

WHAT CAN WE UNCOVER?

The Egyptian civilisation began approximately 5,000 years ago and flourished for several thousand years. Everything we now know about the Egyptians had to be discovered and unearthed by historians and archaeologists. There's still so much to learn, so let's start digging...

ARCHAEOLOGY is the study of objects and artefacts belonging to cultures and peoples who lived in the past.

EGYPTOLOGY is the study of ancient Egyptian history.

Let's meet some of the finest Egyptologists and archaeologists.

What have the archaeologists uncovered this time?

What tools do archaeologists use?

Some of the most important historical artefacts and treasures were discovered in Egypt.

Let's look underground.

Time to dig a little deeper...

The most famous tomb in the world was created for an Egyptian pharaoh (ruler) called Tutankhamun and was discovered by archaeologists in 1922.

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

NILE
DELTA

MEMPHIS

EGYPT

The Egyptian culture began in north-east Africa. The fertile banks of the River Nile provided the perfect foundations for one of history's greatest civilisations.

Memphis was the capital city of ancient Egypt.

THE PYRAMIDS

Pyramids have been built by many cultures and civilisations, but the Egyptian pyramids are the tallest! Quite how these colossal structures were constructed remains a mystery, and it may have taken thousands of workers several decades to complete just one!

The Egyptians created pyramids to honour their dead kings and queens and some housed special chambers in which the dead could reside.

Many archaeologists believe that the pyramid shape was supposed to represent a sunray.

Scientists used the Sun's rays, in a process called 'muon radiography', to help them discover a hidden chamber in the Great Pyramid.

The city of Giza straddles the most famous archaeological site in the world.

The Great Pyramid was built for Khufu, a pharaoh who ruled more than 4,500 years ago. Each side of the structure's base measures a whopping 230m (750ft).

Not all of the pyramid's structure is above ground...

The Great Pyramid was the tallest structure in the world until 1889, when the Eiffel Tower was constructed in Paris, France.

The Egyptians built their pyramids to align with the stars.

The Great Pyramid at Giza is not only a gigantic mausoleum, it's also a compass of sorts; the four points of its base line up with north, east, south and west.

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the largest structure of its kind, extending more than 146m (480ft) above ground and consisting of more than 2 million blocks of solid stone.

The Sphinx is famous for asking Oedipus (a Greek mythical hero) to solve a perplexing riddle!

The Egyptians didn't just conceal corpses in their pyramids. Many other objects and items were placed within the walls.

MUMMIES

The ancient Egyptians treated their dead with a respect and reverence like no other culture, past or present. Their religion dictated that life continued after death and bodies of the deceased were sometimes preserved in a process known as mummification.



To begin, a corpse's internal organs were extracted and placed in vessels called canopic jars.

There were four jars in total.



The brain was difficult to remove...

