

The Time Traveler's Project



Your Trip Through History

DISCOVER

# EGYPT



Archaeology Now

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA - HOUSTON SOCIETY

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# Welcome to Parents!

We are excited to welcome you and the children in your care to a new adventure sponsored by Archaeology Now—The Time Travelers Family Project! The goal of this project is to introduce world cultures to you without leaving home. While you might not be able to travel across your city or to another country, using your imagination and the tools of archaeology you can still travel through time! A magical armchair journey is waiting for you.

We created a wide variety of activities for different learning styles, interests, and age levels. *Our goal is to create materials for fourth- to fifth-grade students. However, some pieces might appeal to younger children.* You know your child best. Please feel free to use these materials based on your child's curiosity and skill levels!

Learn about  
archaeology  
and ancient  
Egypt in this  
series of  
activities.



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# Get Your Child Involved!

We'd love to hear from you and your children!

If you have questions or want to send us copies of artwork that you've created, please feel free to contact us at [archaeologyhouston@gmail.com](mailto:archaeologyhouston@gmail.com).

Over the coming weeks, we will post your pictures and questions on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ArchaeologyNowHouston](http://www.facebook.com/ArchaeologyNowHouston) under the heading **Family Fridays—Egypt**. We will also feature additional interesting stories not included in this packet. Some of your pictures and stories might be placed on our website as well.

Mummies are marvelous!  
Pharaohs are phantastic!



# What is an Archaeologist?

**DID YOU KNOW?** Archaeologists study the HUMAN past. They do this by studying things that people have left behind. These things are called artifacts. Archaeologists write the stories of people who lived before us.

Archaeologists work all around the world. They work under water. They even work in space! But usually they find artifacts by digging in the ground. However, they do not study dinosaurs! That person is called a paleontologist!

Archaeologists work with artists, scientists, and historians. They want to understand how people lived and how they solved problems a long time ago.

You could say that an archaeologist is a time-traveling detective!



The archaeologist in this picture is looking at the body of a famous pharaoh—King Tutankhamun!

**Join us in discovery!**



# An Amazing Egyptian World!

What if you were walking home from school one day and turned a corner, and suddenly you had traveled back in time and were in a completely different world? A world that you didn't recognize.

In this world, it's hot! Everyone's life depends on a small strip of green farm land next to a long river flowing through a big sandy desert. The wealthy in this world wear lots of eye makeup, big wigs, and white clothing. The language they speak is written in pictures. Kings and queens were first buried in giant triangle-shaped tombs called pyramids. Later they decided to use beautiful underground tombs covered with pictures in a secret valley.

The leader of this world calls himself a god. He wears a blue fake beard and a striped headdress sort of like a beach towel. There is a snake's head in the middle of his headdress. In this world, there is no money. If you need something, you trade something else for it. When you work, you are paid in groceries and clothing. There are many different gods in this world. Many of the gods look like a combination of humans and animals. Their jobs are to help people and protect them after death.





# An Amazing Egyptian World!

This world might sound strange, but it actually existed! We know a lot about ancient Egypt because the hot dry climate preserved many artifacts that they left behind.

Today, we call this world Egypt. However, the people who lived in this world more than 5,000 years ago called it "Kemet." This means "black land." They named it for the dark, fertile soil used for farming next to the Nile River.

Every year the Nile River would flood. The flood happened during the late summer or early fall. It was not a scary event like our floods are today. Instead it was a happy time because the floodwaters spread dark, rich soil over the land. This soil was left behind after the water returned to a normal level. Then, the farmers could plant gardens, and everyone would have enough food to eat. There was always a holiday with feasts to celebrate the flooding of the Nile. It was sort of like a birthday party for the country!

**Let's travel through time to learn more about the ancient Egyptians!**

The Nile River made life in ancient Egypt possible. It was so important that some people say that Egypt was the "Gift of the Nile."



