

A is for Ancient Egypt

*An Alphabetical
Adventure
through Ancient
Egypt*

By the 6th Grade
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Team
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Table of Contents

Afterlife	4	Luxor	32
Akhenaten	5	Mastaba	33
Ankh	6	Monuments	34
Archeology	7	Mummy	35
Beetle	8	Nefertiti	36
Burial Rituals	9	Nile	37
Canopic Jars	10	Obelisk	38
Cats	11	Osiris	39
Cobra and Curse	12	Pharaoh	40
Death Mask	13	Pyramid	41
Egypt	14	Queens	42
Egyptologists	15	Questions and Answers	43
Embalming	16	Ramses the Great	44
Feather of Truth	17	Religion	45
Fun and Games	18	Rosetta Stone	46
Giza	19	Scribe	47
Gods and Goddesses	20	Sphinx	48
Hatsheput	21	Tombs and Thieves	49
Hieroglyphics	22	Tutankhamen	50
Howard Carter	23	Ushabti	51
Immortality	24	Valley of the Kings	52
Inundation	25	Wedjat Eye	53
Jean Francis Champollion	26	Women of Egypt	54
Jewelry	27	X-Ray	55
Ka	28	Your Egypt	56
Khafre and Khufu	29	Young Egyptians	57
Kingdoms	30	Zahi Hawass	58
Limestone	31	Step Pyramid of Zoser	59

Prologue

by Maria

Editor

Welcome to our book on ancient Egypt! As you read, young scholars unlock the mysteries of Egypt's past by exploring everything from the pyramids to X-rays. This book will also give you a little glimpse of what life is like in modern day Egypt.

This book is a product of several months of hardwork and dedication. The authors of this book conducted extensive research, wrote multiple drafts, illustrated several drawings, and peer-critiqued their work. I am so impressed by the work they produced and I know you will be too! Enjoy your journey through ancient Egypt which begins with the **afterlife...**



A is for Afterlife by Marlie

The Egyptian afterlife was seen as a perfect existence to an ideal version of Egypt. The afterlife was a place of delight and peace. The dead spent eternity in the Field of Reeds, known in ancient Egypt as Aaru, after passing the final judgement in the Hall of Ma'at. Those whose hearts did not match the weight of the feather of Ma'at, do to their sins, were excluded and had no chance of purgatory. Only the ancient Egyptians who had a proper funeral and mummification were sent to the eternal life.

Following the ordeal in the Hall of Truths, the deceased was welcomed into the Egyptian afterlife, by the god, Osiris. The religion of the ancient Egyptians was extremely important to them and their beliefs in various gods and goddesses were fundamental to their religion. To understand the Egyptian afterlife, it helps to be aware of their beliefs and religion. When they died, all Egyptians would put belongings in their tombs that they would need in the afterlife, such as food, clothes, paintings, furniture, jewelry, tools, statues, ornaments, and trading goods. The Egyptians would put everyday items in the tombs. The Egyptians thought that when family and friends would go to the afterlife, they would live the same lives they lived in Egypt, just in a different world. Some Egyptians were buried together in tombs, such as family, so they could go to the afterlife together.

Egyptians also made drawings of any item that was too big to fit in the tombs, which they considered would be just as good as the actual item. Sometimes, the items are just the right size, but were really valuable, and they wanted to keep it somewhere safer. These items were also carved on to the walls of the tombs.



A is for Akhenaten *by Elizabeth*

Akhenaten was a pharaoh in ancient Egypt who ruled in the New Kingdom for 18 years, from about 1353 B.C.-1336 B.C. Akhenaten's parents were Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye. Akhenaten was not the crown prince because he was not the oldest child of his parents. The crown prince, Tutmosé, was going to get the crown but he died while he and Akhenaten were children, so Akhenaten got the crown. In Akhenaten's early life, he changed his name from Amenhotep IV meaning "Amen is at peace" to Akhenaten. Akhenaten, according to different resources, means "He who is effective for Aten," "Effective spirit of Aten," "Beloved of Aten," or "Servant of Aten." Aten is one of the sun gods of ancient Egypt.

Akhenaten married one of the most famous Egyptian queens, Nefertiti. Akhenaten gave her the most freedom any pharaoh had ever given a queen. He allowed her to dress like a man, make important decisions, and rule beside him as his favorite queen. He might have depended on her so much because it is believed he had deformities. Akhenaten may have had a disease called Marfan's Syndrome because when he reigned he was depicted as having a pot belly, heavy thighs, pronounced collarbones, a short torso, and a long neck, head, arms, and feet.

Akhenaten did not believe in polytheism, like most Egyptians. He believed in one god, Aten or Aten-Ra. In his 18 year reign, Akhenaten tried and almost succeeded in bringing Egypt to worship only one god. He closed down temples, exiled priests, and moved his capital city to a new city named Amarna to worship Aten/Aten-Ra.

Akhenaten made many changes to art as well. Before his reign, Egyptian art was less realistic and the pharaohs were depicted more like gods than like people. Akhenaten changed art to make it more natural. They were also more detailed in the background and showed the daily lives of people. Akhenaten showed himself in ways that made him unique to other pharaohs. He depicted himself as the same height as his subjects and in scenes with his family.

After Akhenaten's death, everything went back to normal. Egyptologists debate whether Akhenaten's successor was Smenkhkare or Tutankhamen. Akhenaten's mummy has not been found and a lot of artifacts from his time were destroyed by his successors who wanted to rid all memory of him.



A is for Ankh

by Liam

The Ankh, an ancient symbol, had many names and meanings. The Ankh not only represents "Life," but "Worldly life." It is also known as the "Crux Ansata" which is Latin for cross with handle. It represents the sun setting over the horizon and Ra, the sun god getting swallowed by Nut, the sky goddess. The Ankh also meant mirror. Not much is known about who created the Ankh but it was said to be offered to Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti by the hands at the end of the rays on the sun disk. The Ankh was often shown being offered to the kings or god's lips as the symbol for the breath of eternal life.

The Ankh could only be held by certain people. The Ankh, usually held with the scepter, was carried by gods and goddesses such as Ptah, Seneb, Sobek, Imhotep, Osiris, Ra, Hathor, Anubis, and Anket. The pharaohs and queens were also sometimes shown with the Ankh. The gods had it to show they command the powers of life and death. They also had the Ankh to distinguish themselves from mere Egyptian mortals. It gave them the power to take or give life from lesser Egyptians. From at least the Middle Kingdom on they used the Ankh shape as mirrors because life and death mirror each other. Mirrors were used for purposes of divination. The Ankh was used for funeral ceremonies as well. The dead had it when they would board the boat of the sun god Ra.

The Ankh has a very particular shape. The Ankh simply looks like a cross with an oval at the top. It was either made from wood, gold, platinum, or silver. It was traditionally colored gold, the color of the sun, but most of Ankh jewelry was created with silver, pewter, and wood. Its key-like shape was supposed to unlock death itself and the circle on the top stands for what has no beginning or end. The cross represents the state of death. It was the connection from the earth to the afterlife. The Ankh's appearance is similar to the Christian cross in many ways. If you put them next to each other you will see how alike they are. The Ankh appears frequently in tomb paintings and other Egyptian art.

Imhotep, the physician to Pharaoh Djoser's family, had a big part in the Ankh's originality. In 3,000 B.C. the symbol was associated with Imhotep. Long after death, Imhotep was made the god of medicine and healing in ancient Egypt. He carried the Ankh to define himself as one of the great gods of Egypt. The Ankh was possibly originally a representation of a sandal strap or a belt buckle.



A is for Archeology *by Franky*



Archeology is the study of past human societies. Archeologists are people that study ancient artifacts and ancient people. After they find artifacts, they analyze them. Archeologists are also anthropologists.

Archaeologists excavate to find artifacts. They find a lot of stones and pieces of vases. It takes a long time to find artifacts. It takes a long time because the artifacts they are excavating have been buried in the ground for many years.

Archaeologists use many tools. They use shovels to dig up artifacts, cameras to take pictures of the artifacts, gloves to protect their hands, and brushes to clean off the artifacts.

There are about six types of archaeologists. One type is an underwater archaeologist. They are scuba divers and archaeologists. Underwater archaeologists find ships, aeroplanes, and rock shelters underwater. These are important findings because we learn about how life was in the past and learn about something we didn't know about. Archeology helps people learn about history.

B is for Beetle

by Julia

The scarab, an amulet based on a dung beetle, was very famous in ancient Egypt because it was one of the most important religious symbols. The scarab served as a symbol of regeneration and creation. The scarab symbolized the sun god, Khepera which means, "He who has come forth." The god Khepera, has the head of a scarab and a body of a human.

The scarab represents one of the many species of a dung beetle. These beetles were famous for rolling dung into balls. The dung beetle laid eggs in the burrows until they hatched. When the eggs hatched they were believed to worship the god Khepera.

The scarab was a good luck charm in ancient Egypt. It was placed on mummies for protection against evil. The winged-scarab is believed to bring intelligence to the heart not the brain. This charm was used to ward off evil and bring good luck. On the underside of the scarab, there were written names and drawn pictures.

There were many charms that were in ancient Egypt. Other popular charms and amulets were the Wedjat Eye, the Eye of Horus, and a fish amulet to protect children from drowning in the Nile River. There were some scarab rings that had good luck designs made of soapstone. The winged-scarab beetle was the most important amulet, because it was believed to be worn to scare off evil and bring good luck to whoever was wearing it.



B is for Burial Rituals by Lucio

Ancient Egyptians performed many different types of burial rituals. In order to become immortal, they held ceremonies and recited spells or prayers. The ancient Egyptians strongly believed that burial rituals were necessary for the afterlife.

The journey to the afterlife started with the mummification of the body. Priests were powerful back then and lived under the power of pharaohs. They believed that people needed their bodies in the afterlife which is why they casted spells and mummified people. After a body was mummified, another ceremony was performed called the "Mouth Open Ceremony." "The Mouth Open Ceremony" was believed to bring sensory life back to the deceased form, allowing it to see, smell, breathe, hear, and eat. This allowed the deceased to enjoy the food and the offerings brought to his/her tomb daily.