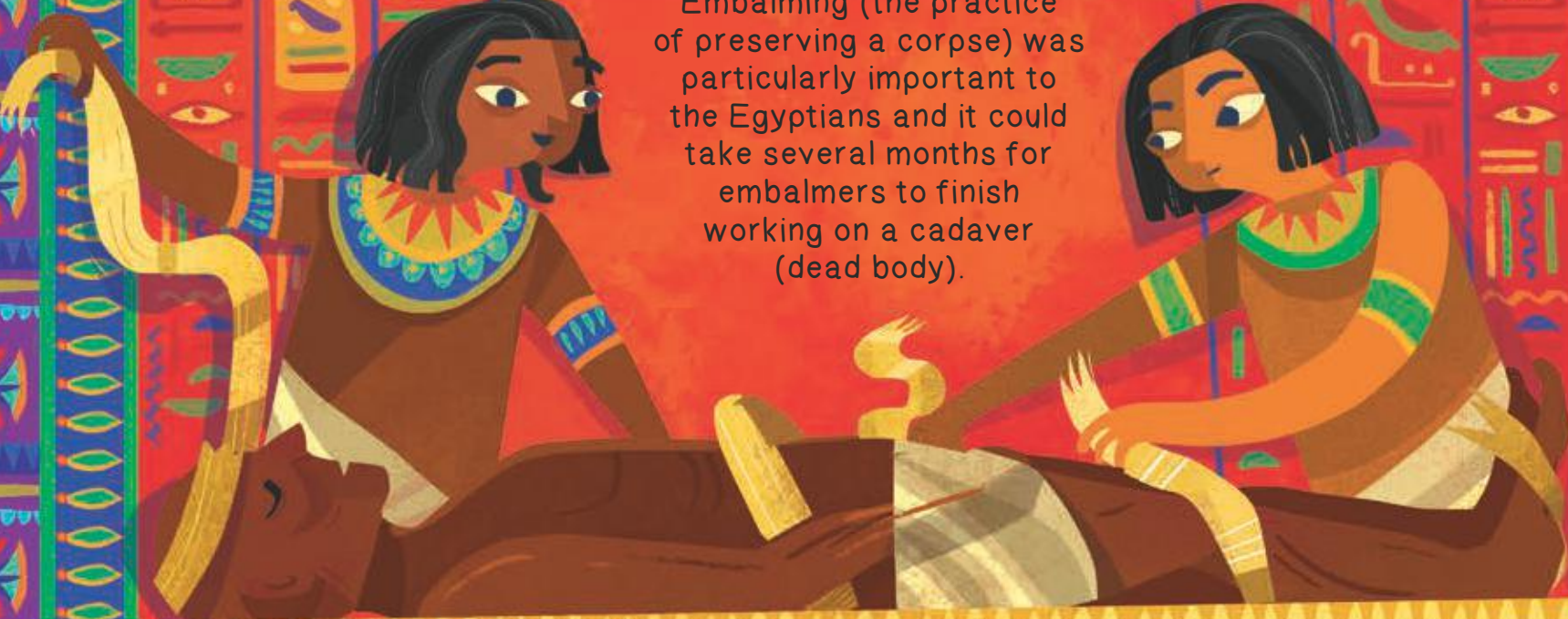


A special salt called natron was used to preserve corpses.



Bandages and perfumes helped prevent bad smells.

Embalming (the practice of preserving a corpse) was particularly important to the Egyptians and it could take several months for embalmers to finish working on a cadaver (dead body).



Priests played a vital role in mummification. Not only did they embalm and wrap the deceased, they also recited incantations and prayers during various ceremonies, the most important of which was named the Opening of the Mouth.

