

Ancient Egyptian Mythology



Egypt Basics



Week One

History Of Egypt

☞ Egypt is a country in North Africa, on the Mediterranean Sea, and is among the oldest civilizations on earth.

☞ The name 'Egypt' comes from the Greek Aegyptos which was the Greek pronunciation of the Egyptian name 'Hwt-Ka-Ptah' (which means "House of the Spirit of Ptah", who was a very early God of the Ancient Egyptians).



Black Land

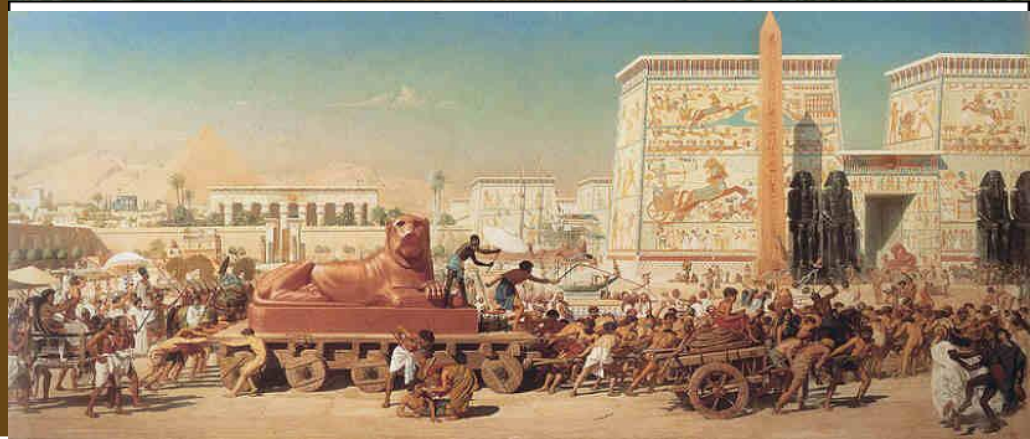


- ❧ In the early Old Kingdom, Egypt was simply known as 'Kemet' which means 'Black Land' so named for the rich, dark soil along the Nile River where the first settlements began.
- ❧ Later, the country was known simply as Misr which means 'country', a name still in use by Egyptians for their nation in the present day.

Timeline

☞ Egypt thrived for thousands of years as an independent nation whose culture was famous for great cultural advances in every area of human knowledge, from the arts to science to technology and religion.

☞ The great monuments which Egypt is still celebrated for reflect the depth and grandeur of Egyptian culture which influenced so many ancient civilizations, among them Greece and Rome.



Write down THREE
interesting events
with dates!

Timeline



ANCIENT EGYPT



2650 BC

The first pyramid, a step pyramid, is built



1670 BC

The Hyksos people invade and introduce the chariot



1539-1070 BC

This was the time of the 'New Kingdom'



332 BC

Alexander the Great conquered Egypt and founded Alexandria



3100 BC

King Narmer unites Egypt and records it on the Narmer Palette (above)



2250 BC

Egyptians introduce Gods for all areas of their lives



1648 BC

Nilometers were invented to track the height of the Nile



1070 BC

Egyptians joined Ra and Amun to make Amun-Ra; King of the Gods



330 BC

Queen Cleopatra kills herself. Romans conquer Egypt

Some Gods of Ancient Egypt



Anubis



Thoth



Bastet



Horus



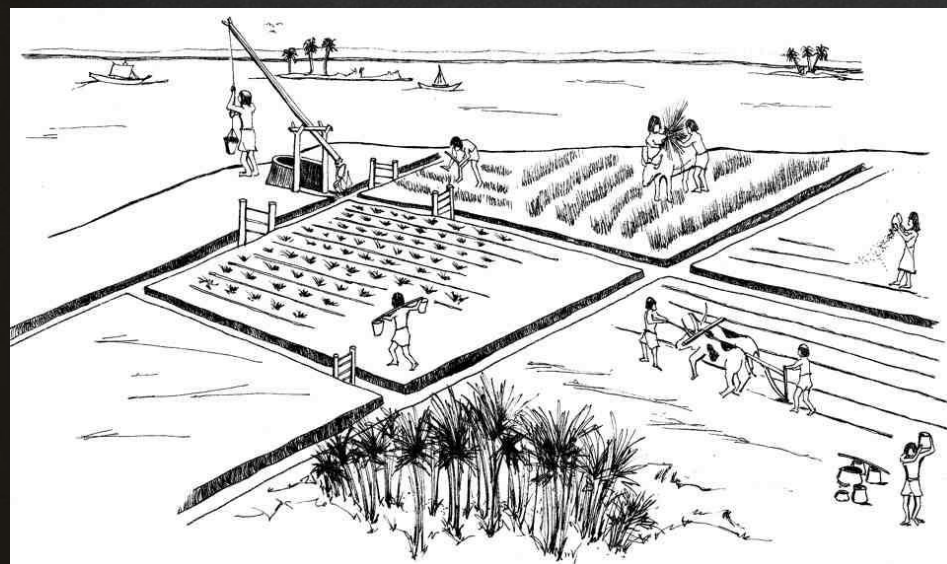
Hathor

www.communication4all.co.uk

Pictures used available from Miles Kelly Clip Art, Dorling Kindersley, and www.istockphoto.com



