

Name:
Class:

The **Fact File** provides you with information that may or may not be true about Ancient Egypt.

Some of them are based on mere opinions. Your first task is to discern whether the claims made are true or otherwise.

1. Read carefully.
2. Tick the circle with "Fact" or "Opinion" based on your careful evaluation.
3. Write down your reasons in the box provided.

Some examples...

Tutankhamun became Pharaoh at the age of 9.

I read it in a book called *Everything Ancient Egypt* by National Geographic that Tutankhamun became Pharaoh in 1333 BCE when he was 9 years old. Because he was so young, he had advisors - General Horemheb and Ay, who helped him rule the country.

FACT **OPINION**

This information is from a non-fiction book created by a reliable author of the subject: National Geographic.

Tutankhamun was murdered.

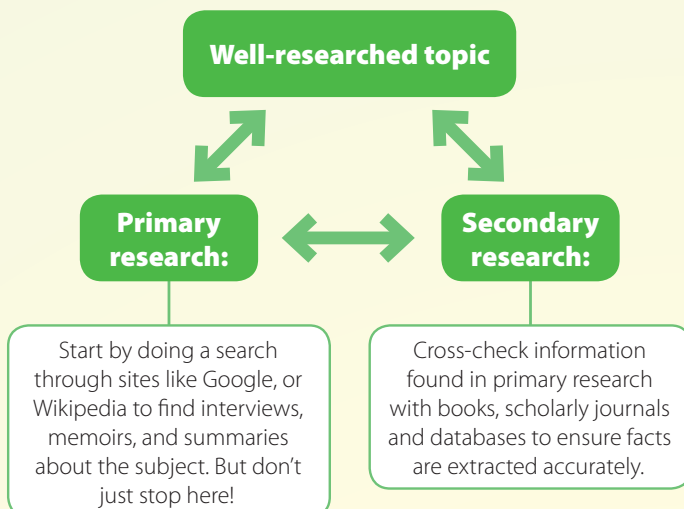
There were many theories on Tutankhamun's death that I read online from websites like *whokilledit.com* that he was murdered by his vizier Ay. I think he was murdered because when an archaeologist unwrapped his mummy, they found a dark patch of dried blood on the back of his skull.

FACT **OPINION**

This information is from an unreliable website.

Got a project coming up?

Visit <http://www.nlb.gov.sg/sure/six-steps-to-success-2/> to find out what are the six steps to conduct a successful information search.



Fact File

Find a balanced view.



The Ancient Egyptians liked to play board games.

I read from *National Geographic Kids - Everything Ancient Egypt* that the Egyptians liked to play board games such as Hounds and Jackals, Mehen and Senet. Though the rules for these games are long forgotten, there are modern games that are similar to the games Ancient Egyptians play now like Snakes and Ladders and Backgammon.

FACT **OPINION**

Ancient Egyptians ate hedgehogs as part of their meals.

I went to the public library and borrowed a book about Ancient Egypt. The book mentioned that Ancient Egyptians ate hippos, gazelles, cranes as well as smaller animals such as hedgehogs for meals. I believe this to be true since the information is from a book that is available at the library.

FACT **OPINION**

River Nile is the longest river in the world!

Using an online encyclopedia, I found out that this river is 6,650 km long! The encyclopedia stated that it flows through Burundi to the Mediterranean Sea. It crosses Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan and of course Egypt! I was reading a book I borrowed from the public library and it tells me that during Ancient Egyptian times, the river was swarming with a parasite called schistosoma. This tiny wormlike creature will burrow into the skin and lay eggs.

FACT **OPINION**

The Egyptians only ever mummified people.

Ancient Egyptians were very fussy people, so they only mummified their kings. It was such a big deal to be mummified, because you would need a lot of gold to be buried with, and priests had to be hired to mummify you.

FACT **OPINION**



Dig deeper! Go beyond the initial source.

Ancient Egyptians died from sand baths.

