

Everything You Need To Know About

# Ancient Egypt

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# Ancient Egypt

Have you ever wondered about the history about that s square-shaped country called Egypt? Have you ever wondered where real mummies were made so long, long, ago? This book has all the answers. In this book you'll find sky-high pharaohs, the Nile and much more. So turn off the T.V. and start reading!





# The Nifty Nile



Figure 1 A papyrus drawing of reed boats floating on the Nile

The *Nile* was a BIG part of Egyptian life. It was used for trading, transportation, farming, fishing, and even parties. Farmers used its banks for fertile grounds, perfect for farming in. A lot

of times people rode in reed boats and traded goods. Pharaohs and priests rode on it for religious purposes. Egyptians they made reed boats to ride and trade goods.

## Egyptian Fun Facts

Did you know  
without the Nile  
Egypt wouldn't  
exist!



# Stylish Clothes

Clothes were a pretty big deal back then. Women wore common white tunics that went to their ankles. Egyptians would wear their sandals inside instead of outside. Women also wore gold, silver, and



beaded collars. They wore lots of make-up. Men and Women both wore gold, silver and copper bracelets. Men and Women both wore wigs, because they were bald. Men would wear knee-length tunics and wigs.

Wig makers would take a leaf, head shape it, and then stick braids of hair to it. The best wigs were made of real human hair. Children were shaved bald

too. Boys were shaved bald except for a pony-tail type strand of hair on their heads called *side locks*. Children under six did not wear clothes.



## Egyptian Fun Facts

Did you know?  
Even peasants had  
at least one wig!

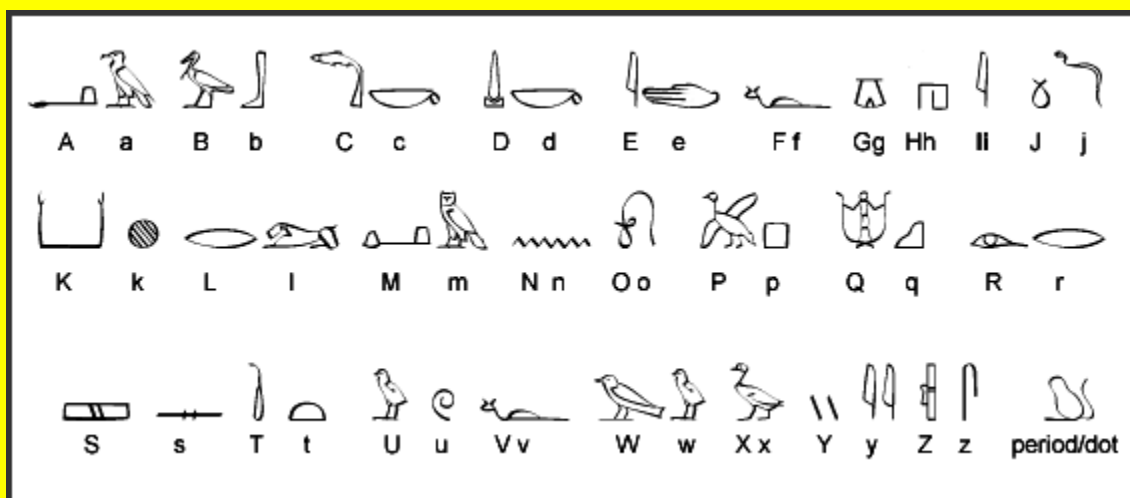
# Wrapped-Up Pharaohs

The death of a *Pharaoh* meant 70 days of mummy making. Whenever an Egyptian king died, priests made him into a mummy. The process took 70 days! First a priest in a god mask took out the intestines, the stomach, lungs, and liver. Then they took a thin hook, and took out the brain. The Egyptians didn't know how much the brain could do, so ... they threw it away. Then they dried out the body with a type of salt called *Natron*. Then they stuffed it with scented rags, to keep its shape. While being wrapped between the layers of cloth they put good luck charms too keep bad spirits away. They put charms such as *scarabs*, the *Eye of Horus*, and other good luck charms. They put a scroll called *The Book of The Dead*. They believed that there was an afterlife and the pharaoh would have to pass tests including naming gods, passing monsters, and most importantly, having their heart weighed to be lighter than a feather. If it was the pharaoh would be sent to live in the afterlife with *Osiris*, the god of the afterlife. If he didn't pass Ammut, a monster would devour his heart and "die again".