Ancient Egyptians were buried with goods they needed in the afterlife. These burial goods consisted of everyday objects such as combs, bowls, and food. Wealthier Egyptians were buried with jewelry, furniture, and other valuables. Ceremonies and the afterlife were very important to the ancient Egyptians.



C is for Canopic Jars

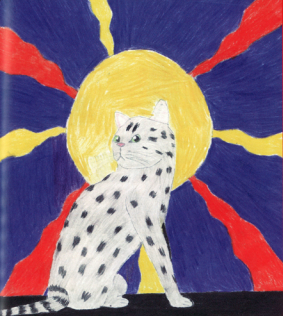
by Xenia

Ancient Egyptians used canopic jars during the process of mummification for organs that were needed in the afterlife. These organs were a person's stomach, liver, lungs, and intestines. They were usually carved from limestone and pottery.

Each canopic jar represented a god. The jackal-headed jar represented the East and was protected by the goddess Nieth, the falcon-headed jar, represented the West and was protected by the goddess Seilket, the baboon-headed jar represented the North and was protected by the goddess Hapi, the human-headed jar represented the South and was protected by the goddess Isis.

When the embalmers were done putting the organs in the jars, the jars were placed in a chest and buried in the same tomb as the mummy. Egyptians thought the body would decay faster if the organs weren't removed because of the moisture. Everything was removed from the body except the heart, because the Egyptians believed that in the afterlife it would be weighed to see whether or not a person had led a good life. This process was called the Weighing of the Heart.





C is for Cats by *Quintin*

Bastet was the goddess of cats and the daughter of the sun god Ra. She was first worshiped in her city, Bubastis around 3,200 B.C. Every year on October 31, there was a cat festival to celebrate Bastet. Bastet also symbolized the moon and was the goddess of pleasure and protection. Bastet had the head of a cat and the body of a woman. Often cats were mummified, like people, and were put in cat shaped coffins and sold to people. People would then offer them up to Bastet.

Cats were the most important animal in ancient Egypt. Every house had a cat. If a pet cat died, a whole household would shave off their eyebrows in sadness as a mark of respect. Cats were also treated by the Egyptians. One reason why cats were treated and thought of as gods, was because they were beautiful and strong. They also kept themselves clean and were considered protectors because they kept crops free of pests and hunted poisonous snakes. Cats were so important to the ancient Egyptians that killing one, even by accident, meant death. This is why cats were an important animal in ancient Egypt.

C is for Cobra and Curse

by Ryan

Cobras were usually a part of curses especially when it was for a pharaoh. Some people thought King Tut's tomb was cursed because Howard Carter's, the leader of the dig, pet canary was eaten by a cobra. That made the workers fear the curse.

There were some odd occurrences after King Tut's tomb was discovered. Lord Carnarvon, the sponsor of King Tut's dig, was found dead after he got a mosquito bite. It is believed that Carnarvon shaved the bite which led to an infection. People say it was close to where King Tut had a lesion.

Sir Bruce Ingham, who was a friend of Howard Carter, got a paper weight that was made out of a man's hand which had a scarab bracelet that said "Whoever disturbs my body shall be cursed to fire, water, and pestilence."

Many of the workers didn't believe in the curse but, when some people started to die, the others started to believe in it. Howard Carter didn't believe in the curse he only died from Lymphoma at 64 years old. However, there were only eight people who died but Howard wasn't one of them. Some people say they died because the tomb had a lot of poisonous fungus. The cobra was a big part of Egypt and their kings. The cobra represents how the king strikes fast and hard.

Another story is that a worker that helped make the Great Pyramid put a curse on his grave that says "He who disturbs my grave shall be eaten by the hippopotamus, snake, and the alligator." His wife had the same but she added the scorpion.





D is for Death Mask

by Eric

A death mask protected the face of a mummy. A beautiful death mask, however, did more than just protect a mummy's face, it could also act as a substitute if the mummy's real face was lost or damaged. When a dead person's spirit returned to the tomb, it could recognize a mummy by its mask. One of the most famous works of art in the world is the stunning gold death mask found on King Tutankhamen's mummy.

The process for making the death mask was very complicated. The masks of pharaohs were made from solid gold and contained beautiful gem stones. Less important mummies wore masks made from a variety of materials. Some of these materials included, cartonnage, a sort of paper mache, linen, scrap papyrus stuck together with plaster, and resin. The wet cartonnage was molded to the mummy perfectly and the death mask was painted in rich colors.

Ancient Egyptian masks were usually made with perfect features and a calm noble expression. This is different from ancient Greek mummies who wore personal masks with realistic features and vividly painted details. These masks seemed to represent real people.

E is for Egypt *by Julian*

Egypt is located in Africa and is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea on the north and by the Red Sea on the east. The longest river in the world, the Nile, goes right through it. The average temperature in the winter is between 55 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit, in the fall it is between 80 and 90 degrees, and in the summer it can rise up to 110 degrees.

Ancient Egyptians are known for their pyramids. Pyramids were built to bury the bodies of kings and queens and the people who built them. In Egypt, there is a pyramid called the Great Pyramid. When building The Great Pyramid, laborers had to push blocks that weighed more than two elephants. The Great Pyramid was built by Pharaoh Khufu, and is located in Giza. It was built in 2550 B.C.

Many ancient Egyptians were polytheistic. Polytheistic means that they believed in many different gods and goddesses. There is a myth about how the first gods were created. The myth goes that one day a hill rose up and it was called Ben-Ben. Then the first god, Atum, spat and coughed up Shu, the god of Air, and Tefnut, the goddess of moisture. Shu and Tefnut had two children Geb, the god the earth, and Nut, the goddess of the sky. Nut and Geb had four children Osiris, Isis, Seth, and Nephthys. Osiris was the king of the earth and Isis was queen. Seth was jealous so he killed Osiris. Osiris and Isis had one child named Horus. Horus battled against Seth and won and Osiris became ruler of the underworld.

Egyptians buried their dead bodies in small pits in the desert. The heat and dryness of the sand dehydrated the bodies quickly creating well-preserved bodies. Later Egyptian people were put in coffins to protect them from wild animals in the desert. Egyptians believed that people needed their bodies in the afterlife so they mummified them and placed them in coffins.

Education was also an important part of Egyptian society. Egyptians believed that by becoming educated, they could move up to a more respected position in the society. Egyptian writing is known as hieroglyphics, which are little pictures instead of the letters in the alphabet.



E is for Egyptologist

by Joe



Egyptology is the study of ancient Egypt. The people who study ancient Egypt are called Egyptologists. The beginning of Egyptology was when Thutmose IV restored the Sphinx. Howard Carter found the tomb of King Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings. Zahi Hawass is the most famous Egyptologist of modern times. Egyptologists have been around for as long as the pharaohs themselves.

In order to become an Egyptologist, you must go through college and major in archeology. Then you must get a masters degree in Egyptology, learn how to read in Hieroglyphics, and publish a book. Egyptologists must also learn how to speak other languages, such as French and Spanish because the books they read have not been translated into English. If you want to become an Egyptologist, you must also teach for a while. Egyptologists don't always work in Egypt. Egyptologists often work as curators in museums like the British museum.

It takes a lot of hard work to become an Egyptologist. The daily life of an Egyptologist is very busy. If you are successful, you will get calls from many museums asking you to examine the artifacts they have found. People from the news might interview you or you could give them a tour of the pyramids. An Egyptologist is allowed to have some fun, such as being on T.V. and meeting important people. Who knows, you could even have your own T.V show! If you become an Egyptologist you will come face to face with mummies and learn the hidden secrets of the Sphinx and the Rosetta Stone!

E is for Embalming

by Morgan

The embalming process is a very complicated process. Embalming was discovered by ancient Egyptians stumbling across a body that had been buried in the past. They noticed that the desert sand had dried the body, therefore making it look life like and at the same time, it was preserved for eternity.

To begin, the embalmers took the body into the *libu* tent or the "Tent of Purification." In this tent, they washed the body with good smelling palm wine then rinsed it with water that had been brought up from the Nile river. Next, one of the men cut a slit on the left side of the body and removed the internal organs. They removed them because they are the first things that would decay or rot and disintegrate inside the body. Then the body was filled with *nartou*, a very dry salt, so it would dry out. The person's heart was not removed because it was "The center of intelligence and feeling," that he or she would need in the afterlife.

After all the internal organs were out, an outstretched hook was inserted through the nose to pull out the brain. Then the body was stuffed with *nartou*. The salt dried out the body just like it dried out the organs.

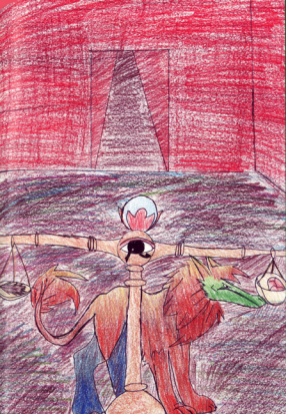
The ancient Egyptians thought it was very important for the body to look life-like for the afterlife. Forty days later, the body was washed again with Nile water and was covered with oils to help the skin stay elastic like. Once the dehydrated organs were wrapped in linen and placed back in the body, the body was stuffed with dry objects so it would stay life-like and dry. The body once again was covered with good smelling oils.

The reason embalmers took the time to complete this process was so the pharaohs would look-life like when they got the chance to rule in the afterlife. Following the embalming process, the body was wrapped in linen, put in a small coffin, and then put into a larger one. Lastly, the body was carried to a funeral, buried, and placed in a tomb, *masatba*, or pyramid.



F is for Feather of Truth

by Chloë



The Feather of Truth is a burial ritual that measures the good and bad parts of someone's life. A giant gold scale would weigh the dead person's heart against the deity Ma'at, the goddess of truth and justice. Ma'at represented the feather, the symbol of truth, order, and justice. If the heart balanced equally against the feather, then the dead would be allowed a place to live in the afterlife.

