

## Education for Ancient Egyptians

Children in Ancient Egypt learned various subjects including reading, writing, mathematics and religious instruction. Being educated was important for people, especially people with money, so they sent their children to school. However, girls were not sent to school and instead they were educated at home. Mothers taught their daughters sewing, cooking and reading. They were subjects thought to be important for women and anything else was not needed. People of lower classes usually could not send their children to schools because there were a limited number of schools. These schools were reserved for children from royal or rich backgrounds.



### **How did the Ancient Egyptian Education System Work**

Boys were sent off to schools from the age of eight. They were taught the most important subjects of mathematics, reading, writing, arithmetic, geometry, geography, astronomy, medicine and moral instructions. After being instructed on these disciplines, it was then that the boys followed the line of trade of their fathers. So the sons of royal officials became royal officials when they grew up. It was the same for most people in other professions. The Ancient Egyptians schools started in the morning, with a break at midday and the the rest of the classes commencing in the later afternoon.

### **What were Ancient Egyptian Schools Like**

Schools were usually attached to religious temples or government building in Ancient Egypt.



Education was run and looked after by the authorities. Teachers were generally priests or government officials acting as scribes. Writing material for younger pupils were wooden tablets filled with text from existing documents. The tablets were wiped clean when filled up. Older pupils used papyrus. There were

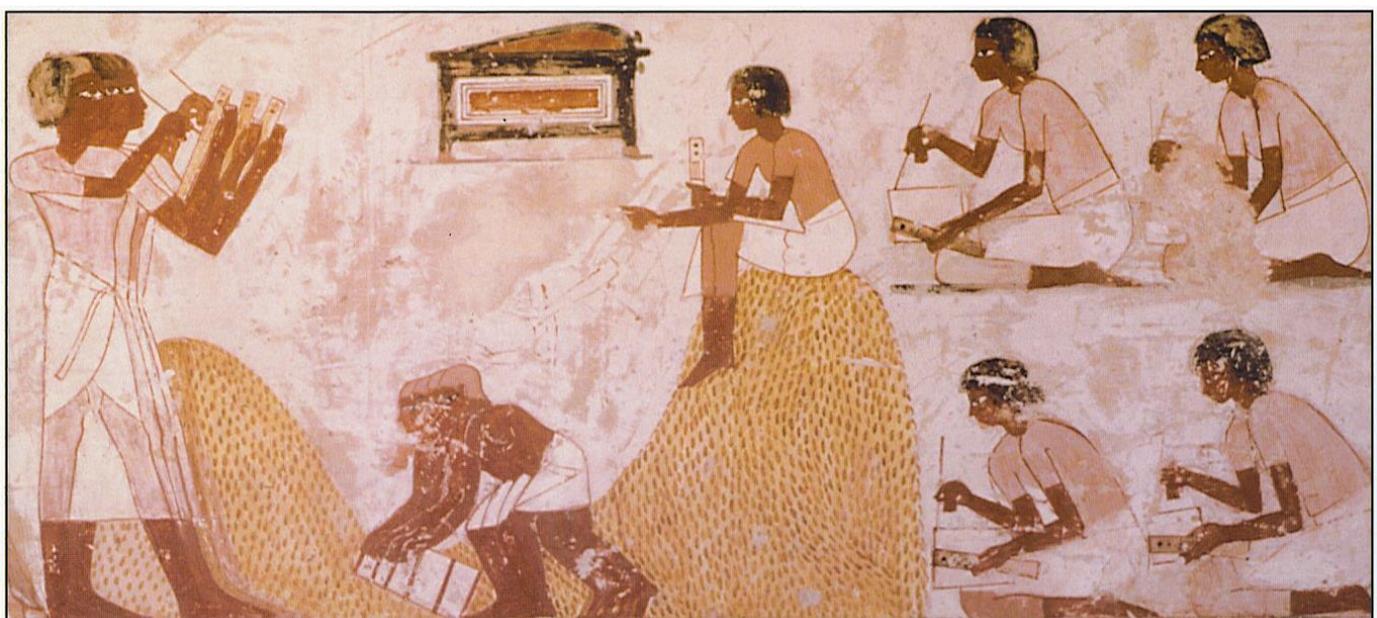
different types of schools for different people. For instance, there were general village schools that instructed in general education and then more specialised schools for priests or scribes. There was even a Prince's School which was the most prestigious school attended by the sons of the Pharaoh as well as children of nobles and court officials.

### **Ancient Egyptians Teachers**

People who acted as teachers were either priests or scribes. They each had a role in the education of their pupils. Priests would teach moral and religious education. Scribes taught the secular subjects like mathematics and medicine. Unlike today's schools there were not different teachers for different subjects.

### **A Summary of Education in Ancient Egypt**

The Ancient Egyptian education system was well organised and had a structure. There was a hierarchy of social status and a well-rounded education was provided for boys and those with money. Girls were educated at home and taught the subjects needed. Education was important to Ancient Egyptians and helped maintain the structure of society. The education system was ahead of its time and one of the reasons why the Ancient Egyptians became so dominant in the Ancient world as we know it.



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### Retrieve

Think about the following statements and using the information from the text, decide if they are true or false. Tick the correct box.

Statement	True	False
All children were taught the same as we now teach children today.		
Boys were sent off to schools from the age of three.		
Scribes taught the secular subjects like mathematics, medicine and religious education.		
The education system was ahead of its time and one of the reasons why the Ancient Egyptians became so dominant in the Ancient world as we know it.		

1. Who taught the girls during Ancient Egypt times?
2. What subjects were the girls taught?
3. Where were the boys taught?
4. When were boys sent away?
5. Why was education important to the Ancient Egyptians?

### Compare

Put the phrases in the appropriate part of the Venn diagram.

Ancient Egyptians

British People Today

Children go to school.

Only wealthy children go to school.

Scribes and Priests are teachers.

Girls do not go to school.