Egypt: Facts for Kids

Learn some interesting information about China. Read about the Great Wall of China, its major cities, population, languages, rivers, animals, economy and much more.

- Egypt is officially known as the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- In 2012, the population of Egypt was just over 83 million.
- Egypt is bordered by the Gaza Strip, Israel, Libya and Sudan as well as the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
- The Sinai Peninsula in Egypt spans across two continents, Africa and Asia.
- Mount Catherine is the highest mountain in Egypt, standing 8625 feet.
- The official language of Egypt is Arabic, but others languages such as English and French are also understood by many.
- The capital city is Cairo, which also has the largest population. Other major cities include Alexandria and Giza.
- Egypt is a very dry country. The Sahara and Libyan Desert make up most of the area of Egypt.
- Egypt experiences natural hazards such as droughts, earthquakes, flash floods, landslides, windstorms (called khamzin), dust storms and sandstorms.
- The longest river in the world, the Nile, runs through Egypt.
- Egypt is famous for its ancient civilization, the Ancient Egyptians, who date back to around 3150 B.C.
- Egypt is home the Great Pyramid of Giza, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
- The most popular sport in Egypt is football (soccer).

Ancient Egypt was one of the greatest and most powerful civilizations in the history of the world. It lasted for over 3000 years from 3150 BC to 30 BC.

The Nile River

- The civilization of Ancient Egypt was located along the Nile River in northeast Africa. The Nile was the source of much of the Ancient Egypt's wealth. Great Egyptian cities grew up along the Nile as the Egyptian people became experts in irrigation and were able to use the water from the Nile to grow rich and profitable crops. The Nile provided food, soil, water, and transportation for the Egyptians. Great floods would come each year and would provide fertile soil for growing food.

Culture

- Ancient Egypt was rich in culture including government, religion, arts, and writing. The government and religion were tied together as the leader of the government, the Pharaoh, was also leader of the religion. Writing was also important in keeping the government running. Only scribes could read and write and they were considered powerful people.
Pyramids and Treasure

- The Pharaohs of Egypt were often buried in giant pyramids or in secret tombs. They believed that they needed treasure to be buried with them to help them in the afterlife. As a result, archeologists have a lot of well-preserved artifacts and tombs to examine in order to find out how the Ancient Egyptians lived.

End of the Empire

- The Ancient Egyptian Empire began to weaken in about 700 BC. It was conquered by a number of other civilizations. The first to conquer Egypt was the Assyrian Empire, followed a hundred or so years later by the Persian Empire. In 332 BC, Alexander the Great of Greece conquered Egypt and set up his own ruling family called the Ptolemaic Dynasty. Finally, the Romans came in 30 BC and Egypt became a province of Rome.

Fun Facts about Ancient Egypt

- Egyptian men and women wore makeup. It was thought to have healing powers, plus it helped protect their skin from the sun.
- They used moldy bread to help with infections.
- They were one of the first civilizations to invent writing. They also used ink to write and paper called papyrus.
- The Ancient Egyptians were scientists and mathematicians. They had numerous inventions including ways to build buildings, medicine, cosmetics, the calendar, the plow for farming, musical instruments, and even toothpaste.
- Ancient Egypt plays a major role in the Bible. The Israelites were held captive there as slaves for many years. Moses helped them escape and led them to the Promised Land.
- The Pharaoh kept his hair covered. It was not to be seen by regular people.
- Cats were considered sacred in Ancient Egypt.