If the scale did not balance equally and the heart was heavy with the weight of bad deeds, the balance would sink low to the ground. The heart would then be grabbed and eaten by a terrifying beast that sat waiting and ready by the base of the scales. Ammit, also known as "The Gobbler," had the head of a crocodile, the front legs and body of large cat, usually a lion or leopard, and the back legs of a hippo.

The deceased also had to name each of the divine judges to the gods and goddess and promise that he or she had not done anything bad such as, raise their voice or steal. This was called "A Negative Confession." If found innocent, the dead was declared "True of Voice" and allowed to continue into the afterlife.

F is for Fun and Games

by Franky

Ancient Egyptians had a lot of fun things to do and a lot of games to play. They played music and had a lot of instruments. They also had a lot of games, such as board games, ball games, toys with wheels, drawings, and crafts.

Egyptians played a lot of music for rituals and other events. They had instruments such as harps, drums, and rattles. Dancers would dance to the music. The dancers danced in religious ceremonies and also to everyday music the Egyptians played. The rattles they used were for religious ceremonies. If they weren't playing music, they played board and ball games.

The Egyptians played plenty of games. They played board games like Senet and they played ball games like catch. Senet is a board game that is played with dice. They also played a ball game where a friend would jump on another friend's back and throw it to the other two friends. Overall they had lots of games.

The little kids played with pull toys. They had pull toys like a wooden horse with wheels attached to it with a string. They played with other string toys. One game they played included attaching a string to a doll's mouth and pulling it until the bottom jaw went up. They also played with dolls and the dolls were used as boyfriends and girlfriends.

Egyptians also liked to draw. The pictures that the Egyptians drew were very elegant. They were scenes of religious events or normal events like birth. The hieroglyphics were also a type of drawing. They also had crafts like clay models and statues that were very beautiful.





G is for Giza

By Sofia

Giza, a city in northeast Egypt, is a place where history, culture, and mystery is practically in the air. Adventure waits around the corner in this city of treasure. Although there are golden treasures hidden everywhere in Giza, the real treasure that archaeologists are looking for is knowledge. The knowledge of what happened years ago in ancient Egypt and why the Egyptians did what they did. What was the purpose of their actions and most of all, what happened to the ancient Egyptians?

The things we don't know about Giza can go on forever, but what we do know about Giza brings to a whole new level of understanding to what happened so many years ago. Giza is the home of the Giza Plateau, the Sphinx, and of course, the great pyramids of Egypt. All of these create what Giza is today.

The Pyramids of Giza, one of the seven wonders of the world, hold the most intriguing secrets a person could know. The Great Pyramid built by Khafu, the most famous of the great three in Egypt, is well-known around the world for its size and architectural sophistication. The pyramid is currently 745 feet long on each side. Today it stands at a grand height of 449 feet tall. To build this pyramid, they used up about 2.3 million blocks of stone and took approximately 20-25 years to complete the pyramid of about 13 acres. This enduring pyramid is a crucial key to learning more about ancient Egypt.

Giza's mesmerizing pyramids and outlooks of sand beyond the eye can see is not the only well-known trademark in Giza. The Sphinx is also a historical and cultural monument in Giza. It stands at 65 feet tall, 200 feet wide, and is made completely out of sandstone. It was built in the 4th dynasty. It symbolizes a lion-bodied deity with the head of a human. The complexity in which the Sphinx was made can be seen from a tall landscape called the Giza Plateau. The Giza Plateau is a huge landscape in Giza from which you can see the great pyramids and the funeral complex that goes with it from Khafu, Khafra, and Menkaure. It is just south of modern day Cairo on the western side of the Nile.

Modern day Giza is both similar and different than the what Giza was so many years ago. It is the third largest city in Egypt and is located on the west bank of the Nile river. Its population size, about 2,681,863 people in 2006 made it the second largest suburb in the world. Giza's nickname is "Cairo's Twin" because of the similarity between the two cities.

G is for Gods and Goddesses

by Talahni

The ancient Egyptians worshiped more than 1,000 gods and goddesses. The ancient Egyptians did different acts to show they worshiped the gods. They played music for them and they also treated them like royalty. Some temples in Egypt have statues of gods and goddesses. The temple of Isis is the oldest temple of all time and it still stands today.

There were a lot of different types of gods and goddesses. Gods and goddesses were usually animal or human or sometimes half human and half animal. Egyptians believed that there were gods and goddesses for all aspects of life. Some examples of gods and goddesses were, Atum, the very first god, Geb, the god of earth, Nut, the god of the sky, Hapy, the god of the Nile, Osiris, god of the underworld, and Isis, the goddess of magic and protection. These gods controlled these aspects of Egyptian life.

Each god was represented by different symbols. These symbols sometimes represented events. For example, the Wedjat Eye represented the battle of Horus between Seth and Horus. Horus won the battle but lost his eye. Therefore, the Wedjat Eye was a symbol of protection, royal power, and good health. Other gods had symbols of animals such as Baset, who was represented by a cat, and Sobek, who was represented by a crocodile.

There were a lot of important gods and goddesses but the most important two gods were Osiris and Atum. Osiris was the king of the earth. Isis, his wife and sister, was the goddess of magic and protection. His brother Seth was jealous of him because he wanted to be the king of earth. As a result of his jealousy, Seth killed Osiris and buried his body in 14 different spots. When Osiris died, he became god of the underworld.

Another important god was Atum. Atum was the first god to exist on earth. When he coughed he spit out Shu, the god of air, and Tefnut, the goddess of moisture. He was also the god of creation who created divine and human beings. Gods and goddesses were really important to the people of ancient Egypt and many people revolved their lives and beliefs around these gods and goddesses.



H is for Hatsheput

by Dimitri

Queen Hatshepsut was the first female pharaoh in ancient Egypt. She was born into a royal family and her father was Tuthmosis I and he ruled for about 12-14 years. Hatshepsut ruled during the New Kingdom, 1479 B.C. to 1458 B.C., for twenty-one years. She was a very famous pharaoh because she was a female and because of all of her accomplishments.

One of Hatshepsut's greatest accomplishments was simply gaining power. Never before had women ruled Egypt. At first, she shared power with her male relatives but soon she took over as the only ruler. During her reign, she wore a fake beard that made her look like a man so the citizens would appreciate her more.

Hatsheput's medical evidence indicates that she suffered from Diabetes and from Bone Cancer which spread through out her body in her fifties. Many images portraying Hatshepsut were destroyed or vandalized. Queen Hatshepsut is one of the best preserved mummies because she still has some of her features. Queen Hatshepsut's mummy is displayed at the Cairo museum.



H is for Hieroglyphics

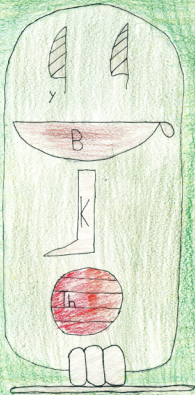
by Henry

Scribes were people who learned how to read and write in Hieroglyphics. There weren't many people who knew how to write hieroglyphics in ancient Egypt. Being a Scribe is one of the most valued positions in ancient Egypt. Scribes were considered very rich. School started early in the morning and ended at noon.

Egyptians used *papyrus* to write Hieroglyphics. The first use of papyrus was believed to be in 4,000 B.C. Papyrus was also used to make boats, rope, and baskets.

The Rosetta Stone unlocked the key to deciphering Hieroglyphics. In 1798, a French explorer found the Rosetta Stone. There are three different types of languages on the Rosetta stone, Demotic, Hieroglyphics, and ancient Greek. The Rosetta Stone was sent to Cairo after they found out about its importance.

Hieroglyphics is a system of symbols that the ancient Egyptians wrote in. People stopped using Hieroglyphics around 500 A.D. There are thousands of different hieroglyphic symbols like the vulture and the quail chick. Some symbols have more than one meaning making this language very hard to learn.



It is for Howard Carter

by Jre



Howard Carter was responsible for discovering King Tutankhamun's tomb. Before the discovery of the tomb, not much was known about King Tut. King Tut was not an important or powerful ruler for his time. He ruled Egypt for nine years. It is not known whether or not he had children or how he died. King Tut died at the young age of eighteen or nineteen years old.

Howard Carter was born on May 9, 1874 in England. In 1891, at the age of 17, Carter was employed as an illustrator to record scenes and inscriptions in ancient Egyptian tombs. When Carter first arrived in Egypt, he was sent to work with expert field archeologist, Flinders Petrie. Flinders Petrie inspired Carter to become an archeologist.

In 1917, Carter began his search for King Tutankhamun's tomb. He searched for the tomb in the Valley of the Kings. The Valley of the Kings is a valley in Egypt where tombs were built for pharaohs and powerful nobles during the New Kingdom. Carter's excavation was sponsored by Lord Carnarvon, a wealthy British collector. After five years of searching, King Tut's tomb was found 13 feet below the entrance to the tomb of Ramses VI. King Tut's tomb was buried for 3,000 years.

Carter found many important treasures in King Tut's tomb. The tomb has four main rooms: the antechamber, the annexe, the treasury, and the burial chamber. Within these rooms, Carter found weapons, jewelry, furniture, ritual paintings, and personal items.

The discovery of King Tut's tomb was very important because it was the only tomb that remained intact. Many other tombs in ancient Egypt were heavily robbed. The artifacts found in King Tut's tomb tell us what life was like in ancient Egypt and this discovery made Howard Carter famous.

I is for Immortality

by Marco

Immortality is the belief that you will live forever. Immortality means that you will never die. In order to become immortal, you had to go through a long process. Immortality started with the process of mummification. Immortality was very important to the ancient Egyptians.

The process to become immortal included mummification. To be mummified you had to be rich because it cost a lot of money. Therefore lower class people were often buried in the desert and they wished for the best. It took a great amount of skill to do the mummifying process. The body needed to be mummified because that was important to ancient Egyptian religion.

The journey to the afterlife, or new life, was made by boat. The Egyptians got to the afterlife by traveling down the Nile and looking for the famous goddess of the truth, Ma'at. Egyptians also believed that the sun would die at night and be reborn when it rose the next morning. This is the same thing as immortality.





