

papyrus - Ancient Egyptian writing material made from a reed; the English word "paper" comes from this term.

parchment - Writing material made from animal skin, usually sheep or goat, developed in Pergamum in the second century B.C.

✓ **pithos** (pl. pithoi) - Large pottery jar used for storing various commodities, usually a meter or more in height.

sarcophagus - Coffin of stone, pottery or wood.

✓ **scarab** - "Beetle" in Egyptian. Small beetle-shaped object with an inscription or design on the flat bottom. Originally attached to a ring and used as a signet for sealing documents, etc. Later it became an amulet, or good-luck charm. Many times the name of an Egyptian pharaoh is inscribed on the bottom, making it useful for dating purposes.

sherd (shard) or **potsherd** (potshard) - Broken piece of pottery.

stela (stele) (pl. stelae) - Inscribed stone slab.

store jar - Pottery jar that was mainly used for transporting goods. Smaller than a pithos, about 70 centimeters tall.

stratigraphic - Layer-by-layer; e.g., stratigraphic excavation.

stratum (pl. strata) - Layer of occupation.

tell (Arabic) or **tel** (Hebrew) - Mound of accumulated debris from ancient settlements.

terminus ante quem - "Time before which."

terminus post quem - "Time after which."

Transjordan - Area of Palestine east of the Jordan river.

tumulus - Artificial mound of earth covering a burial.

wadi - Dry river bed.

ziggurat - Temple-tower common in Mesopotamia. (*Most Sacred Area*)

zoomorphic - "Animal-like."