



ANCIENT EGYPT

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What Was a Pharaoh?



- A pharaoh was the most important and powerful person in Egypt.
- The pharaoh was the political and religious leader of the ancient Egyptian people.
- The people of ancient Egypt considered the pharaoh to be a half-human, half-god.

Writing (Hieroglyphics)

In **ancient Egypt**, scribes wrote on papyrus. Papyrus was a thick type of paper made from reeds that grew along **the Nile**. Scribes were mostly men who went to a special school to learn to write.

Scribes wrote using **hieroglyphs**. **Hieroglyphs** were used for religious texts and inscriptions on statues and **tombs**. They were also used for counting crops and animals so that the right taxes could be taken.



A Pharaoh's Death



The **ancient Egyptians** built the pyramids as resting places for the **pharaohs**.

When a **pharaoh** died, priests would prepare their bodies with a process called mummification.

The **pharaoh** was then placed in a **tomb**, often under a pyramid, with their most treasured possessions. The **ancient Egyptians** believed that these treasures would help them in the afterlife.

Mummies in Ancient Egyptian Times

The process of mummification was thought to protect the body and soul on its journey to the afterlife. Here are some images associated with mummification in ancient Egyptian times. Select the correct label for these pictures from the drop-down menu.



Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt

The **ancient Egyptians** worshipped many gods and goddesses who were responsible for different aspects of life and death.

Horus	God of the sky. The ancient Egyptians believed a pharaoh was a god-like living version of Horus.
Thoth	God of wisdom. He is believed to have invented hieroglyphics and kept a record of all knowledge.
Ma'at	Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and be fair and honest.
Osiris	God of the dead.
Anubis	God of mummification. He weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If the heart was lighter, the person could pass to the afterlife.

Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Egypt	The country on the continent of Africa where the ancient Egyptian civilisation was created.
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that consists of pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.
irrigation	A system of canals or channels dug by the Egyptians to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would naturally reach.
the Nile	A river that runs through Egypt . It was essential to life in ancient Egypt .
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt .
tomb	A sealed room where a person was placed after death.