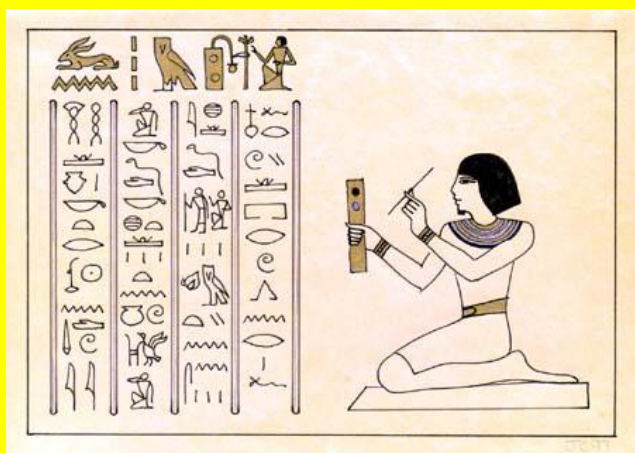




# Egyptian Alphabet & Math



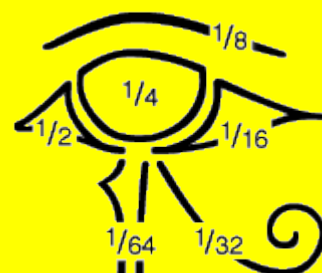
The ancient Egyptians had *hieroglyphs* for words such as water and for an alphabet. The ancient Egyptians had scribes that would write commands from pharaoh or requests. Scribes were important people.



This is a simple model of the Egyptian alphabet

The ancient Egyptians also had their own number system. It used face value and had symbols up to a million. They had a symbol for ones, tens, thousands, hundreds, hundred thousands, and a million.

That was not *all* the math they had. They also had a set of fractions. The fractions were the *Eye of Horus*. They drew only parts of the eye for certain fractions.



# Hall of Pharaohs and Queens

Egyptian Pharaohs were basically Egyptian kings. The Pharaoh carried a crook and a flail. It symbolized royalty. These are some well-known pharaohs. Then there is *Queen Cleopatra*. She married *Julius Caesar* and then *Marc Anthony*. Legend says she had a BIG banquet, bathed in donkey milk, and let an asp bite her. She was found dead on a golden couch, with her crown on.

Probably the most famous was *King Tut*. He had three daughters. He died before he was 20. He is also a world famous mummy.

Then there's Queen *Hatshepsut*. The king died and the new Pharaoh was too young. So Hatshepsut took over. She was the longest woman Pharaoh ruling.

Next comes Akhenaten, he was King Tut's father. He changed the religion to a sun god named Amun-ra. The priests did not like that!

Akenhenaten married a *beautiful* woman named Nefertiti. She looked every bit like a queen.



## Egyptian Fun Facts

Did you know? King Tut married when he was ten years old and married his sister.



# Egyptian Religion

The Egyptian religion was a big part of Egyptian life. Nobles and the royal families worshipped in temples. Ordinary people were not allowed in temples.



Egyptians worshipped a lot of gods. Some of these gods included Ra, god of the sun, Osiris god of the afterlife, Isis, god of motherhood, marriage, and healing.

They believed that the way to make gods happy was to give sacrifices. They made sacrifices like milk, honey, and grain. There is no evidence that they gave human sacrifices.

# Fabulous Foods



Egyptians ate well. People ate pigeons, cheese, quail, bread, beer, fruits, and vegetables. It was considered disrespectful to stare at your food even if it was something gross like goose fat. Most ancient Egyptians ate with their fingers on the mat. They washed their hands by dipping them into a bowl of water. Peasants ate from

earthenware plates. Wealthier people ate off of gold, silver, faience, and bronze plates. Almost everyone drank beer. Beer was mainly made of wheat, barley, or millet. One quarter of the grain was soaked and left out in the sun. The rest was for bread.

## Egyptian Fun Facts

Did you know? Even Children drank beer!



# Osiris and Seth

*Seth, Osiris, and Isis* were at a party. Seth was jealous of Osiris because he was the top god. So Seth devised an evil plan to be the top god. Seth made a gold box and said if anyone fit in it they could keep it. Osiris jumped inside. He fit inside. As planned, Seth shut the box and let it drift on the Nile.

Isis, Osiris's sister found him dead in the box. Determined to fix him, she took him to her house. At night Seth cut up Osiris's body into pieces. Isis found all his body pieces and put him together. She made the first mummy. Osiris was now god of the underworld.