I is for Inundation

by Sofia

Inundation is the flooding of the Nile River. Inundation occurred annually and was a very big part of ancient Egypt. Without inundation, Egypt would not exist. After inundation, the soil turned black, this was called "Kemet" by the ancient Egyptians. Beyond Kemet was the red land. "Kemet" was where ancient Egyptians planted their crops. When the Nile flooded, it covered up to 90% of Egypt.

The process of inundation had three steps, Akhet, Peret, and Sherru. Akhet, the time of the flood, lasted from June to September. Peret, sowing time, lasted from October to mid-January, and Sherru, the harvest, lasted from mid-February to the end of May. Each spring in the highlands of Africa, there was heavy rainfall, after that, the snow would melt and the Nile River would flood. By summer, the flood would be gone and the harvest would begin again.

Ancient Egyptians planted many crops, some of which were wheat, peas, beans, onions, radish, garlic, leeks, lettuce, cabbage, turnips, figs, and dates. Other crops were grapes, olives, coconuts, lentils, gourds, cucumbers, melons, barley, pomegranate, palm tree fruit, lotus, and papyrus, which was used for paper.

The Nile was a very important source religiously. Ancient Egyptians thought the Nile flooded because Isis, the goddess of magic and protection, was crying for her dead brother Osiris, the god of the underworld. Ancient Egyptians also believed that Min was the god of agriculture.

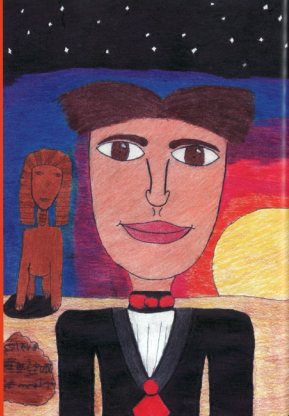
The two sources of the Nile were the white Nile and the blue Nile which are in upper Egypt. Today the Nile still floods, but a dam was built in 1970, to reduce how high the water rises each year. Farmers in Egypt mix fertilizer into the soil because inundation no longer occurs.

*J is for Jean Francois
Champollion
by Calla*

Jean-Francois Champollion was most remembered for the amazing feat of deciphering the Rosetta Stone, but that's not all he did.

Champollion had a long and fruitful life and did many amazing things. His story begins on December 23, 1790 in a little town in Figeac, France. His first great accomplishment was at Grenoble where he was accepted as a teacher of politics and history at the young age of 18. The next of his amazing deeds, and possibly the most important, was deciphering the Rosetta Stone. The Rosetta Stone was a block of stone that contained the same sentence in all three languages Egyptians spoke and wrote in, including Demotic, Hieroglyphics, and ancient Greek.

Champollion later published a series of memoirs about the experience, one of which included a section about how exactly he deciphered the stone. This included a part about how he used a cartouche, which contained a pharaoh's name, to match the symbols and words on the Rosetta Stone. It has been said that if it weren't for Champollion we would have never known what we know about Egypt today. All in all, Jean-Francois Champollion was a very important part of Egypt's history, and possibly the key to unlocking the secrets of ancient Egypt.



J is for Jewelry

by Jeniffer



Jewelry was worn by poor and rich Egyptians. Men, women, and even sacred animals wore jewelry. The Egyptians made jewelry themselves. They did not have any tools to use so they had to use rocks, sticks, and their hands to make jewelry. Jewelry was made out of plants, branches, and natural materials.

Egyptians used different kinds of the jewelry during different time periods. During the New Kingdom, 1,570 B.C. -1,070 B.C., amulets were mostly worn by the Egyptians. Amulets were ornaments with magical protection. At the end of the Ptolemaic period, 332 B.C.-30 B.C., emeralds were used for royal jewelry items.

Since Egyptians didn't have drills or machines, they had to break into the mines with just rocks. They got the materials from the mines between the Nile and the coast of the Red Sea.

Egyptians used jewelry in a lot of different ways. They used jewelry to decorate tombs because they thought people needed jewelry in the afterlife. Another reason Egyptians used jewelry was for magical protection. They used magical protection because they thought magic was a divine creation.

K is for *Ka*

by Maurice

In ancient Egypt, they believed in the afterlife. Egyptians believed in a person's Ka. A Ka was a person's spirit. If a body was to go live eternal life it had to have less evil than happiness. If the Ka's heart had more evil than happiness, the heart would be eaten by a big, ugly monster. If that was the case, the Ka would instantly go to the trash of the underworld.

The Egyptians worshiped the Ka greatly and they gave the Ka gifts and food to take with them to the afterlife. The Ka wouldn't usually take the gifts because the Egyptians offered it to statues, not the real Ka.

The Ka was separate from a person's body. The Ba was a person's character, unlike the Ka which is the soul. Egyptian myths say that if the Ka and the Ba weren't joined together the body wouldn't go to the afterlife.

A Ka looks like a man that has arm on the top of his head. When a person was born, the Ka would immediately go into the body. When a person died, the Ka would get out of the body and begin its journey to the afterlife.





K is for Kingdoms by Hannah

In ancient Egypt, there were three different periods called the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom.

In the Old Kingdom (2649-2150 B.C.), kings and pharaohs were treated like gods. They were believed to be the only ones able to speak with the gods and goddesses. Only they could ensure peace among the people. Along with being a lord in life, after they died, they were buried in large tombs they built for themselves called pyramids. Due to the amazing new architecture, the Old Kingdom's nickname was "The Age of the Pyramids."

The Middle Kingdom (2040-1640 B.C.) was called "The Period of Reunification" because it replaced years of chaos and disunity. As it was the end of the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom was also the "First Intermediate Period." This was a time of peace and stability. The art, sculptures, and literature really expanded. During this time period, Egypt was ruled in Ij Tawi, a city in which all it's remains have now completely disappeared.

The New Kingdom (1070-712 B.C.) was nicknamed "Egypt's Golden Age" partly because of the fabulous wealth that was initiated in that time period. It was also called The Golden Age because that was when the first female pharaoh, Hatshepsut, ruled for 15 years alone (1473-1458 B.C.), when King Tut ruled (1336-1327 B.C.), and when Egypt's power reached it's height. The New Kingdom was, like the Middle Kingdom, a time of peace and stability. Kings, when they died, were buried in rock-cut tombs in the Valley of the Kings. Then foreigners, also known as Hyksos kings, ruled Egypt. The Hyksos kings introduced horses, chariots, and new bronze weapons. The weapons were proven to be helpful to warrior kings who controlled the New Kingdom. The rulers were determined to make Egypt as strong as possible. The New Kingdom was the most powerful empire of the ancient world. Although the three different time periods seemed so different, Egypt was one.

K is for Khafre and Khufu

by Karenina

Khafre and Khufu were both pharaohs in ancient Egypt. They are known for building great pyramids in Egypt. Khafre is the son of King Khufu. Khufu ruled from 2551-2528 B.C.E. and Khafre ruled from 2558-2532 B.C.E.

King Khufu built the Great Pyramid of Giza. He was known for being a cruel, powerful, and very strong pharaoh. Khufu ruled during the Old Kingdom. He was the second pharaoh of the fourth dynasty. He had 15 daughters and nine sons. King Khufu began construction of the Great Pyramid soon after he took the throne. Construction of the pyramid took about 23 years which was almost the entire length of his reign. The purpose for building the pyramid is still unknown but many believe King Khufu built the pyramid as a burial chamber for him, his queens, and other officials. King Khufu's Great Pyramid is the largest pyramid in Egypt. Today, The Great Pyramid lies outside the city of Cairo. The 4,000 year old pyramid has been slowly deteriorating over the years. The pyramid has lost about 10 meters in height and now stands at 145 meters.

King Khafre, the son of Khufu, built the second largest pyramid in Egypt. Like his father, Khafre was a pharaoh of the fourth dynasty. Scholars are not sure exactly how long he ruled for. Some authors believe he ruled between 24 to 26 years. Khafre had two wives named Queen Meresankh III and Queen Khamaernebty I. Khafre's pyramid was only 10 feet shorter than his father's pyramid. Khafre built his pyramid on higher ground which made it look taller than Khafre's Great Pyramid. Khafre's pyramid is not designed as precisely as The Great Pyramid. It's made of limestone and was originally 148.5 meters tall. Khafre's pyramid was built as a burial chamber for himself. Khafre and Khufu are pharaohs who will be remembered for the magnificent pyramids they built.





L is for Limestone

by Tabatha

Limestone, a sedimentary rock, made of many minerals is called dirty limestone. Dirty limestone has sand, shells, coral, bryozoa, crinoids, and brachiopods. Limestone is also made out of skeletal fragments of coral.

The ancient Egyptians used limestone in many aspects of their daily life. Yellow limestone was used for King Tutankhamen ushabti. Ushabtis were funerary figures in ancient Egypt that were placed in a pharaoh's tomb. Tutankhamen wore his ushabti in scenes for the painted box. There was also the ushabti with a white crown, blue crown, and gilded head.

Today limestone is very common in architecture in many parts of the world. For example, limestone is used in Kingston, Canada. Its nickname is "Limestone City." A court house in Manhattan, Kansas was built out of limestone. Many buildings in London are also made out of limestone.

L is for Luxor
by Esteban

Luxor temple is located in the southern end of Egypt in Thebes. Luxor was the capital of Egypt during the New Kingdom years. The Luxor temple began being built during the Middle Kingdom of the 11th dynasty. Every year approximately 487,986 people visit the city of Luxor. It is near the Nile River's south bank.

The pharaohs who built the Luxor temple were Amenhotep III and Ramses II. The entrance to the Luxor was guarded by six huge statues of Ramses II, four of which have been taken down. Inside the temple, each side of the avenues is guarded by a row of ram-headed sphinxes. The temple is about one thousand year old.

Luxor temple was discovered in 1907. Inside the temple, there are tall limestone monuments called obelisks. The obelisks were dedicated to the god Tutmosis, god of wisdom, and his grandson. Inside the temple, there are many obelisks that are now broken.

Luxor is the last remaining temple in Egypt. Priests believed that Amun, the god of the sun, lived in the Luxor. At the statue of Amun, there were offerings of food and drinks. Inside the Luxor, there is the hypostyle hall, with 134 columns arranged in 16 rows. They are 74 feet tall and have 7 feet wide.





