

Egyptian God and Goddesses Notes

- The ancient Egyptians believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each one had their own **role** to play maintaining **peace** and **harmony** across the land.
- They worshipped these gods so that life continued to go **smoothly**.
- There were many gods. Some gods offered **protection**, took part in **creation**, or represented **plants** or **animals**.
- Ra= **Sun** god; most important god of all gods. It was believed that the goddess **Nut** gave birth to the **Sun** in the morning and swallowed it at night. Egyptians believed that all pharaohs were **descendants** of Ra.
- Anubis= god of **embalming**. He looked over all dead **mummified** Egyptians and invented the **mummification** process. He had a **human** body with a jackal's head. Embalmers often wore a **mask** of Anubis when at work.
- Osiris=first **pharaoh** and god of the **Underworld**. He taught the Egyptians to **farm**.
- Bes=God of **family** and **health**. He was favored by **pregnant** women and **appeared as a dwarf**. He supposedly protected people from **nightmares**.
- Ma'at=Goddess of the **truth**. She wore a feather on her head and dressed with **feathers**.
- Thoth=God of **wisdom**. He is often shown with the head of a **ibis** bird. He also could be shown as an ibis or a baboon.
- Ptah=creator god. He supposedly created the **gods** and molded the other gods out of **precious metals**. He married the goddess **Sekhmet** who had the head of a lion.

- Amun= king of the **gods**. It is believed that he and Ra joined forces and became Amun-Ra. His name means the “hidden **one**”.
- Hathor=goddess of **festivals**. She is associated with **love**, **happiness**, music and festivals. She was mother to **pharaohs**.
- Seth=wicked god of the **sky/chaos**. He was the most **evil** God of all the gods. He was the god of **chaos**, **confusion** and violent weather. He murdered his brother, **Osiris**, and then scattered him all over the land. He appears with a **forked** tail and cloven **hooves** with large **pricked** ears and nose on a **monstrous** head.
- Khnum=god of the **Nile** River. Khnum was in charge of the river and **Inundation**.
- Horus=god of kingship. He was the child of Osiris and Isis. He became the divine **protector** and god of every **pharaoh**. He lost his eye when he battled **Seth**. Thoth healed the eye and it became a symbol of **healing** and **power**.
- Sobek=**crocodile** god
- Bast= Egyptian **cat** goddess
- Isis=**mother** goddess
- Nephtys= goddess of the **dead**.

The Weighing of the Heart Ceremony

- The Egyptians loved their **gods** and were not **afraid** of them like other ancient civilizations.
- There was one exception to this rule. The god **Ammut**, also called the devourer was feared by the Egyptians.

- The Egyptians believed that if you did something bad your **heart** would be heavy and **Ammut** would suddenly appear and eat you up.
- Ammut had a big part in the weighing of the heart **ceremony**.
- When you died, the ancient Egyptians believed you traveled to an **afterlife** where you spent **eternity**.
- You had to earn your way there. To enter your afterlife, you had to have a light **heart**. Light hearts were earned from a lifetime of doing **good deeds**.
- After you died, the ancient Egyptians believed your heart had to be **weighed**. It had to be lighter than a **feather**. To find out if your heart qualified for the trip to the afterlife, your spirit had to enter the Hall of **Maat**.
- You had to plead your **innocence** to the Gods. Then the God **Anubis** would lead you into the Hall of **Maat** and weighed your **heart**.
- The God **Thoth** recorded the findings.
- If your heart was light, you were considered to be **free** and **pure** from sin. This meant you had passed the test and entered your **afterlife**. This was led by **Horus** and **Osiris**. BUT, if your heart was **light** because of your deeds were dreadful, the God **Ammut** would suddenly **appear**... and **eat** you up!