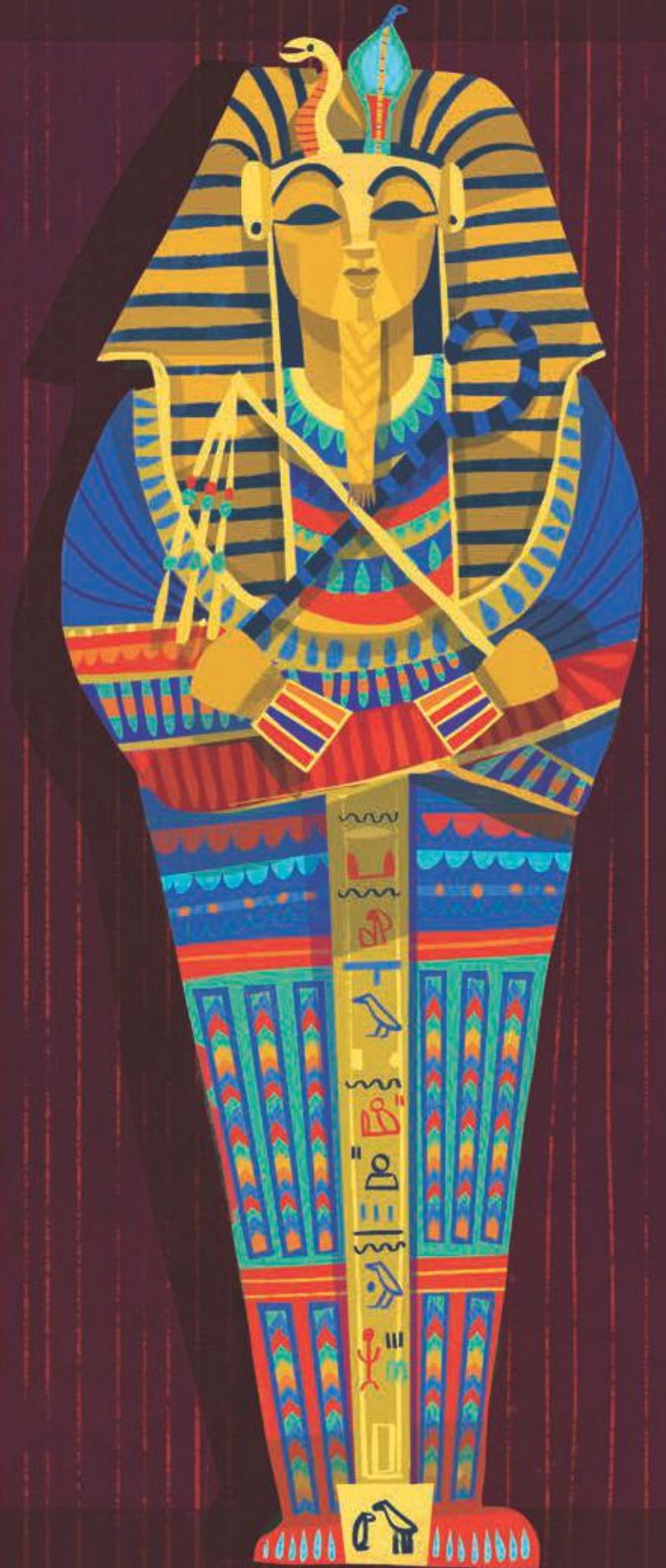


Pets were sometimes buried in the same crypts as their owners, along with other important possessions.

Tomb walls were adorned with intricate murals, often depicting key events from the life of the deceased person.



There were many layers to a sarcophagus. The outer casing was usually made of stone.



The inner layers were made of wood, precious metals and semi-precious stones.

THE GODS

The Egyptian religion was complex, and hundreds, if not thousands, of gods and goddesses were worshipped over the course of this civilisation's history.

Some gods were considered more important than others and many were portrayed with animal heads to convey their characteristics or roles.

The Egyptians worshipped several Sun gods, including Ra and Amun.

Gods of the Sun and sky were often depicted as falcons.

Death was not necessarily feared by the ancient Egyptians. Their religion dictated that life continued after death.

Live crocodiles were kept in temples in honour of Sobek, the god of strength and power.



LIFE ON THE NILE

The River Nile not only gave the Egyptians access to fresh water, it facilitated an entire trade network, agricultural enterprise and allowed the Egyptians to travel to distant lands.

The river's banks flooded with seasonal rains every year, creating fertile plains that could provide for ancient Egypt's thriving population.

Villages became busier near the river banks as food and water were easily accessible.

The reeds that grew abundantly along the banks of the Nile were used to create papyrus.

Shipping ports increased business and trade.

The Egyptians crafted several different types of boat.

Farmers dug channels to redirect water for their crops.