M is for Mastaba

by David

A Mastaba is what was used as a burial chamber before the pyramids were invented. Mastaba means "bench" in Arabic. If looked at from a distance, it looks like a park bench. Mastabas are unique in their uses and design.

Egyptian pyramids were often used to hold mummified bodies of a dead person and were used as burial chambers to honor the dead person. A mastaba was similar to pyramids, except it was much smaller, and it was created a long time before pyramids. Unlike pyramids, mastabas did not have any entrances. Mastabas had flat roofs and were built in a rectangular form. When the first mastaba was created in about 3,000 B.C., it was used for non-royal burials. Most mastabas have other mummies buried around it. It was a huge privilege to be buried near a mastaba.

A few pyramids were originally intended to be mastabas. One example of this is the Step Pyramid of Zoser. Scientists believe this theory because of the odd shaping of the top of the pyramid. Another example is Mentahotep's temple, because of the square-shaped bottom.

A mastaba was usually built out of limestone. Some mastabas even had sand mounds overlaid with bricks from the place the king was buried. There was often a statue of the dead pharaoh kept in the "serdab," which means cellar in Arabic.

Egypt is now a country that mostly speaks Arabic. That is why most of the mastaba chambers are Arabic words.

M is for Monuments

by Mandalyn

The monuments in Egypt are very important to the country. Some of the monuments that are important to Egypt and its history are the Sphinx, the Pyramids of Giza, and the White Chapel. These monuments have a lot of reason to be in Egypt.

The Pyramids of Giza are not one, not two, but three important pyramids that people should know about. The pyramids were built in 2550 B. C.. The peak of the of The Great Pyramid is 481 ft and the base is 756 ft on each side. The Great Pyramid took 20 years to build with 4,000 stone masons.

Also, there is another fantastic monument called the Sphinx, that represents the essence of thousands of years. Also, the Sphinx symbolizes strength and wisdom. It has a head of a god or king with a body of a lion. Just the paws themselves are an amazing 50 feet long. The whole entire body is 150 feet and the head is 30 feet long by 14 feet wide.

Another monument that is irreplaceable is the White Chapel. The White Chapel is made out of alabaster, a hard white stone. Some historians think the Chapel was originally gold. An archeologist found the White Chapel and decided to rebuild it.

The monuments of Egypt are very interesting to know about because each one is full of life, excitement, and tons of historical information that has changed history.



M is for Mummy *by Sebastian*



Mummy: A mummy is a dead body that has not rotted away. The first mummies were buried in the desert sand. The sand was dry, hot, and naturally preserved the body. Mummies were buried with objects they needed in the next life. Mummies were made because ancient Egyptians believed that people needed their bodies after death. In order to preserve the bodies of pharaohs, they used a process called embalming.

Death Mask: A death mask is a beautiful mask that protected a mummy's real face. If lost or damaged, the spirit could come back to it.

Embalming: To treat a dead body with spices and oil to prevent it from decaying.

Immortality: The belief that people are able to live forever.

Sarcophagus: A stone coffin where a mummy is placed.

Linen: Fiber made from the flax plant made into a textile. A mummified body was wrapped in strips of linen 2 to 8 inches wide.

Mummification: A process of drying and embalming to preserve the dead body of a person or an animal.

Natron: A kind of salt. Up to 500 pounds were needed during the embalming process to dry out a body.

Underworld: The place where Egyptian gods lived and the dead needed pass through.

Spells: In The Egyptian Book of the Dead, protective spells would help the dead in the underworld.

N is for Nefertiti

by Celeste

Born in 1370 B.C., Queen Nefertiti's life has been a mystery. Not much is known about her family or childhood but there are some beliefs. It's believed that her father was army officer, Ay, and that her mother was Tiye. It's also possible that her mother died, and Ay's other wife, Tey, was left to take care of Nefertiti and her sister, Mutnejem.

While she lived, Nefertiti was known as a very beautiful woman. Her name meant, "The beautiful one has arrived." Her most famous artifact was a statue of her wearing a necklace and crown. It showed Nefertiti in a very elegant way. To keep herself beautiful, Nefertiti died her nails with liquid gold, bathed in sea salt, powdered her skin with natural minerals, brightened her lips with a fondant made of berries, and outlined her eyes with antimony. Today, Nefertiti is still known for her beauty and has been named the most beautiful women in the world by some historians.

Nefertiti was married to Akhenaten and was considered his equal. Akhenaten had a great love for his chief royal wife and they were inseparable. Unfortunately, she had to share her husband with two other royal wives. Nefertiti appeared on more inscriptions and statues than Akhenaten did. She was the mother-in-law of Tutankhamen. She gave birth to six daughters and there are pictures of the family in a loving way, which was uncommon for that time.

While Nefertiti was queen, she and Akhenaten made many religious changes, such as making everyone change to monotheism, the belief of one god. She shut down temples and forced priests to change their ways. Women were a great part in this religion, and alongside being a queen, Nefertiti also held the position of a priest.

12 years into her reign, she disappeared. There is no exact reason how or why. There are some theories though. For example, one theory is that she died of illness, another is that she dressed as a male to be accepted as a pharaoh. There are also a lot of other theories, this is just some of them. Queen Nefertiti's tomb was never finished and her mummy was never found.

Nefertiti lived quite a life from her childhood, to her marriage, to changing religious ways, making herself look beautiful, and in the end disappearing without a reason. Even though she went through all of these things, she will never be forgotten. She has influenced many cosmetic lines and has been a great inspiration for many women today.



N is for Nile by Alexander

The Nile river was one of ancient Egypt's greatest treasures. The Nile, which means great, was the ancient Egyptian empire's life line since the stone age, around 40,000 years ago. The Nile is a 6,695 kilometer long river flowing through nine countries Egypt, Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zaire, and Ethiopia. The Nile provided yearly inundations, flooding, and was a great trade route. The ancient Egyptian empire wouldn't have survived without it because of the desert climate. No wonder the ancient Egyptians believed the river was a gift from the gods.

Without the yearly flooding of the Nile River, the ancient Egyptians would have probably starved. Every year between June and September an annual flooding began called inundation. Inundation was good for the Egyptians because it provided rich soil for farming. The land away from the Nile, the Red Land, wouldn't have been a good place for farming because the yearly inundation didn't reach it. This land is often called barren meaning a very dry land. The land close to the Nile, the Black Land, was extremely fertile and was used for farming. The Black Land was fertile because the inundation would flood it making the soil fertile.

The Nile River was also used as a trade route by the ancient Egyptians. They would use the river to trade with surrounding countries like Kush and Nubia, and when the "Eshian Winds" came, which means the winds are going up to the Mediterranean Sea, Egypt would trade with countries like Crete and Cyprus. Egypt would trade papyrus, which was paper made from reeds next to the Nile, wheat, grown from farms, barley, and of course gold. The Nile was Egypt's best trade route, and was probably one of the most ancient trade routes in the world.

The Nile was useful in many ways. It was called a gift from the gods, because it was one of the most ancient trade routes in the world. Without the Nile, ancient Egyptians would have probably starved, because they couldn't farm without the inundation from the Nile, and the pyramids would not been created because the Nile helped make limestone.



O is for Obelisk *by Adrian*

The obelisk is a very ancient artifact. Obelisks are four sided monuments with hieroglyphics on each side. They are carved from single blocks of stone. Obelisks come from the word obeliskos, a Greek word meaning needle. The obelisk represents a frozen sun ray. Egyptians believed that Ra, the sun god, and Aten, the sun disc, lived at the top of them.

One of the most famous obelisks in ancient Egypt is queen Hatsheput's. She was one of the few woman to rule ancient Egypt. She was important because she helped Egypt become wealthy by trading. Hatsheput's obelisk is located at Kamak, the great temple of Amun. It is the biggest obelisk standing at 30 meters in height and weighing over 300 tons.

Obelisks were put in pairs and put at the entrances of temples. They were also put near tombs during the Old Kingdom. Obelisks were believed to act as magical protection to monuments such as temples and tombs.





O is for Osiris

by Julio

Osiris is the god of the underworld. The ancient Egyptians believed they went to the underworld after they died. Before Osiris became the god of the underworld, he ruled on the Earth with Isis.

Osiris was the son of Geb, god of the earth. Nut, his mother, was the goddess of the sky. He had only one brother, Seth. Osiris had two sisters, Isis and Nephthys. Later he married his sister Isis. Their children were, Hours, god of the sky, and Anubis, god of embalming. Isis and Osiris took good care of them and taught them well.

Osiris's appearance was different from all the other gods. Osiris had green skin all over his body. His skin represented true leadership. He wore a white gown, a white hat with feathers on the sides, an orange belt, and yellow wrist bands.

The Wedjat Eye was the lost eye of Osiris's son Horus. He lost it while battling his uncle Seth for the right of the throne. Horus won the battle and still took over for his father. The eye was an important amulet to the ancient Egyptians.

P is for Pharaoh

by Amina

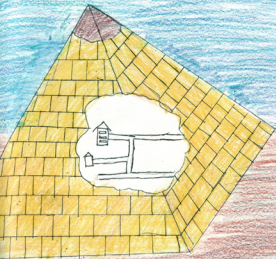
Pharaohs were the rulers of Egypt. The word Pharaoh means "great house." They had the power to control the earth and everything upon it. Egyptians believed that the pharaohs were god-like. Pharaohs ruled by devoting their lives preparing for judgment of Anubis. Anubis was god of the afterlife.

Pharaohs used to wear collars made out of precious gems and gold. They also wore headdresses and white short skirts around their waist that were made out of white cloth. They also wore a lot of gold and amulets because they were so wealthy. An amulet was a charm that protected the person wearing it from evil spirits. Amulets also brought good luck. The crowns pharaohs wore were in two parts, one part was red and the other part was white. The white part represented the upper pharaoh and the red part represented the lower pharaoh.