Settling the Land



- ❧ Evidence of overgrazing of cattle, on the land which is now the Sahara Desert, has been dated to about 8,000 BCE.
 - ❧ This evidence, along with artifacts discovered, points to a thriving agricultural civilization in the region at that time.
- ❧ As the land was mostly arid even then, hunter-gathering nomads sought the cool of the water source of the Nile River Valley and began to settle there sometime prior to 5500 BCE.
- ❧ Organized farming began in the region c. 5000 BCE and communities known as the Badari culture began to flourish alongside the river.
- ❧ The Badari were followed by the Amratian, the Gerzean, and the Naqada cultures, all of which contributed significantly to the development of what became Egyptian civilization.

Basic Beliefs

Religion of the Egyptians

Week Two



Religion was Important!



☞ Egyptian Mythology was the belief structure and underlying form of ancient Egyptian culture from at least c. 4000 BCE (as evidenced by burial practices and tomb paintings) to 30 CE with the death of Cleopatra VII, the last of the Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt.

☞ Every aspect of life in ancient Egypt was informed by the stories which related the creation of the world and the sustaining of that world by the gods.



Spread of Egyptian Culture



- ☞ Egyptian religious beliefs influenced other cultures through transmission via trade and became especially wide-spread after the opening of the Silk Road in 130 BCE as the Egyptian port city of Alexandria was an important commercial center.
- ☞ The significance of Egyptian mythology to other cultures was in its development of the concept of an eternal life after death, benevolent deities, and reincarnation.

Human Existence



- ❧ Human existence was understood by the Egyptians as only a small segment of an eternal journey presided over and orchestrated by supernatural forces in the forms of the many deities which comprised the Egyptian pantheon.
- ❧ One's earthly life was not, however, simply a prologue to something greater but was a part of the entire journey.
- ❧ The Egyptian concept of an afterlife was a mirror-world of one's life on earth (specifically, one's life in Egypt) and one needed to live that life well if one hoped to enjoy the rest of one's eternal journey.

The Gods

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GODS



Osiris
Judge



Sobek
Protection



Ra
Sun



Shu
Air, Light



Bes
Children



Ptah
Time



Anubis
Underworld



Hapi
The Nile



Seth
Chaos



Khnum
Creation



Horus
Sky



Thoth
Science

Most Egyptian gods represented one principle aspect of the world:

Ra was the sun god, for example, and Nut was goddess of the sky.

The characters of the gods were not clearly defined.

Most were generally benevolent but their favor could not be counted on.

Some gods were spiteful and had to be placated. Some, such as Neith, Sekhmet, and Mut, had changeable characters.

Write down 5 examples!

The god Seth, who murdered his brother Osiris, embodied the malevolent and disordered aspects of the world

Appearance

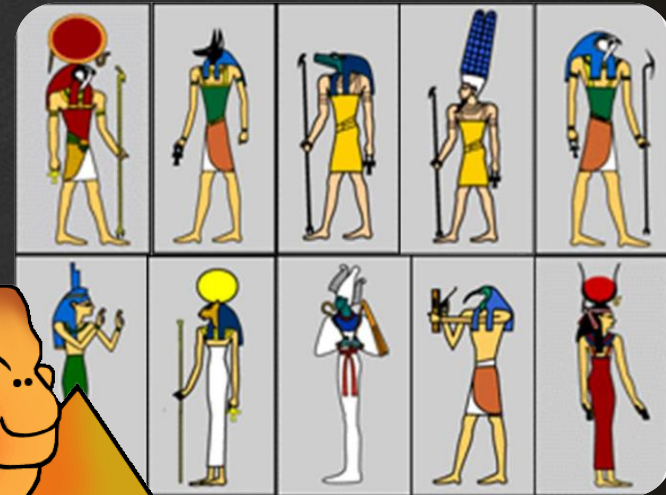
The physical form taken on by the various Egyptian gods was usually a combination of human and animal, and many were associated with one or more animal species.

And an animal could express a deity's mood. When a god was angry, she might be portrayed as a ferocious lioness; when gentle, a cat.