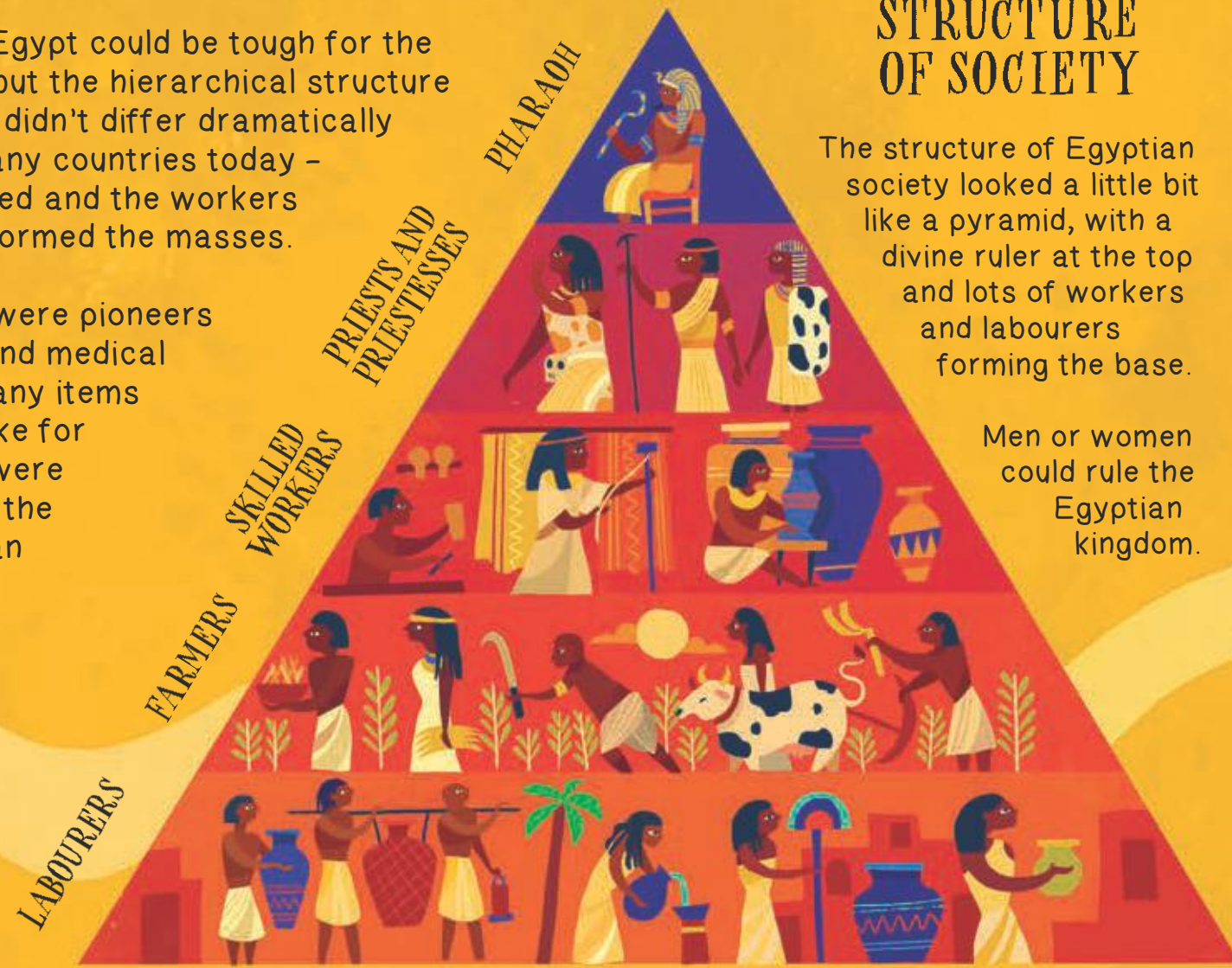
The River Nile was crammed with plenty of fish, but also crocodiles, and hippos.



DAILY LIFE

Life in ancient Egypt could be tough for the lower classes, but the hierarchical structure of their society didn't differ dramatically from that of many countries today – the pharaoh ruled and the workers and labourers formed the masses.

The Egyptians were pioneers of technology and medical science, and many items that we may take for granted today were invented during the peak of Egyptian culture.



STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY

The structure of Egyptian society looked a little bit like a pyramid, with a divine ruler at the top and lots of workers and labourers forming the base.

Men or women could rule the Egyptian kingdom.

FAMOUS FIRSTS

FURNITURE

PETS

HIEROGLYPHS

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

TIMELINE



FASHION

FUN AND GAMES

SPORTS

The Egyptians played many sports, the majority of which are still popular today.

ARCHERY

HOCKEY

HORSE RIDING