The Nile River with the Sahara Desert Behind

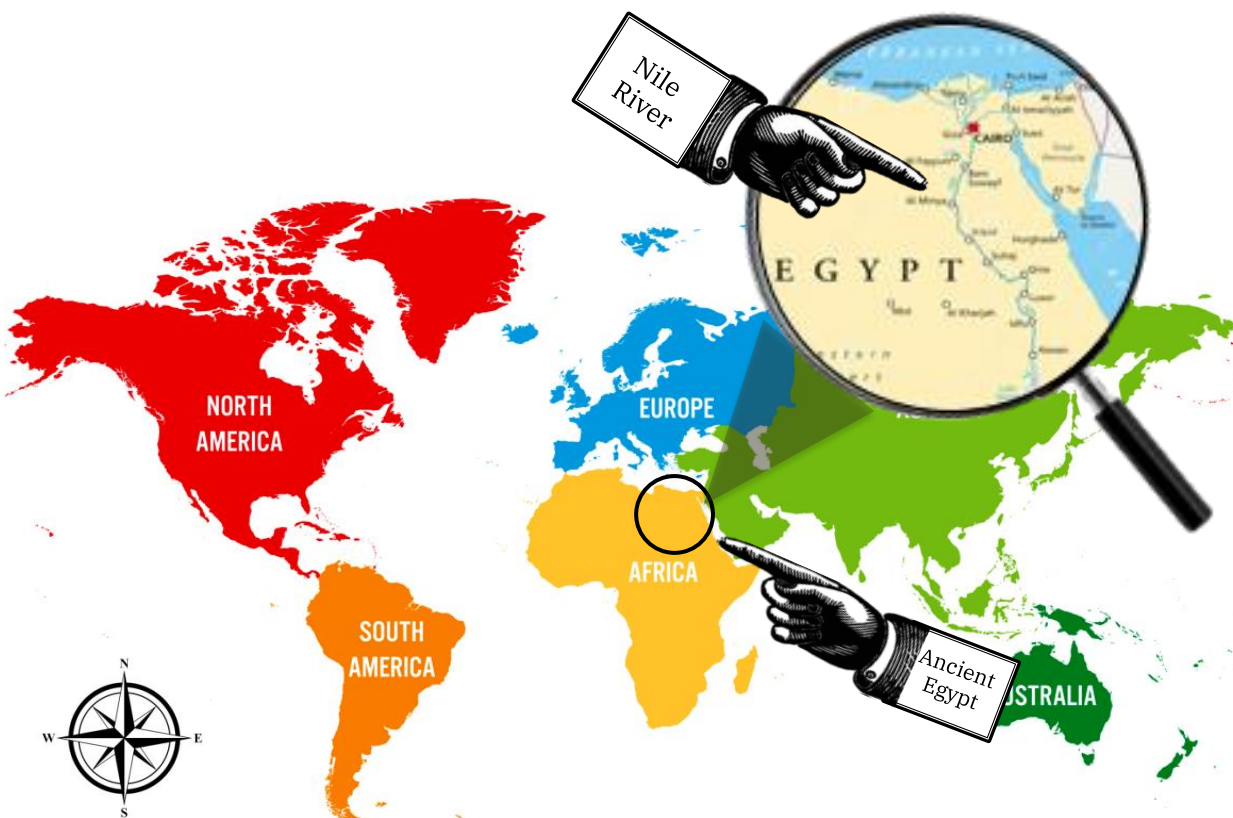


# Where in the World is Egypt?

**DID YOU KNOW?** In Egypt there were three natural environments: green farmland, hot dry deserts, and the cool waters of the Nile River.

Egyptian life was shaped by the natural world. The land was hot because they were surrounded by dry desert. The Egyptians were protected by natural barriers: the Red Sea was in the east. The Sahara Desert was in the west. The Mediterranean Sea in the north. Large boulders blocks sailing on the Nile from coming into Egypt from the South. These barriers prevented enemies from conquering the country. This meant that the Egyptians could live in peace without worrying about war. Because of their peaceful way of life, they were able to create a culture that lasted over 5,000 years!