The pharaohs ate a lot of bread because it was the most important food in the diet of ancient Egyptians. Their favorite food was tomatoes, or in English, tomatoes. Pharaohs had a lot to do and they had a lot of precious things.



P is for Pyramid *by Sara*



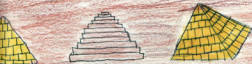
A pyramid was created as a resting place for pharaohs that died. Pyramid means "wheat cake" in Greek. Some people believe that they named pyramids "wheat cake" because of the pointy tops of pyramids.

The first pyramid ever built was the Step Pyramid. It was built in 2,680 B.C. The pharaoh that commanded it to be created was Zoser at Saqqara. Archaeologists found nothing in the tomb because it was robbed by thieves. The only thing that was left was a mummified foot. The pyramid was built around a core of desert stones.

Inside the pyramids were burial chambers. There were usually traps and other things to confuse the thieves that tried to steal all their valuables that they put in the pharaoh's burial chamber. Some of their valuables included jewelry and paintings. Some pyramids even had two burial chambers, but the second chamber was much smaller than the pharaoh's. In the Great Pyramid there were two burial chambers and one was the queen's chamber. Archaeologists believe that the second one was supposed to be the pharaoh's, but he thought it was too small.

The pharaohs actually did not build the pyramids, instead they commanded slaves and villagers to build the pyramids for them. The pharaohs, however, took all the credit for the pyramids. As pyramid building continued, the pyramids got bigger and bigger.

Egyptians stopped building pyramids after awhile. Although the magnificent pyramids are a piece of art, they were very hard to make. Egyptians also stopped building them because of all the tomb robbers. Pyramids were landmarks filled with jewelry and very valuable items.



Q is for Queens

by Ayanna

A queen was a type of royalty who worked alongside pharaohs in ancient Egypt. Even though queens worked alongside pharaohs, pharaohs still had more power. An example of a pharaoh and a queen who shared power almost equally was Queen Nefertiti and King Akhenaten.

Queen Nefertiti has long been regarded as the most beautiful, seductive woman ever to take the throne. She ruled with Akhenaten in the eighteenth dynasty, 1,550-1,292 B.C. Queen Nefertiti was known for her elegant beauty. Many different societies around the world adopted Queen Nefertiti as the symbol of true beauty. Also, a few historians have proclaimed her the most beautiful woman in the world. The name "Nefertiti" means "The beautiful one has arrived." Some people believe that her father could be Aye, the second to last pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty of the New Kingdom, but that's not a fact.

Ankhesenamun was also a queen. Queen Ankhesenamun was born as the third daughter of Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti. There was a total of six kids from this famous couple, Meritaten, Meketaten, Ankhesenpaaten, Neferneferuaten ta-Sheren, Neferneferu, and Setepenre. Ankhesenamun married king Tutankhamen, who was most likely her half brother, when she was 13 years old and he was 8 years old. She was initially known by her birth name meaning "She lives through Aten." Aten was the sun god.

Queen Cleopatra was the last queen to rule in ancient Egypt. Her father, Ptolemy XII, was a pharaoh when she was born. Since Cleopatra had so much power, Cleopatra's brother and husband, Ptolemy XIII, eventually grew jealous of her and wanted some power himself so he got together a group of people and forced Cleopatra to leave. She escaped to the nearby Syria. Before Cleopatra had the throne, people also forced her dad into leaving. Three years later he got back his throne by Pompey, a famous Roman general.

Queens in ancient Egypt spent a long time on their appearance. One queen in particular named Amanishakheto who ruled Nubia in the first century B.C. owned and wore alot of of jewelry.



Nefertiti



Queens
from
Ancient Egypt



Cleopatra VII



Ankhesenamun
Ankhesenamun

Q is for Questions and Answers

By Brian



Egyptology is the study of ancient Egypt. Some famous Egyptologists are Howard Carter, who discovered King Tut's tomb, Zahi Hawass, who discovered Queen Seshmet's tomb in 2008, and Jean-Francois Champollion, who deciphered the Rosetta Stone. Below is an interview with Kara Cooney, a modern day Egyptologist who works at UCLA.

What project are you working on right now?

Right now I'm working on two articles—one about Egyptian coffins for an encyclopedia and another one about tomb robbery at the end of the New Kingdom.

How long have you been a Egyptologist?

I started graduate school in 1994, and I finished my PhD in 2002.

What did you have to do to become an Egyptologist?

I went to graduate school for eight years. I needed to know French and German before I started graduate school, so that I could read scholarly articles and books in those languages. I took graduate courses, seminars, and I did a week of exams. Then I wrote my dissertation, which was a 400 page book on funerary arts and coffins in the Ramesside Period.

What is the hardest part about being an Egyptologist?

The hardest part of being an Egyptologist is that there are few jobs. I am thankful every day that I am at work.

What is your favorite part about being an Egyptologist?

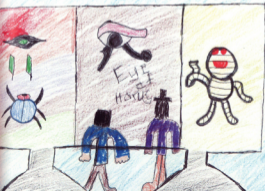
I love teaching students about the ancient world and about how the ancient Egyptians thought and lived. I love seminars and small classes when we can all talk together in an informal way, but I also like large lecture classes. My research is great fun. I love going to museums and studying funerary arts. I usually bring my family with me, and so I get to travel to Europe and Egypt and get special access to ancient objects.

What does a typical day for you look like?

If I'm researching, I spend all day in the museum photographing coffins, doing drawings, making notes, and talking to curators. If I am teaching, I spend three days a week with students, either in the classrooms or in my office. Right now I'm teaching a graduate seminar with 8 students and an undergraduate hieroglyphs class for 20 students. If I am writing, I try to stay home and keep working on my computer with few distractions. Most of the work, I'm teaching and writing.

What is an interesting fact about Egyptology most people might not know?

Most people don't know that the 24 hour clock was an arbitrary division invented by the ancient Egyptians. Every hour of every day you are working with an understanding of time that was developed long ago by Egyptian priests to worship the sun god and who was believed to move through the hours of the day and the hours of the night.



R is for Ramses the Great

by Shane

Ramses II was a pharaoh in Egypt for over 60 years. He ruled from about 1290 B.C. to 1224 B.C. He was the oldest pharaoh ever. He had over 100 wives and 100 children. His favorite wife was Nefatari and he devoted a temple to her. It is also believed that she had the nicest sarcophagus. A *sarcophagus* is a large stone coffin.

Ramses built many monuments and constructed many temples, such as the Temple at Abu Simbel. It has four 65 feet statues of him sitting by it protecting the Temple. He also helped build the Temple of Luxor and the Great Rock Temple. He had many statues of himself and paintings.

Ramses joined the military when he was seven years old and became a military captain when he was 10. His most famous battle was against the Hittites, now Turkey, and he destroyed the whole eastern wall of Hittite with 20,000 men at his side. Ramses was a fearless soldier and was a very good military leader. He led them to victory over 10 times and he created the first ever peace treaty with the Hittite people.

Ramses was a memorable leader because he created the first ever peace treaty, built temples, and helped the military by fighting by their side when he was a pharaoh. Many feel that because he was very courageous and very powerful he was one Egypt's greatest rulers.



Ris for Religion by Brigitte



The religion of ancient Egypt was polytheism, which is belief in many gods. There were over 2,000 gods, and as polytheism grew so did the number of gods. Sometimes the lesser unimportant gods would only be worshiped by statues, or they would simply vanish. Polytheism started to spread everywhere, and lead to other supernatural beliefs. The Egyptians didn't like change, so their religion stayed the same, except during the reign of Akhenaten. He changed Egypt to monotheism, which is belief in one god. However, after his reign, everyone returned to polytheism.

The reason religion was so important was, because it had a lot to do with your afterlife. The Egyptians spent most of their time and money preparing for death. It was believed that when someone died they were re-born, and either started a new life or went on with their normal life. Egyptians relied on the gods to make everything go well during their journey. So they prayed almost all the time, to thank the gods for everything they were given.

The four most important gods were Horus, Osiris, Isis, and Anun-Re. Horus the falcon god, had divine kingship. Divine kingship means that he was not only a king he was a god. He was the last real god to rule Egypt. Osiris, god of the underworld, was the god that decided where you went. He was known as the "king of the underworld" so he could take you there if he wanted to. Isis, the goddess of magic, was the wife to Osiris. She had power and was the most important goddess. She taught man-kind the secrets of medicine. Aman-Re was the most powerful god, he was the god of the sun and also known as the king of all gods.

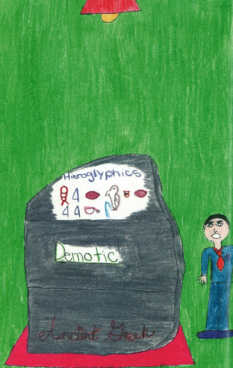
The gods, even though they were gods, had to be taken care of. Priests brought everything to the gods, such as food and supplies. Anything they would ask for the priest would bring. Priests were important people, because they had rights to funerals and they taught schools. They were almost as powerful as gods.

R is for Rosetta Stone by Michelle

The Rosetta Stone, created in 196 B.C., is a stone made of granite with hieroglyphic writing on it. Scribes were the ones that originally wrote the hieroglyphic language on the Rosetta Stone. Scribes were people that wrote on papyrus paper in hieroglyphics to record daily life. The Rosetta Stone was originally displayed in a temple. It was discovered in Rosetta, Egypt. A french soldier discovered it in 1799 while he was on a french expedition.

The Rosetta stone is the key to understanding the hieroglyphic language. The Rosetta Stone is very important because before it was deciphered people could not translate and read hieroglyphics. Once it was deciphered, people could read what it said on tombs, temples, and cartouches. It took about 20 years for scholars to decipher the Rosetta Stone. Jean-Francois Champollion, an Egyptologist, was the one who completely deciphered the Rosetta stone. It was not until 1822 when the hieroglyphic signs could be understood by the modern world.

On the Rosetta Stone there are three different types of writing. The first section is Egyptian hieroglyphs, the second section is Demotic, an Egyptian short-hand cursive style of writing, the third section is ancient Greek. People realized that the three languages on the stone said the same thing but Champollion was the person who matched up hieroglyphic writing with ancient Greek. All in all, the Rosetta Stone was essential to understanding hieroglyphics.