Later his son, *Horus* tried killing Seth and got shot in the eye.

**Hathor** Ra's daughter healed the eye and his eye was now a symbol of healing.



Figure 2 The gods Seth, Osiris, Isis and Horus



# The Farmer's Life

Imagine being an Egyptian farmer. You'd spend hours a day working, plowing, and planting in the fields under the hot sun. Farmers grew figs grain, dates and grapes. They raised sheep, cows, and goats. They brought water from the Nile for plants. They ate on flat mats on the floor with earthen ware plates. Everyone had to pay taxes of gold, silver, and precious woods to the Pharaoh. They had to do chores in the fields. It flooded in July leaving them on little hills above the water. Life was hard. They slept on the floor and had plentiful crops.



## Egyptian Fun Facts

Did you know? The farmer's worst thing was a famine.

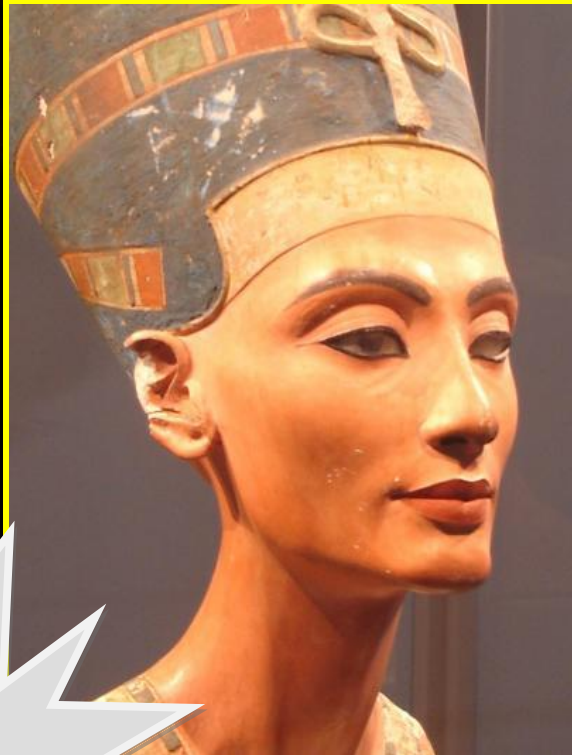


# Palace Life

Life in the palace was filled with luxury. The Pharaoh had many wives and concubines with one chief wife. He even had wives from foreign countries. The woman's greatest goal was to have their child be the next Pharaoh. They had many children. The children played board games such as *Senet*, and rag ball. The eldest daughter would be the future chief wife and marry his eldest brother, doubling the amount of royal blood. There was a separate room for the queens.