Where in the world did the ancient Egyptians live?





# Compare Your Life to the Ancient Egyptians

**DID YOU KNOW?** Just like the Egyptians, your neighborhood, and the natural world around you influences the way you live.

Is your neighborhood hot or cold? Is it crowded or spread out? Are there many animals around? What kind of trees and plants do you see? What kind of clothes do you wear?

## Write About Your Natural World

Write here about the natural world around you or make a drawing of something in your neighborhood that is important to you. You can use a separate piece of paper if you want.



Where in the world do you live? Draw a circle on the map to show.







# Who Are the Ancient Egyptians?

**DID YOU KNOW?** Just like in *your* city, an ancient Egyptian city had many types of people. These people were kings, priests, people who made things, and farmers.

## PHARAOHS

In ancient Egypt, kings were called pharaohs. Pharaohs and their queens were at the very top of society. Egyptians thought of them as gods. We know a lot about pharaohs because of the things they left behind in tombs. They were buried in pyramids or in tombs dug deep into the sand. We know what pharaohs looked like because they loved to create statues and pictures of themselves.

Pharaohs and their wives had beautiful clothing made out of a thin white fabric called linen. The pharaoh wore a special hat called a nemes headdress. He also wore a fake blue beard, tied to his chin. These two items were symbols of his power. He was the only person who could wear the headdress and the blue beard.

The man in this picture is a powerful pharaoh. Can you see his fake beard and nemes headdress?





# Who Are the Ancient Egyptians?

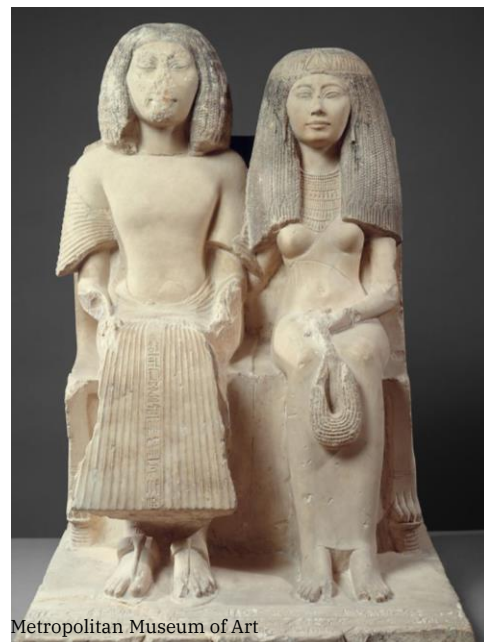
Scribes were people who had trained for many years to learn how to write.

## ELITE

Wealthy people in ancient Egypt were often priests in the temples. Some had jobs in the government, such as keeping records or running the army. Sometimes they were doctors or scribes.

These people had very good lives. They lived in beautiful houses and had lots of servants to help them. Both men and women wore big necklaces and huge wigs. They wore lots of eye makeup. This protected them from eye infections and the bright sun.

The man in this picture was a doctor *and* a scribe. His wife was a musician at a temple. We know that because she is holding a string with many tiny bells on it. Can you see that both people are wearing big wigs?