S is for Scribe

by Miriam

A scribe is an Egyptian that recorded daily life in Egypt. The scribes wrote on papyrus with reed paint brushes and paints made from ground pigments. Scribes recorded all the materials they used for building work, and counted the number of cattle and crops that had been gathered for the royal family, the government, and the temples. Royal scribes were involved in the Egyptian royal government. They developed the system of writing around 3,000 B.C.

Scribes' children, usually the boys, were required to become scribes. Even though Egyptian school children had to learn over 700 hieroglyphic symbols, only the sons of scribes could undergo strict scribe training. These children began training around the age of nine.

Scribes used *papyrus* to write on. Papyrus was much easier than pressing letters into wet clay as the other scribes had done. Papyrus was also much easier to transport than stone. Scribes wrote medical books, calendars, stories, poems, and prayers on papyrus. Archeologists believed that papyrus was made around 4,000 B.C. It came from the plant *Cyperus Papyrus*.

Seshat, an Egyptian deity, was the first female scribe. Egyptians believed that she invented writing, while Thoth taught the writing to mankind. Seshat was the patron, a master or a owner, of libraries and all sorts of writings. Seshat is the only known female scribe.



S is for Sphinx

by Priya

The Sphinx is one of the greatest ancient Egyptian monuments. It has the head of a pharaoh and the body of a lion. The Sphinx represents Khafre as Horus, the god of the sky in Egypt. Founders think the Sphinx means the "Living idol protector of Giza," and that it's more than 10,000 years old. They also think the Sphinx is there so it can protect Khafre's pyramid. It has been protecting Khafre's pyramid for 4,500 years. It is the largest free-standing sculpture. The Sphinx is made from limestone, which is same stone they used for the pyramids.

The Sphinx was found many times by people, travelers, and explorers. A thousand years after the Sphinx was built, its body was covered by the desert sand but the head was not. The Sphinx was uncovered by the pharaoh Thutmosis. One afternoon, a young prince named Thutmosis fell asleep under the head of the Sphinx during a hunt. In his dream, the Sphinx predicted his future that he would become a pharaoh and asked him to free him from the sand covering his body. Years later, Thutmosis became a pharaoh and remembered the dream from his childhood and freed the Sphinx from the desert sand. In 1,300 B.C the sand again buried all of the Sphinx except the head. In 160 A.D and 211 A.D Marcus Aurelius, a Roman emperor, unburied the Sphinx. The sand again buried the Sphinx. However the Sphinx is currently unburied and is freed from the sand.

There are a lot of passage ways and secret chambers in the Sphinx. In 1978 Zahi Hawass, an Egyptologist, found a part of the Sphinx's headdress. There is a large entrance on the side of the Sphinx and there is a passage way beneath it. This passage is located in the very back of the Sphinx, near its tail. Archaeologist have found limestone chips, sand, bits of charcoal, particles, pottery shreds, granite chips, water jugs, and tin foil inside the Sphinx. One of the founders added an iron trapped door in the Sphinx's paws, so no one could come and clam it. In 1816 Giovanni Batista Caviglia, an Egyptologist and an explorer, discovered a portion of the false beard that used to be on its chin, and today it is at the British Museum.





T is for Tomb and Thieves

By Benjamin

Tombs were an important part of Egypt's history. Without them, it would be hard for people to learn about ancient Egypt's past. Tombs contained important pieces of information from hieroglyphics to artifacts. They were filled with treasures and jewels- and thieves knew it!

Tombs were created to hold the bodies of *mummies*. Egyptians left the pharaohs and the tombs to rest after mummification. The pharaohs would go to the afterlife. During mummification, priests said magic spells and rituals. It was believed by the Egyptians that if the tomb was disturbed then a curse would descend upon you. The thieves didn't mind this of course.

Before the pyramids, tombs were carved into bedrock and topped by flat-roofed structures called *mastabas*. They were mounds of dirt that might have some kind of structures on top. The pyramid shape could have come from these mounds. Some tombs and gravestones had engraved encriptions on the stone like a curse if it was disturbed.

Over time, tombs changed. Originally, in the Old Kingdom, tombs were the pyramids. They had chambers inside the tombs and small tunnels to get to them. They believed these tombs would be like a stairway to the gods so the pharaoh could go to the afterlife. Pyramids were an easy target for thieves because thieves knew exactly where to go. The thieves even managed to get past all the traps the pyramids had. So Egyptians later on moved the tombs south to the Valley of the Kings.

In the Valley of the Kings, the tombs were hidden in the mountains and rock. Tombs were made of many different kinds of rocks like limestone and granite. Still, they were discovered by thieves. King Tutankhamen's tomb was the only one not disturbed in ancient times. In 1922, a man named Howard Carter and his team found it and it was the first never disturbed tomb ever found. The tomb gave us ancient information about the Egyptians. If tombs had never been robbed, maybe archaeologists would know even more about the ancient Egyptians.

T is for Tutankhamun

by Deanna

King Tutankhamun is one of ancient Egypt's most famous pharaohs. King Tut was the son of King Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti.

Tutankhamun ruled during the 18th dynasty and he died when he was only nineteen years old. He ruled ten years in his dynasty. He inherited the throne at the age of nine. His tomb was discovered in the Valley of the Kings by a determined and passionate archaeologist named Howard Carter.

King Tut's tomb was a significant archaeological find because it was one of the only royal tombs that was undisturbed for more than 3,300 years. It was the most complete royal Egyptian collection ever found. The tomb was separated into four different parts called the antechamber, annexe, treasury, and the burial chamber. The treasures of Tutankhamun helped to understand the daily lives of the Egyptian king and his childhood.

Archeologists found many artifacts and treasures in King Tut's tomb. In his tomb his jewels, furniture, most of his canopic jars, and all of his jewelry were found. People were amazed by what they saw in King Tut's tomb. Egyptian priests believed that if you placed the organs in the canopic jars and buried them with the king, they would be useful to him in the afterlife. King Tut is one of the greatest icons of ancient Egypt because of the discovery of his tomb.





U is for Ushabti

by Isaiah

Ushabti were the servants of the Ka's people. The Ka was believed to be a person's double, like an invisible twin, which supposedly lived in the body until death. Ushabti were little slaves that did work for pharaohs in the afterlife. The ushabti did work like farming or mining. The afterlife was like earth. In the afterlife, the ushabti had to do earthly tasks such as farm, mine, and build homes. The dead person's Ka would give Osiris, the god of the underworld, the ushabti so they didn't have to do work.

Over hundreds of ushabtis were found during different Egyptian eras. Ushabti looked like mummies with their faces showing. The ushabti were placed in the tombs of pharaohs. Some of the earliest ushabtis were found from the Middle Kingdom years. There were spells written on the ushabti from late Middle Kingdom onwards. Some ushabtis didn't have the mummy wrapping, as a few New Kingdom ushabti show. Seti I Belzoni, a famous archaeologist, found more than 700 ushabtis. The pharaohs had one ushabti for everyday of the year and 36 overseers, so the servants would not slack off during the work.

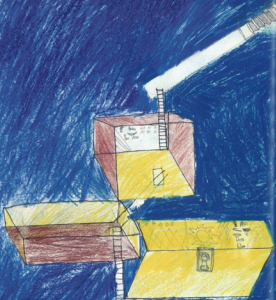
The ushabti looked like the casket of tombs. Some ushabtis were made out of wood others were made out of limestone, granite, and turquoise.

V is for Valley of the Kings *by Jaelin*

The Valley of the Kings, largely known as the home of the King Tutankamen's tomb, is the resting place of many ancient Egyptian pharaohs. The Valley of Kings is on the west bank of the Nile River. The city of Thebes can be seen from across the Valley. Used as a burial place from about 1,500 B.C. to 1,000 B.C., the Valley replaced pyramids. Pyramids stopped being used because from a thief's point of view, the pyramids were just huge treasure-filled monuments begging to be robbed.

The tombs were a big hallway cut into the side of the Valley with various chambers and rooms. There were intricate carvings, paintings, and statues throughout the tombs. The deepest chamber usually contained the sarcophagus with the mummy inside. The tombs in the Valley were meant to be more hidden and difficult to rob since they were underground. However, tomb thieves that cared more about becoming rich than offending the gods and they robbed all of the tombs in the Valley, except one, King Tut's tomb. King Tut's tomb wasn't found by thieves because it was buried in the construction of a more important pharaoh's tomb near his tomb.

Many important pharaohs were buried in the Valley. A few examples of pharaohs that were buried there are, Merenptah, Siptah, and Horemheb. Thutmosis I was the first buried in the Valley. There are actually two valleys. The eastern one is where Thutmosis I was buried, and it is also the most famous because it contains the majority of the tombs. Ramses the Great and many of his children, he had over one-hundred children, were also buried in the eastern valley. Egypt is now an Arabic country. The Arabic name for the Valley of the Kings is Wadi Biban al Moluk.



Wis for Wedjat Eye by Davis

The Wedjat Eye, or Eye of Horus, was the symbol of protection, royal power, and good health to the ancient Egyptians. It was very important and was used in many aspects of ancient Egyptian life.

The Wedjat Eye was used for everything including jewelry, hieroglyphics, and mummies. Pharaohs also wore them around their necks for protection. A Wedjat Eye was placed on a mummy's heart to protect it. It was used in jewelry made from limestone, gold, and blue faience.

There is a long story behind the Wedjat Eye. Long ago, when Osiris, son of Nut and Geb, was still king of the earth, his brother, Set, became jealous. He killed Osiris and took the throne. Osiris then became god of the underworld and vowed revenge. When his son, Horus, became old enough he traveled to the heavens and battled Set. It was a fierce battle. Horus ended up winning, but not after Set had removed his eye. Thoth, god of wisdom, restored it with a moonbeam, but not after the Egyptians had started using it.