King Thutmose III



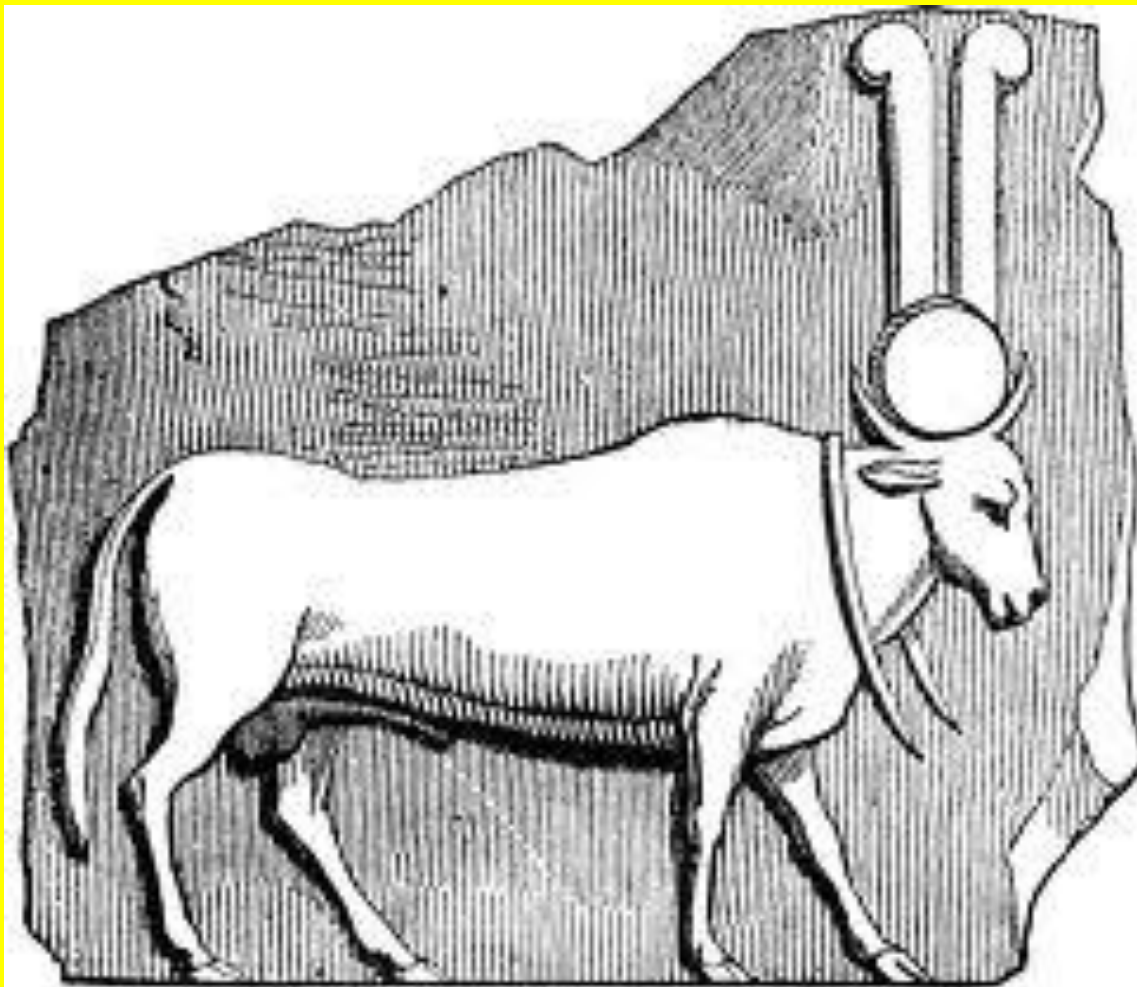
Queen Nefertiti, the wife of Akhenaten

## Egyptian Fun Facts

The pharaoh's mother was the closest thing to being a god?

# The Apis

The Apis was no more than a bull, but not to the ancient Egyptians. They believed a bull with a bird shaped mark on his back, a diamond on his forehead, split tail hairs, and a scarab shape under his tongue was believed to be the Apis which was believed to be a god. Once the bull with these distinctive features was found, the priests praised him, gave him delicious foods, and gave him a life of luxury. The bull's mother was also considered a god. She got luxury too. When this marvelous bull died, the priest mummified him. Then they set out to find the new Apis.



# The Fall of Egypt

What was the fall of Egypt? There was actually 3 falls of Egypt and here are their stories. There are 3 Egyptian kingdoms. There was The Old Kingdom (2686- 2181 BC), The Middle Kingdom, (2134-1690 BC) and The New Kingdom (1549-1069 BC). The fall of the Old Kingdom was because the Pharaohs spent all their recourses on temples. The people couldn't pay the debt. To top that a 50 year major famine occurred, and Egyptian government collapsed.

Then there is the fall of the middle kingdom. The Pharaohs brought *Canaanites* to work in mining and building jobs. Then major Nile floods destroyed the economy and Canaanites took power.

Last but not least the New Kingdom was spending all its income battling the *Hittites*, corruptions ran blatant and the kingdom divided in two.



