

ADVERTISEMENT



# 10 FACTS ABOUT ANCIENT EGYPT!

Discover the secrets of this  
ancient civilisation...

Join us, ancient explorers, as we  
head 5,000 years back in time to  
discover fascinating facts about  
Ancient Egypt, from its ancient  
beginnings to Egypt today...

Discover facts about **Ancient  
Egypt** or facts about **modern-  
day Egypt**.

[Privacy & Cookies Policy](#)

## FACTS ABOUT ANCIENT Egypt

**1)** Most Ancient Egyptian **pyramids** were built as tombs for **pharaohs** (rulers of Ancient Egypt) and their families. To date, over 130 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt.

**2)** The afterlife was incredibly important to the Egyptians. They believed that by preserving a dead person's body - which they did through the process of **mummification** - their soul would live on in the after-life forever.

**3)** The **Pyramid of Khufu** at **Giza** is the largest Egyptian pyramid. This incredible structure weighs as much as 16 Empire State buildings!

**4)** Both Egyptian men and women wore make-up. The eye-paint was usually green (made from **copper**) or black (made from **lead**). As well as offering protection from the sun, the Egyptians believed make-up had magical healing powers, too!

**5)** Unwrapped, the bandages of an Ancient Egyptian mummy could stretch for **1.6km**. Yikes!

**6)** The Egyptian alphabet contained more than **700 hieroglyphs**! Uncover the meaning behind these ancient symbols by checking out our awesome **hieroglyphics** feature.

more than **2,000** deities! They had gods for everything, from dangers to chores! Each had different responsibilities and needed to be worshipped so that life could be kept in balance.

**8) Cats** were considered to be a sacred animal by the Ancient Egyptians. It's thought that most families kept a cat as a pet, which they believed would bring the household good luck!

**9)** Love playing boardgames with your pals? Well, gang, so did the Ancient Egyptians! One popular game was **Senet**, which was played for over **2,000** years! The game involved throwing sticks (in the same way we throw dice) to see how many squares to move your piece forward on the board.

**10)** The Ancient Egyptians **invented** lots of things we still use today, such as paper, pens, locks and keys and - believe it or not - toothpaste!

Did you know that we  
have a **FREE**  
downloadable **Ancient**  
**Egypt primary resource?**  
Great for teachers,  
homeschoolers and  
parents alike!

**Country fact file: Egypt  
today**

[Privacy & Cookies Policy](#)

scorching deserts and bustling cities – this ancient country is now a sprawling, modern landscape! Read on to learn about the Egypt of today...

## Egyptian flag



Facts about Ancient Egypt

**OFFICIAL NAME:** Arab Republic of Egypt

**FORM OF GOVERNMENT:**  
Republic

**CAPITAL:** Cairo

**POPULATION:** 87, 562, 261

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** Arabic

**MONEY:** Egyptian pound, guinay

**AREA:** 1,001,449 square kilometres

**MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES:**

Eastern Highlands

**MAJOR RIVER:** Nile

**FLAG:**

## Map of Egypt



## Egypt: geography and landscape

Without the **Nile River**, all of Egypt would be desert. Only about an 2.5cm of rain falls throughout Egypt each year. But each summer, the Nile river rises because of

[Privacy & Cookies Policy](#)



at its source, far to the south in Ethiopia. When this happens, floods cover the river's valleys, leaving sediments needed for trees, plants and crops to grow.

Egypt is often divided into two sections - **Upper Egypt** in the south and **Lower Egypt** in the north. The sections are named this way because the Nile flows from south to north. The river empties into the Mediterranean Sea, on the country's north coast.

Southern Egypt's landscape contains low mountains and desert. Northern Egypt has wide valleys near the Nile, and desert to the east and west. North of **Cairo** (Egypt's capital city) is the sprawling, triangular **Nile River Delta**. This fertile land is completely covered with farms.

## Egypt's incredible nature

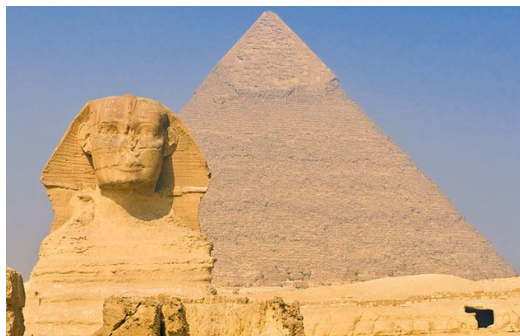
Egypt is home to a wide variety of animals and plants, including cheetahs, hyenas, crocodiles and cobras. The best places to see Egypt's wildlife are in its 21 protected regions, which include



oases, deserts, mountains, coastal areas, river islands and wetlands.