The way the Wedjat Eye looked was also very significant. The Wedjat Eye looked like a peregrine falcon's eye with the teardrop marking sometimes found beneath the eye. It looked like that because Horus had the head of a falcon. Also, if you broke up the Wedjat Eye into sections, all the sections would have a different value. When you add all the values of all the pieces together you get one based on the Egyptian way of counting.



Wis for Women of Egypt

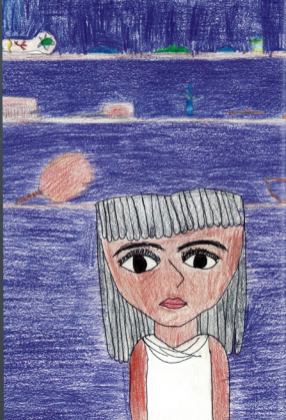
by Julia

Women in Egypt are just as important as men. Their daily life included working and taking care of the household. Egyptian women wore dresses and make-up much like women today.

Everyone in Egypt wore clothing. Clothing was made from flax. Flax was a type of plant fiber. Women wore dresses that were close fitting with pleats in them. They also wore wigs made from real human hair. The wigs were kept in place with beeswax. Egyptians also wore sandals, made from papyrus and other common reeds.

In Egypt, women and men put a lot of effort into looking good for everyday occasions. Women and men both wore eye makeup made from minerals ground on fine slate platters. They used a lot of things that we use now like mirrors, made from bronze, tweezers, and hair curlers to get ready every single day.

In Egypt, most women had jobs. More educated women were administrators or supervisors. Skilled women would do weaving, or be in the music business. Unskilled women were domestic helpers which means they worked in the household. All the women that had these jobs would always work for other women with the exception of royal houses. In this case, women would work for men.



X is for X-Ray

by Sami

In 1922, when Howard Carter discovered King Tutankhamen's tomb, in the Valley of the Kings, Carter and his team found a lot of treasure and riches within. While trying to get all the treasure and artifacts from Tut's tomb and his mummy, Carter and his team may have caused a lot of damage to the mummy.

80 years after the discovery of King Tut's tomb, an archaeologist named Zahi Hawass tried to find out how King Tut died by using CT scans. Thanks to the technology of CT scans and X-rays they got 1,700 good images of King Tut's bones. The scans showed a broken leg and skull damage. Both added to the speculation about how Tut died. However, people may never know the truth because Howard Carter's team may have caused those damages while retrieving the artifacts. Without the technology of X-rays, people would not have a good understanding of how King Tut may have died, and also would not know a great number of scientific and archaeological discoveries.

X-rays, a technology that penetrates soft tissue but can't go through bone, is a scientific and archaeological phenomenon that helps archaeologists and many other people with research. X-rays operate at frequencies between 30 petahertz and 30 exahertz. That is such a high frequency that it can penetrate all the tissue in our body except bones. X-rays can draw a clear image of a person's bone structure. Bones are hard enough to reflect and absorb X-rays, however X-rays can easily pass through softer tissue such as muscle. CT scans use the same technology as X-rays except they intersect the X-rays to look at a layer of the body.

Scientists and archaeologists can also scan bones or artifacts to turn them into 3D computer models. This is useful when working with something thousands of years old. In 2006 when the 10,000 year old skeleton of Chan Hol was discovered, archaeologists scanned the skeleton so they would always have a 3D computer model in case something happened to the skeleton.



Y is for Young Egyptians by Nayeli

Children in ancient Egypt were very special because a lot of mothers died giving birth. Since lots of children died before growing up, mothers had five or more babies. For protection, mothers would put amulets in their homes such as the cat goddess, Basetet, and the Eye of Horus. They did this so that bad spirits would not come into their homes. Parents would put spells on their children and the children would wear necklaces to protect them.

Children in ancient Egypt played games and listened to stories. Some of the games they played we still play today, such as leap frog and tug-a-war. Toys included a toy mouse, snake, balls, rattles, and so many more. Some were even found in childrens' tombs so they could use them in the next world. Other toys were found in the house.

Kids in ancient Egypt also had pets. In ancient Egypt, children had pets such as cats, dogs, pigeons, and ducks. Sometimes pets were painted on the wall's of the childrens' tombs. The most favorite pet was the cat because the cat goddess Basette protected the home. Some cats helped their owner hunt birds and kill rats.

Children learned how to read, write, and do Mathematics. Boys and girls attended school together from the age 4 to 14. To become a writer, doctor, or scribe children had to learn how to write in hieroglyphics. Usually when a son turned 14, he would follow his father's foot steps. Daughters learned how to wash dishes, weave, and do other chores around the house.





Y is for Your Egypt

by Meghan

Modern day Egypt is different from ancient Egypt in many ways. Some of these differences include religion, population, geography, and clothing. Modern day Egypt also has some similarities to America. Some of these similarities include children's hobbies and clothing.

Egypt is one of the greatest populated countries in the Middle East and Africa. According to a 2006 census, Egypt is estimated to have at least 78.7 million people. Compared to other countries similar to Egypt's size, there are only 217 cities. This is because only 3% of Egypt's land is populated and the other percentage is desert. Even though Egypt has an average population size, the majority of its area is still not populated.

There is very little religious diversity in Egypt because the overwhelming amount of people, 90%, are Islamic. This is a monotheistic religion, which worships Allah, which translates to the word "god". Ancient Egypt used to be a polytheistic country, the belief of more than one god. Egypt changed to a monotheistic country, the belief of only one god, around 700 A.D. when it was conquered by the Arabs and it is now an Arabic country.

Children in modern day Egypt are similar to American children. They play American sports, such as, soccer, tennis, and softball. They also watch TV, swim, and play music. They also love to travel with their families and go out to restaurants. Despite the distance from each other, Egyptian and American kids are very similar.

Another way Egyptian children are similar to American children are their clothing. Egyptian children are required to wear uniforms at school. Like Americans, boys wear collared shirts, jeans, and sneakers while girls wear jeans, skirts, t-shirts, and a variety of shoes. Women wear veils and traditionally long cotton gowns. Men usually wear collared shirts, T-shirts, and shorts. Modern day Egypt has changed a lot since ancient Egypt.

Z is for Zahi Hawass

by Gracie

Zahi Hawass is a famous Egyptologist and is said to be the head of Egyptology. Egyptology is the study of Egypt and its history. He was born on May 2, 1947 in Al-Ubaydiyyah near Damietta, Egypt. Hawass received a diploma for Egyptology at the University of Cairo. He also received a Ph.D at the University of Pennsylvania in 1987. Hawass taught Egyptian archeology in 1988. Zahi is famous for projects like the discovery of the cemetery of pyramid builders and the pyramid of Queen Sesheshet. He has his own television show on the history channel called *Chasing Mummies: Adventures of Zahi Hawass*.

The cemetery of the pyramid builders was an amazing discovery that gave key information about the builders names. The cemetery was found in 1990. Years before, Hawass predicted the location south of the ancient stone wall. The wall is called the Wall of the Cow. It separated the workmen and the royal subjects. This wall is south of the Sphinx. It was found when a tourist's horse stumbled over the buried wall. Hawass and his team later unearthed the Wall and found the cemetery of the workmen.

The discovery of the pyramid of Queen Sesheshet was found in 2008. This pyramid is said to be 4,300 years old. The pyramid is 15 feet in height, topless, and used to be 42 feet in height. This discovery lead to another very important discovery, the discovery of Queen Khuit's pyramid. Queen Sesheshet was the mother of King Teti who had many wives. Two of his wives were Khuit and Iput 1. Khuit was believed by scholars to be a secondary wife, but when they found her pyramid they discovered she was the first wife.

Hawass and his team made many important discoveries that changed our history books and changed the way people see Egypt now. From his discoveries, people have more information about ancient Egypt and can also understand it better. Using this information, they can discover more and learn more thanks to Hawass and his team. History was made with his many discoveries.



Z is for Step Pyramid of Zoser by Ethan

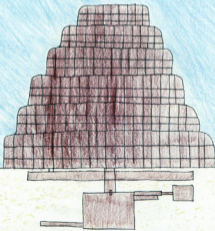
The Step Pyramid of Zoser was the first pyramid ever attempted. It first started out as a large, flat-roofed mastaba which is a royal tomb dedicated to pharaohs. Pharaoh Zoser, who was the ruler during the third dynasty, decided to make the marvel, the Step Pyramid. It's made of six steps and has burial chambers underground. There were many stones it was made out of but it was mostly made out of limestone and granite. The burial chambers were quite impressive and rare. They were unique because they were square unlike most chambers which are usually rectangular. They also had mazes to help keep grave robbers out of the main chamber which contained the king himself.

There are many reasons this pyramid is so famous, but the main reason is because it was the first pyramid ever attempted. Most pharaohs in the beginning just had mastabas but to have a huge monument dedicated to one person was amazing. Another reason this pyramid is so famous is because of its size. It is 204 feet tall, 62 meters, making it the largest building of its time. Also, the royal tomb is 91 feet, 28 meters underground.

Another reason why it is so famous, is because of the people who worked to make it. The person who is probably the most thought of when you think of the Step Pyramid is Pharaoh Zoser. Pharaoh Zoser was the second king of the third dynasty and he ruled for 19 years. To demonstrate his power he initiated the building of the pyramid. Someone else who was very highly thought of was Imhotep, the extraordinary architect. He was the designer of the Step Pyramid and was worshipped as a son of Ptah, the Egyptian god of creation, for 2,000 years post his death. He was supposedly amazingly smart and wise.

The Step Pyramid is located in the Sahara desert south of Giza. The Pyramid is surrounded by many things. First there is a 35 acre mortuary complex which contains many things including the Pyramid. It also contains a small temple, a palace, courtyards, shrines, altars, storehouses, and tombs. It is also surrounded by a wall around the perimeter. It was built in 2,680 BC and is possibly the oldest building still standing today.

The Step Pyramid is an amazing structure and a big part of ancient Egyptian history. It was the first pyramid of its time and it was the beginning of the legacy of the great and mighty pyramids.

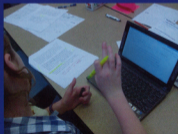


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From Afterlife to Zoser A is for Ancient Egypt will take you on an alphabetical adventure through ancient Egypt!



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