

# Project glossary

## **afterlife**

The life that is believed to begin after death.

.....

## **ancient Egypt**

A civilisation that existed around the banks of the Nile from c3100 BC until 30 BC.

.....

## **ancient Sumer**

The first civilisation in the world that existed in Mesopotamia, modern-day Iraq, from c4500 BC until c1900 BC.

.....

## **archaeologist**

A person who studies human history by excavating sites and analysing artefacts.

.....

## **archaeology**

The study of human history by excavating sites and analysing artefacts.

.....

## **artefact**

An object that was made in the past, such as a tool.

.....

## **canopic jar**

A wood, stone or clay container with a lid used in ancient Egypt to hold organs from a mummified body.

.....

## **civilisation**

The developed culture and way of life of a society.

.....

## **cuneiform**

Ancient writing used by the Sumerians made up of simple pictures.

.....

## **Fertile Crescent**

The area of land in the Middle East where the first ancient civilisations began.

.....

## **floodplain**

A fertile area of low-lying land near a river that often floods when the river rises.

**hierarchy**

A system in society where people are organised into different levels of importance from highest to lowest.

.....

**hieroglyph**

A picture or symbol representing a word used in ancient Egyptian writing.

.....

**Indus Valley**

The area next to the Indus River in modern-day Pakistan and north-west India where the Indus Valley civilisation developed from c2500 BC to c1700 BC.

.....

**irrigation**

The digging of channels to allow water to flow through a field to water crops.

.....

**lugal**

The name for a king in ancient Sumer.

.....

**Mesopotamia**

An ancient historical area in modern-day Iraq where the Ancient Sumerian civilisation developed in c4500 BC.

.....

**mummification**

The process of preserving a dead body by drying and wrapping that was used by the ancient Egyptians.

.....

**necropolis**

A large cemetery belonging to an ancient city.

.....

**nomad**

A person who travels from place to place to find food, water and shelter.

.....

**papyrus**

A material made in ancient Egypt from the stem of a water plant and used in sheets for writing or painting.

.....

**pharaoh**

A ruler of ancient Egypt.

**pyramid**

A structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides used as a royal tomb in ancient Egypt.

.....

**sarcophagus**

A stone coffin usually decorated with carvings or inscriptions used in ancient Egypt.

.....

**scribe**

A professional writer.

.....

***shaduf***

An irrigation device from ancient Egypt that used a lever mechanism to raise water from a water source onto the land.

.....

**vizier**

The pharaoh's chief minister in ancient Egypt.

.....

**ziggurat**

A large pyramid in ancient Sumer made from mud bricks, with a temple on top.