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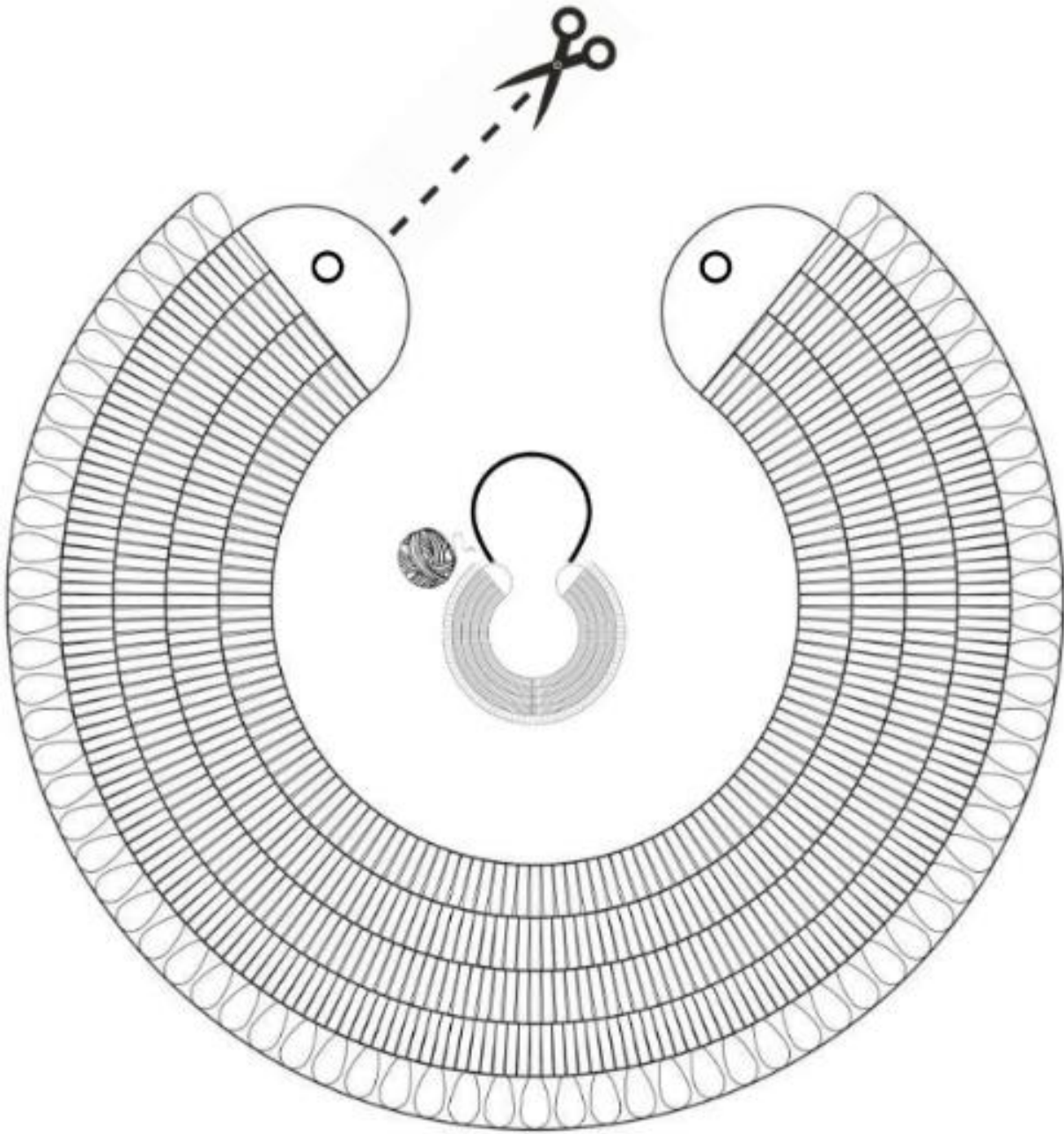
This is a little model of a garden. You would see a real garden in the home of a wealthy person. There was probably a pool in the center with fish. The garden must have been a cool place to sit to get away from the heat.



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Wealthy Egyptians wore beautiful necklaces made out of many jewels.  
Color this and then cut it out. Put a string through the holes to tie it  
around your neck.



# Who Are the Ancient Egyptians?

Many skills, such as writing or baking, were handed down in a family from father to son or mother to daughter.