☞ The convention was to depict the animal gods with a human body and an animal head.

☞ The opposite convention was sometimes used for representations of a king, who might be portrayed with a human head and a lion's body, as in the case of the Sphinx.

☞ Sphinxes might also appear with other heads, particularly those of rams or falcons.

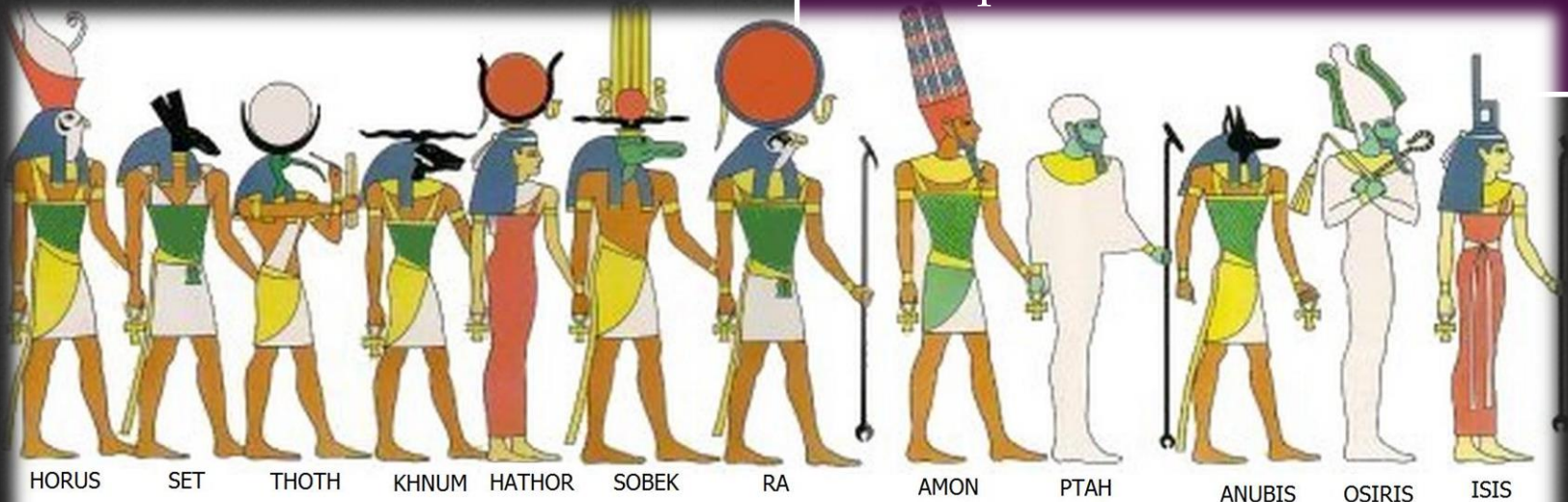


- ☞ Research the gods and goddesses of Ancient Egypt. Find the TWO you can relate the most to, and complete a profile.
- ☞ Take a personality quiz! Make it fun!



Your Job

- ☞ Example : NUT
- ☞ Mother of Osiris, Isis, Seth, and Nephthys,
- ☞ Usually shown in human form; her elongated body symbolizing the sky. Each limb represents a cardinal point as her body stretches over the earth.
- ☞ Swallowed the setting sun (Ra) each evening and gave birth to him each morning.
- ☞ Often depicted on the ceilings of tombs, on the inside lid of coffins, and on the ceilings of temples.



HORUS

SET

THOTH

KHNUM

HATHOR

SOBEK

RA

AMON

PTAH

ANUBIS

OSIRIS

ISIS

Creation Story



Humanity's Origins
Week Three

The Beginnings of the World



<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/gods/story/main.html> -

Story of Creation according to the Egyptians

Read-

http://www.ancient.eu/Egyptian_Mythology/

Write:

Summary with FULL CITATION

Last, First. "Title". Website. Publisher, Publish Date. Medium. Access Date.