On *egyptiansRkewl.blogspot.com*, it claims that Ancient Egyptians enjoyed hot sand baths in their free time. Unfortunately, desert scorpions are abundant in warm sand. These nasty critters would emerge from the loosened sand and sting the Egyptians. The venomous sting could cause stupidity, hallucinations and sometimes, death.

FACT **OPINION**

There were only male Pharaohs in Egypt.

My friends say the only Pharaohs they've heard of are Tutankhamun, Ramses and Amenhotep. The word "Pharaoh" also probably means "King", so there cannot be any female Pharaohs.

FACT **OPINION**

Ancient Egyptian soldiers were as young as 10 years old.

I read from the book *Female Pharaohs Wore False Beards* that a child would be signed up with the military once his family decided he was to have a military career. Children as young as five could join the army, though their actual time in the army didn't begin until much later. Life in the army was so good they even got to travel in chariots!

FACT **OPINION**

Is it trustworthy?



Cleopatra died from an asp bite!

Asps were very easily available in the olden days, they were basically Egyptian cobras! I found out that asps are so poisonous from *snakeswillkillyounow.com*. It even killed Cleopatra, the last female pharaoh of Egypt!

I read about it in *No Fear Shakespeare: Anthony and Cleopatra* that she died from an asp bite so she could be with Anthony and live happily ever after.

FACT **OPINION**

Search for clarity, know what you're reading.



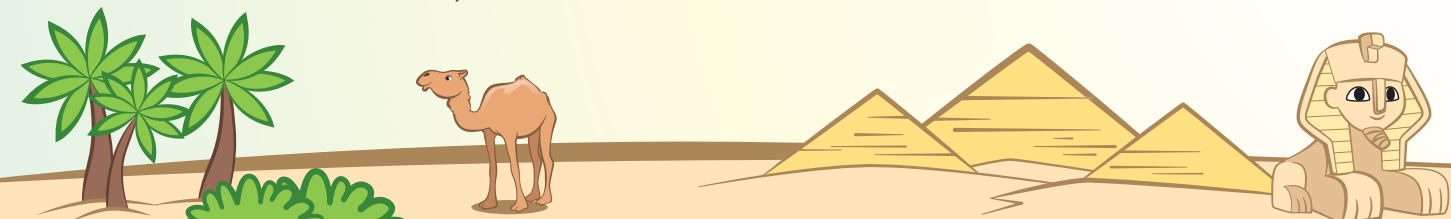
What to look out for when reading information

LESS RELIABLE

- Contains opinion keywords like
 - I think...
 - I believe...
 - I feel...
- Unverified information
 - Someone told me...
 - I read it somewhere...
 - My friend said...
 - I saw it on YouTube/Wikipedia/Facebook...
- Website has not been updated
- Spelling or grammar errors
- Examples:
 - Blogs
 - Web forums
 - Individual or business websites
 - Materials published by an organisation or individual that may have an ulterior motive

MORE RELIABLE

- Contains research statistics that can be cross-checked with reputable sources. There will also be citations in the source.
- Constant updates to websites
- Attempts to remain neutral
- The creator of website is reliable or the author has relevant qualifications on the subject
- Reliable domain name of websites:
 - edu = educational
 - com = commercial
 - mil = military
 - gov = government
 - org = non-profit





Was this Egypt?

Now that you know the difference between a fact and an opinion, use your research to answer the questions below.

One of these animals was eaten by the Ancient Egyptians.



How many of this animal can you find in the map?

Identify the main mode of transportation for soldiers.

Find the God of the Sun.

Find Hatshepsut.

Where can you find a parasite called schistosoma? Circle the answer.

Identify the animal that was said to have caused Cleopatra's death.

Circle 2 types of games that the Ancient Egyptians used to play.

Where can you find Tutankhamun's tomb?

Circle 3 things in this picture that the Ancient Egyptians mummified.

Find the Hieroglyphics that spell the word 'sand'.

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