## CRAFTSPEOPLE

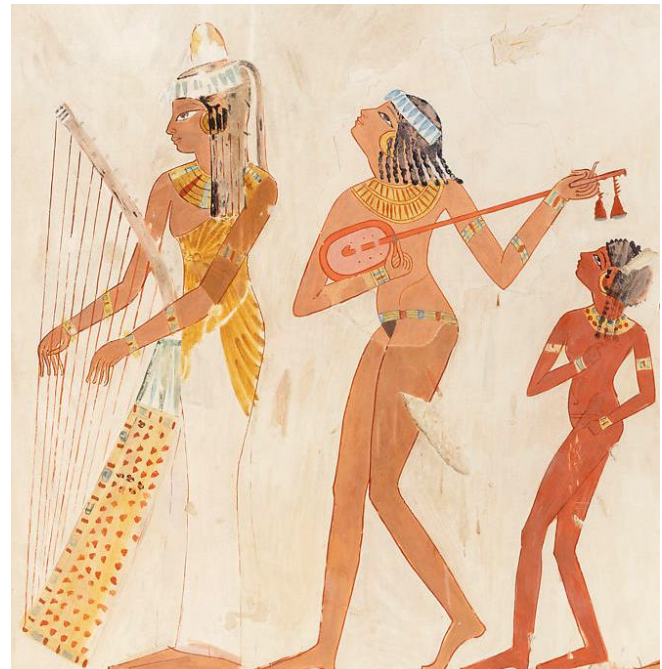
Ancient Egyptians were very good craftspeople. One of their best crafts was building. However, they kept some secrets! They didn't tell us how they built the pyramids, some of the largest buildings in the world. They were also excellent carpenters, musicians, artists, and bakers.

Here are paintings from the walls of tombs. On the left you can see craftsmen making a bed. Can you recognize one of the tools that that is still used today?

On the right is a picture of musicians. Their instruments are beautiful. Even though the original paintings of these instruments are thousands of years old, they look like some of the instruments we play today.



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# Who Are the Ancient Egyptians?

## FARMERS

People have to eat! There were a lot of farmers in Egypt. They made sure there was enough food for everyone. The farmers in this picture are plowing their fields, growing grain, and then harvesting it.



One of the most important items in the diet of Egypt was grain. Grain was used to make bread, soup, and beer. Egyptian workers were paid with groceries. What do you think was the largest part of their salary? BREAD! The people below are working in a bakery to make bread.



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# Ancient Egyptian Writing

**DID YOU KNOW?** Egyptians were some of the first people to make paper. The paper they made is called papyrus. It is named after the plant they used to make it.

Papyrus is a reed that grows in water. You can see a picture of papyrus on the right. Egyptians harvested the reed. Then they peeled away the outside of the stalks. Then they cut the stalks into very thin strips and wove them together to make a flat sheet. They did not have books with pages like we have. Instead, they glued sections of papyrus sheets together to make long rolls.



The picture below shows the steps in making papyrus. Can you see how the strips are laid over each other to make a sheet?





# Ancient Egyptian Writing

Ancient Egyptian writing was very interesting. The Egyptians used pictures or symbols called hieroglyphs. Hieroglyphs stood for sounds, ideas, *and* words. Hieroglyphs can be “read” from left to right or right to left. Sometimes also top to bottom! The direction an animal or human faces determines the direction to read. For example, if the animal faces to the left, then we read left to right. Look at the painting below and find several hieroglyphs in the shape of a bird or other animal. Which direction are they facing?

Hieroglyphs were written everywhere. They were written on papyrus sheets and painted and carved onto walls.



Here is a set of tools used by a scribe to write on papyrus. There is a wooden case with a groove in the center for reed pens. You can also see small circles at the end to hold red and black ink.



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# Ancient Egyptian Writing

Most people in Egypt didn't know how to write. Learning to write was *hard*. A scribe was a professional who went through a very long training process. If a person needed something written, they would pay a scribe to write it for them. In the bigger picture is a miniature scene found in a tomb (this scene is about the size of something from a dollhouse today). In this scene, scribes are at work in their "office," writing for people. The small figures are scribes. Can you see their tools and the roll of papyrus?