Egyptian Myths



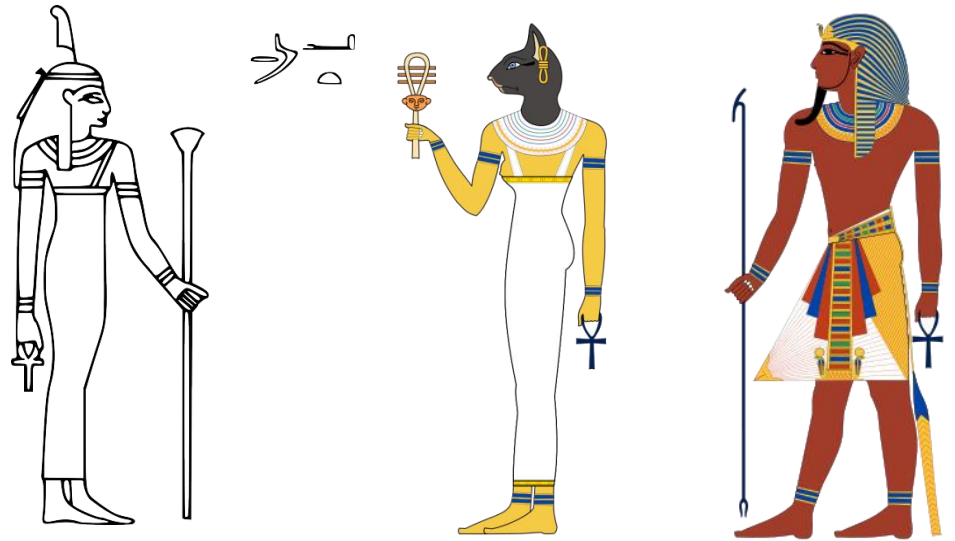
Week Four

Read a sampling of Egyptian Myths

What do they have in common?

<http://www.egyptianmyths.net/section-myths.htm>

EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGY



- Read the article given to you (or choose one from the link in the previous slide). Summarize it quickly in your notebook. What **THEMES** or **MESSAGES** did it have?

- Then find a partner who read a **DIFFERENT** myth. Share your summaries. What do the myths have in common? Write a list of similarities and differences in your notebook.

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- *Egyptianmyths.net*

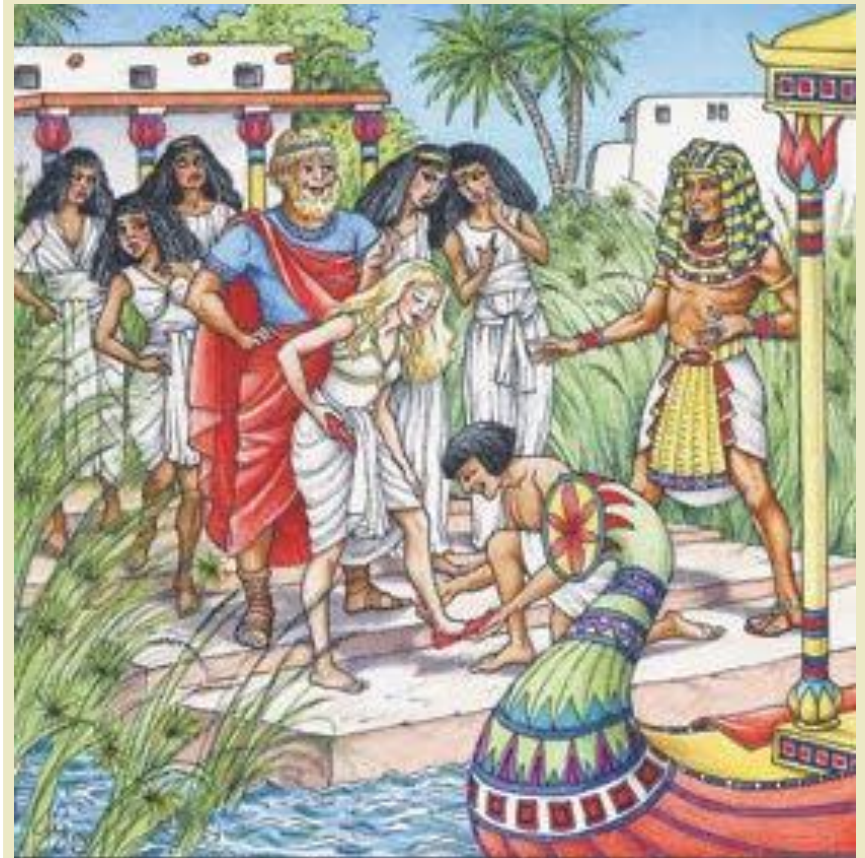
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MYTH OF THE WEEK: THE GIRL WITH THE ROSE RED SLIPPERS

- Read this Egyptian myth with a partner.
- Then, compare and contrast the story with one of the versions of “Cinderella” that you know.
- Use a graphic organizer to help you
 - T-Chart
 - Venn Diagram



Works Cited



- ❧ “Ancient Egyptian Gods and Goddesses”. *Discoveringegypt.com*. Eyelid Productions, n.d. Web. 15 September 2015.
- ❧ Mark, Joshua. “Ancient Egypt”. *Ancient.eu*. Ancient History Encyclopedia, 2 September 2009. Web. 15 September 2015.