16 Snippets of Ancient Egypt Trivia

- The Great Pyramids served as tombs for pharaohs and were built by paid laborers not slaves as it is erroneously known.

- Both men and women wore make-up; they believed it had magical powers! They painted their using copper for green colour and lead for black colour.

- Egyptians believed that mumummification ensured the deceased a safe passage to the afterlife.

- Ancient Egyptians invented toothpaste!

- Cats were sacred animals believed to bring luck to households. They were treated with love and respect and were mummified after death.

- The world knew little about Egypt until 1799 when the Roseta Stone was found. The stone (a type of granite) enabled scholars to decipher previously untranslatable hieroglyphics scripts.

- Servants were sometimes smeared with honey in order to attract flies away from the pharaoh!

- The most famous Egyptian queen was not Egyptian. Although Cleopatra was born in Egypt, she traced her family origins to Macedonian Greece and Ptolemy I Soter, one of Alexander the Great's generals.

- The Egyptians invented the 365-day annual calendar.

- During the mumummification process, the only organ left inside the deceased was the heart.

- When unwrapped, the bandages of an ancient mummy could stretch for 1.6km (0.940 mile)

- The ancient Egyptians worshipped more than 1,000 gods and goddesses. They had gods for everything, from dangers to chores! Each had different responsibilities and needed to be worshipped so that life could be kept in balance.

- Attributes that ancient Egyptians valued most were good behaviour, honesty, and justice.

- The Great Pyramid, located at Giza on the west bank of the Nile River north of Cairo in Egypt, is the only wonder of the ancient world that has survived to the present day.

- Hippopotamus were abundant in ancient Egypt. They were associated with bad omens and were considered more dangerous than crocodiles (also abundant in the Nile).

- The Egyptian alphabet contained more than 700 hieroglyphs!