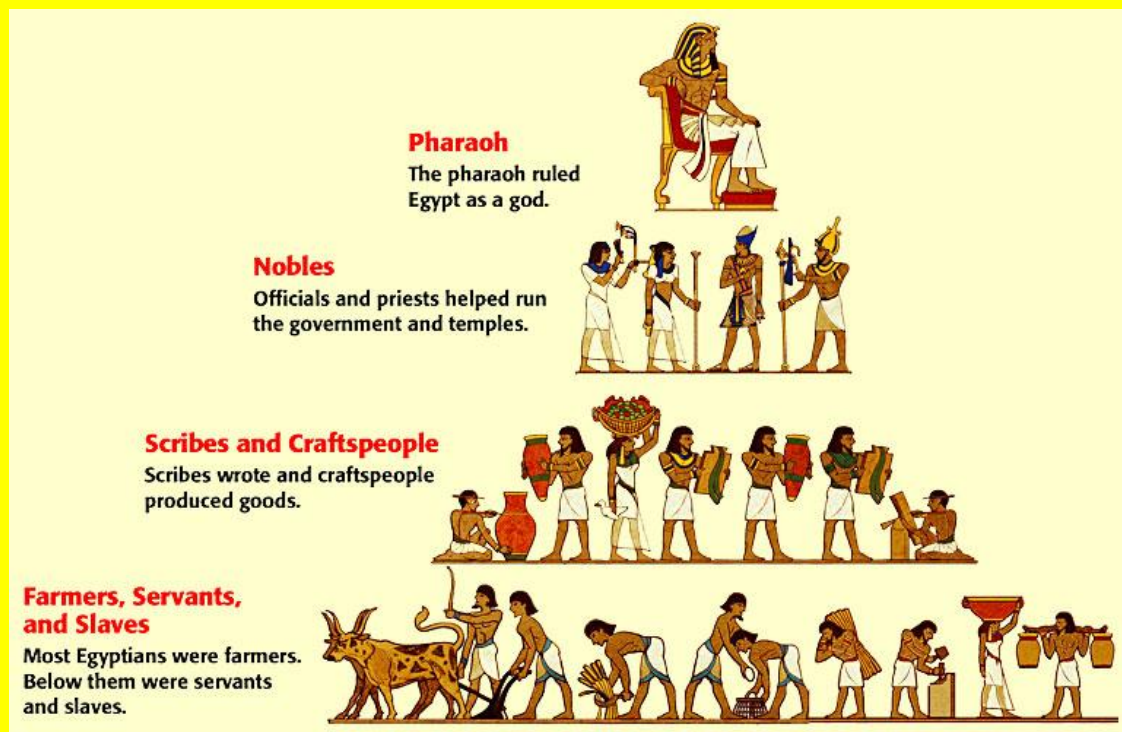
# Egyptian Government

All of Egypt was dominated by the pharaoh. He was considered a god in human form. For this reason he had complete power over the kingdom and its citizens.

Below the Pharaoh was *theocracy*, ruled by the priests. The advisors and ministers were priests, who were considered the only ones to carry out the pharaoh's commands. They were mostly nobles.

Taxes were paid in goods and effort. (They didn't have money) People were drafted into the army and forced work for periods of time to give what was called a *corvée* the labor tax. Slaves, mercenaries and draftees were frequently used in the army.

The greater part of Egypt was peasants. They did all the farming and worked along the Nile. They had no voice in their government, and accepted this fact because it was backed by their belief.

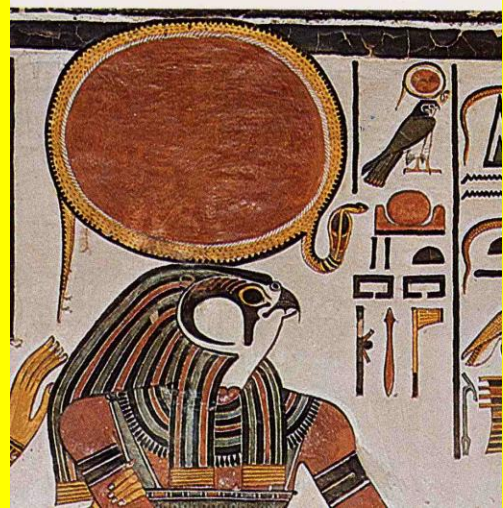




# Egyptian Gods

Egyptians worshipped many gods. Here are some of the main gods.

There was *Ra*, the sun god. He was sometimes shown as a man's body with the head of a falcon. Ancient Egyptians believed he created the world. They believed he rode across the sky in a gold boat. At sunset he sailed in the underworld. In the morning, he went up in the sky again.



Then there was *Isis* and *Osiris*. Long ago they were believed to be the first Egyptian king and queen. Osiris was killed by his evil brother; Isis brought him back to life. Osiris was then god of the afterlife. Isis was the god of marriage, motherhood, and healing.

Next was *Horus*. He was Osiris and Isis's son. He was shown with a falcon head. He killed his uncle who killed his father, Osiris. In the battle his eye was shot and *Hathor* healed it. It was a sign of healing. They believed the Pharaohs were Horus in mortal form.

Then there was *Thoth*. He was the moon god. He was shown as a man with a head of a bird, or a baboon. He was the god of writing, mathematics, and medicine.

Then there was *Bes*. He was short, happy, and chubby. He had the tail and ears of a lion and body, and face of a man. He brought joy and luck. He protected the entire household.

