

## Unit 3 Home Learning Week 8

### Wednesday - Reading

You might be able to use some of this text to 'magpie' for your writing..

**Bronze**

# The Pyramids of Ancient Egypt

### **Why were the pyramids built?**

The pyramids were built for the pharaohs of Egypt as their tombs. When they died, their mummified bodies were placed in a room in the pyramid to keep the body safe.



### **Where are the pyramids?**

The pyramids were built on the west bank of the River Nile in Egypt. Some of the most famous pyramids are found at Giza.

### **How were the pyramids built?**

The pyramids were built using large blocks of sandstone. These heavy stones were transported by boat. No one is sure how the pyramids were built but most people believe that a ramp was used to put the sandstone into position.

Why did the pharaohs need a safe place for their bodies to rest when they died?

Why were the pyramids built on the west bank of the River Nile?

For what other reason were the pyramids built near the Nile?



What material are the pyramids made from?

# The Pyramids of Ancient Egypt

## **Why were the pyramids built?**

The pyramids were built for the pharaohs of Egypt as their tombs. When they died, their mummified bodies were placed in a room in the pyramid to keep the body safe.

## **Where are the pyramids?**

The pyramids were built on the west bank of the River Nile in Egypt. Some of the most famous pyramids are found at Giza.



## **How were the pyramids built?**

The pyramids were built using large blocks of sandstone. These heavy stones were transported by boat. No one is sure how the pyramids were built but most people believe that a ramp was used to put the sandstone into position.



## **What are the Great Pyramids?**

The Great Pyramids are three pyramids in Giza which are guarded by the sphinx. The biggest of these pyramids is the only one of the 7 Great Wonders of the World left. It took 20 years to build and is 146 m tall. It was built for pharaoh Khufu.

## **What are pyramids like inside?**

Pyramids usually have corridors leading to several different rooms. Doors were often hidden so tomb robbers wouldn't be able to find the pharaoh's mummy or treasure. Pyramids are usually decorated inside with tomb paintings which tell us details about what life in ancient Egypt was like.



Why did the pharaohs need a safe place for their bodies to rest when they died?

Why were the pyramids built on the west bank of the River Nile?

For what other reason were the pyramids built near the Nile?



What material are the pyramids made from?

Write down three facts about the Great Pyramids:



Why do you think so many people visit the Great Pyramids?

What was placed inside the pyramids once the pharaoh had died?

Why were doors blocked off and secret corridors built into the pyramids?

Why are the tomb paintings important for historians?



# The Pyramids of Ancient Egypt

## *Why were the pyramids built?*

The pyramids were built by the pharaohs of ancient Egypt as their tombs. When they died, their bodies were mummified and placed in a special room in the pyramid so that the body of the pharaoh was protected during death. This was important because the ancient Egyptians believed that a pharaoh became a god when he died.



## *Where were the pyramids built?*

Most pyramids were built on the west bank of the River Nile. This was because the sun sets in the west, representing death. Temples were built on the east bank where the sun rises to represent life.



## *How were the pyramids built?*

Pyramids were built using large blocks of sandstone. These stones were transported to the correct location using boats on the River Nile. No one is quite sure how they were constructed by most people believe they used ramps to drag the large blocks into position. Historians used to believe that slaves built the pyramids but now they think it might have been built by farmers and other labourers who couldn't work during the yearly flooding.

## *What are the Great Pyramids?*

The Great Pyramids are the three pyramids at Giza which are guarded by the sphinx. The largest of these, built by Pharaoh Khufu, is 146.5 m tall and took twenty years to build. This pyramid is the only one of the Seven Wonders of the World that still exists today. Hundreds of tourists every year visit the Great Pyramids.

## *What are pyramids like inside?*

Pyramids are made up of a series of corridors and chambers. The sarcophagus was kept in the burial chamber once the pharaoh had died. There were also rooms and galleries where the pharaoh's treasures would be kept. It was important to guard against tomb robbers so most pyramids have blocked off doors and secret passages to try and keep the pharaoh and his treasures intact. However, tomb robbers still usually managed to find a way in and most were ransacked long ago. The interiors of pyramids are often covered in tomb paintings. Historians use these paintings to find out about life in ancient Egypt.



Why did the pharaohs need a safe place for their bodies to rest when they died?

Why were the pyramids built on the west bank of the River Nile?

For what other reason were the pyramids built near the Nile?



What material are the pyramids made from?

Write down three facts about the Great Pyramids:



Why do you think so many people visit the Great Pyramids?

What was placed inside the pyramids once the pharaoh had died?

Why were doors blocked off and secret corridors built into the pyramids?

Why are the tomb paintings important for historians?



## Answers

### Bronze

Why did the pharaohs need a safe place for their bodies to rest when they died?

**The ancient Egyptians believed the pharaoh would become a god after they died and needed to keep the body of the pharaoh safe.**

Why were the pyramids built on the west bank of the River Nile?

**They were built on the west bank because the sun sets in the west which represents death.**

For what other reason were the pyramids built near the Nile?

**They were built on the bank of the Nile because the stones used to build them were transported by boat.**



What material are the pyramids made from?

**The pyramids were built using large blocks of sandstone.**

Why did the pharaohs need a safe place for their bodies to rest when they died?

**The ancient Egyptians believed the pharaoh would become a god after they died and needed to keep the body of the pharaoh safe.**

Why were the pyramids built on the west bank of the River Nile?

**They were built on the west bank because the sun sets in the west which represents death.**

For what other reason were the pyramids built near the Nile?

**They were built on the bank of the Nile because the stones used to build them were transported by boat.**



What material are the pyramids made from?

**The pyramids were built using large blocks of sandstone.**

Write down three facts about the Great Pyramids:

**Any relevant answers.**



Why do you think so many people visit the Great Pyramids?

**Any relevant answers.**

What was placed inside the pyramids once the pharaoh had died?

**A sarcophagus and the pharaoh's treasures.**

Why were doors blocked off and secret corridors built into the pyramids?

**So that tomb robbers wouldn't be able to reach the pharaoh and their treasures.**

Why are the tomb paintings important for historians?

**The paintings could be used to find out about ancient Egyptian life.**