Egyptians have always been close to the natural world. The ancient Egyptians left paintings and carvings (which can still be seen today!) of large animals like elephants, hippos, leopards and cheetahs. These animals were once common in Egypt, but they are now rare or extinct because of hunting and habitat loss.

## The history of Egypt



The first people to live on the banks of the Nile were hunters and fishermen, who settled there over 8,000 years ago. They learned to grow crops and raise animals, and they began to build villages and towns. They traded with their neighbours and learned to sail boats. By 3000 B.C., a civilisation was established.

Upper and Lower Egypt were unified under a powerful king, later called a pharaoh. These kings built huge pyramids, temples and other impressive monuments. They also conquered other lands.

By 1000 B.C., Egypt had split into smaller parts and the kingdom was in decline. Strong neighbours attacked and took over Egyptian territory - in 31 B.C., Egypt fell under Roman control and centuries later, in A.D. 640, Muslim warriors took over Egypt. These Arab forces ruled Egypt for several centuries and founded the modern capital, Cairo.

In 1882, the British invaded and occupied Egypt. The British wanted control of the **Suez Canal**, which linked the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea and greatly shortened the sailing trip from Asia to Europe. The British stayed until Egypt declared independence in 1952.

## Egyptian people and culture



About 90 percent of Egyptians are Muslim, which means they are followers of the **Islam** reli

[Privacy & Cookies Policy](#)

are **Copts**, one of the oldest branches of the Christian religion.

Egypt's population is growing rapidly. This puts strain on Egypt's resources, since most people live in a narrow strip of land along the Nile River. Having so many people in such a small area causes overcrowding everywhere, from schools and hospitals to apartment buildings and public transport.

Children are highly valued in Egypt, especially in rural areas where they help on family farms. Children are also expected to look after their parents in their old age.

## Egyptian government and economy



Egypt's geography, population, history and military strength have made it highly influential in the region. Egypt is a democratic republic, although some critics claim that it is not truly democratic. Until 2005, there was never more than one presidential candidate to vote for.

Egypt's most valuable resources are oil and gas, which are exported

[Privacy & Cookies Policy](#)



include metals, textiles, livestock and chemical products. Tourism is also an important part of Egypt's economy, with visitors flocking to see the famous ancient monuments and to enjoy the country's beautiful beaches.

**Want more fascinating facts about Ancient Egypt? Then make sure you check out our other [Ancient Egyptian features!](#)**

Image credits: Egypt map: National Geographic Maps. Mosque in Egypt:

Raheb, Dreamstime. Man pouring juice, Cairo, Egypt: Jackmalipan,

Dreamstime. Outdoor cafe in Cairo, Egypt: Jackmalipan, Dreamstime.

Sphinx and pyramid at Giza, Egypt: Javarman, Dreamstime. All other

photographs and illustrations: Getty Images UK

**Did you enjoy our facts about Ancient Egypt article? Discover more amazing facts about our planet in [National Geographic Kids magazine!](#)**

2,467 Likes

LEAVE A  
COMMENT



Customize  
your avatar >

Your name

Your comment

OK  
COMMENTS



Wow!



Wow!



Can't wait!



LOL!



Wow!

ADVERTISEMENT



Privacy & Cookies Policy



## DID CLEOPATRA REALLY DIE FROM A SNAKE BITE?

Probably not, according to  
scientists...



## GODS AND GODDESSES OF ANCIENT EGYPT!

Meet five supernatural beings  
from Ancient Egypt!



## SEARCH FOR TUTANKHAMUN'S

[Privacy & Cookies Policy](#)

## HIDDEN CHAMBERS CONTINUES...

Will scientific evidence unearth  
an ancient secret?



## FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT HIEROGLYPHICS!

We uncover this ancient  
alphabet...

[CONTACT US](#)[PRIVACY POLICY](#)[COOKIES POLICY](#)[MEDIA KIT](#)[CREDITS](#)[TERMS OF USE](#)[SUBSCRIBE](#)[MY ACCOUNT](#)[SUBSCRIPTION TS & CS](#)