and how their lives were different from ours.

Use a range of historical sources and artefacts to find out about Ancient Egypt, thinking carefully about what they show and what they might not tell us.

Identify similarities and differences within society, comparing how different groups of people lived and understanding the role of hierarchy.

Explain reasons for people's actions and beliefs, such as why Egyptians built tombs or believed in the afterlife.

## Key vocabulary

**Chronology** – The order in which events happen over time, helping us understand what came first and what happened next in history.

**BCE (Before Common Era) –** A way of measuring time used in history to describe the years before year 1, showing how long ago events happened.

**Civilisation –** A group of people living together in an organised way, with systems, jobs, laws, beliefs and culture that help their society function.

**Pharaoh –** The powerful ruler of Ancient Egypt who controlled the land, made important decisions and was believed by the people to be a god on Earth.

**Hierarchy –** A system used to organise people in society according to their importance, with the most powerful at the top and workers at the bottom.

**Scribe –** A highly skilled person in Ancient Egypt who could read and write, often recording important information, laws and events.

**Afterlife –** The life that Ancient Egyptians believed people would have after death, which they thought was just as important as life on Earth.

**Tomb –** A special place where a person is buried, often filled with objects and treasures needed for the afterlife.

**Sarcophagus –** A large, decorated stone coffin used to hold the body of an important person, such as a pharaoh.