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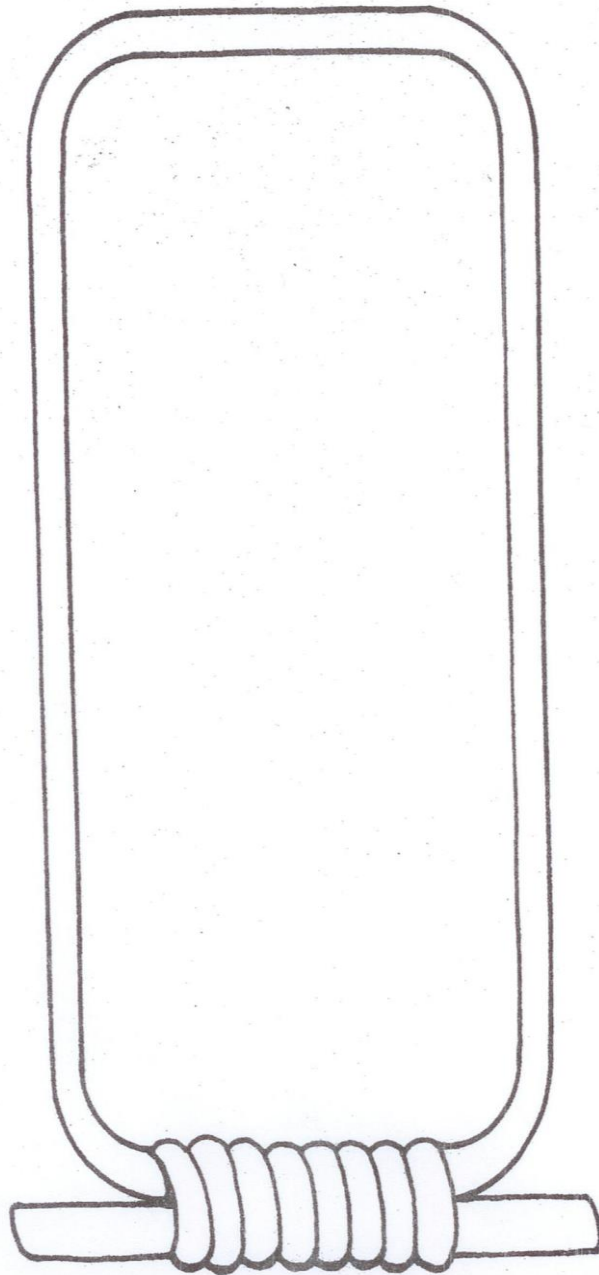