# Ancient Artwork



Ancient Egyptians were great artists. Some paintings have survived to be five thousand years old. They made sculptures, paintings, scrolls, cloth and gold work. The paintings usually were made to say historical or religious stories.

On walls they carved out paintings that told stories. They told their history and beliefs. They were great gold workers too. They made mummy cases, jewelry, and even sandals. They made statues of pharaohs and gods.



## Egyptian Fun Facts

The biggest statue in Egypt is the *Sphinxes*. It is 66 feet tall and 240 feet long. It has the head of a man, and a lion's body.



# Modern Egypt

Now days, Egypt has changed. They don't have Pharaohs. Now it is ruled by a president. They don't build pyramids. They don't write or calculate in Egyptian math symbols or the Egyptian alphabet. Even though Egypt has changed much, Egypt is still as fascinating as before. Tourists come and see the amazing mummies and art, and much more. Archeologists are constantly finding great discoveries. So go get a flight ticket and go off to Egypt and have fun!



Mohammed Morsi, the current Egyptian president

# Learn More about Egypt

## Books:

*History Dudes: Ancient Egypt* by Rich Cando

*Ancient Egypt* By Judith Crosher

*Ancient Egypt* By Charles Alexander Robinson Jr. (Revised by Lorna Greenberg)

*How?d They Do That in ... Ancient Egypt* by Tamra Orr

*Mummies and Pyramids* by Will Osborne and Mary Pope Osborne

*Understanding Egyptian Myths* by Sheri Doyle

*Egyptian Farmers* by Jim Kerr

*Egyptian Kings and Queens and Classical Deities* by Dwayne E. Pickels

## Websites:

<http://www.ancient-egypt.org/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egypt)

<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/menu.html>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/180468/ancient-Egypt>



# Glossary

**Ammut**-In ancient Egyptian religion, Ammit (also spelled Ammut and Ahemait, meaning Devourer or Bone Eater) was a female demon in ancient Egyptian religion with a body that was part lion, hippopotamus and crocodile.

**Archaeologist** - A person who practices the scientific study of material remains (as fossil relics, artifacts, and monuments) of past human life and activities

**Bes:** A grotesque god depicted as having short legs, an obese body, and an almost bestial face, who dispelled evil spirits.

**The Book of The Dead:** The Book of the Dead is an ancient Egyptian funerary text consisting of a number of magic spells intended to assist a dead person's journey through the underworld, and into the afterlife.

**Corvée:** 1. A day's unpaid labor owed by a vassal to his feudal lord. 2. Forced labor exacted in lieu of taxes, in particular that on public roads.

**Eye of Horus**- an ancient Egyptian symbol of protection, royal power and good health

**Hathor:** A sky goddess, the patron of love and joy, usually represented as a cow.

**Hieroglyphs**- A stylized picture of an object representing a word, syllable, or sound, as found in ancient Egyptian and other writing systems.


**Isis:** A goddess of fertility, wife of Osiris and mother of Horus. Her worship spread to western Asia, Greece, and Rome, where she was identified with various local goddesses

**Natron:** A mineral salt found in dried lake beds, consisting of hydrated sodium carbonate used in mummification

**Nile:** A river in eastern Africa, the longest river in the world, that rises in east central Africa near Lake Victoria and flows 4,160 miles north through Uganda, Sudan, and Egypt to empty through a large delta into the Mediterranean Sea

**Osiris:** A god originally connected with fertility, husband of Isis and father of Horus. He is known chiefly through the story of his death at the hands of his brother Seth and his subsequent restoration to a new life as ruler of the afterlife

**Pharaoh:** A ruler in ancient Egypt



**Ra or Re:** The sun god, the supreme Egyptian deity, worshiped as the creator of all life and typically with a falcon's head bearing the solar disc. From earliest times he was associated with the pharaoh

**Scarabs:** A large dung beetle of the eastern Mediterranean area, regarded as sacred in ancient Egypt

**Senet:** a board game from predynastic and ancient Egypt.

**Seth:** An evil god who murdered his brother Osiris and wounded Osiris's son Horus. *Seth* is represented as having the head of an animal with a long pointed snout

**Side locks:** a braid of hair coming from the side of a shaved head.

**Theocracy:** a form of government in which a deity is officially recognized as the civil Ruler and official policy is governed by officials regarded as divinely guided, or is pursuant to the doctrine of a particular religion or religious group.

**Thoth:** A moon god, the god of wisdom, justice, and writing, patron of the sciences, and messenger of Ra.