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EGYPT

# Ancient Egyptian Writing

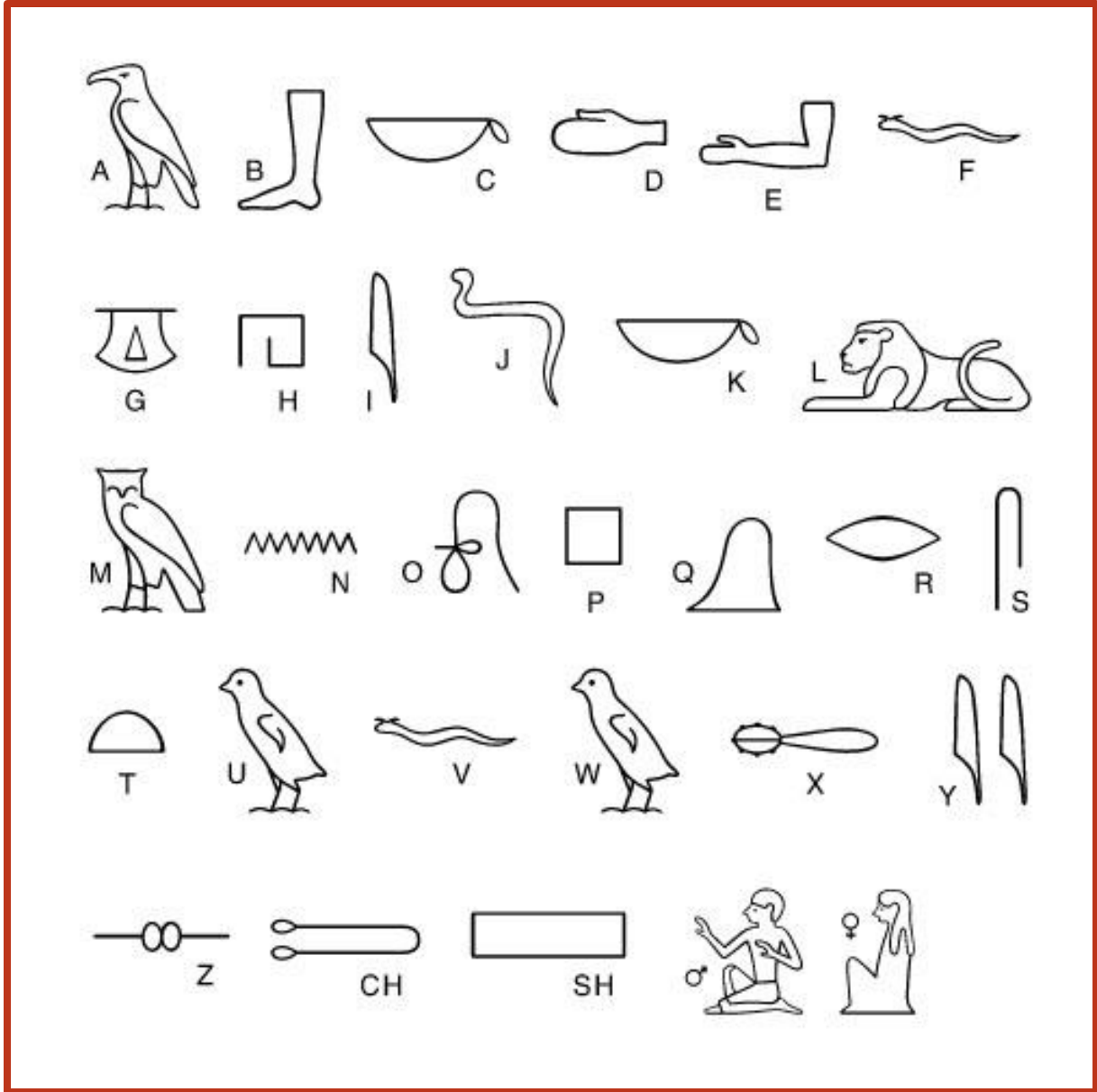
You can pretend that you are a pharaoh! Write your name in hieroglyphics inside this cartouche. Use the key found on the next page.



A cartouche is an oval shape around the name of a royal person. It is supposed to have the power to protect the royal name.



# Hieroglyph Key





# Ancient Egyptian Numbers

The Egyptians did not know about zero.

The Egyptian used hieroglyphs for numbers, too. They had symbols for the numbers one through nine. Special symbols were used for ten, hundred, thousand, ten thousand, one hundred thousand, and a million. The picture below shows how numbers were written Egypt.

It's easy to do Egyptian math. You just repeat the symbol for one, ten, or a hundred as many times as you need.

1	10	100	1,000	10,000	100,000	1 million, or many
	∩	☉	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rod	Heel Bone	Rope	Lily	Finger	Frog	God

Here is an example, reading from left to right:

☉☉ ∩ ∩ ∩ | = **231**

Now, its your turn! See if you can figure out these Egyptian numbers:

☐☉☉ ∩ ∩ | | | = \_\_\_\_\_

☉☉☉☉ ∩ ∩ | | = \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, write the number of the day of your birthday.

Key:  
Line 1 = 1, 223  
Line 2 = 422

A mummy is a preserved body of a dead person or animal.

# Mummies

**DID YOU KNOW?** Royal mummies had special coverings made of gold placed over their fingers and toes. Sort of like a golden manicure-pedicure!

Egyptians believed that you should be good during your life. Then, after you died you would go a place called the Field of Reeds. To them, this was heaven. In the Field of Reeds, no one was hungry, and everyone lived happily. They thought they could live in this beautiful world if they preserved their bodies after death by making a mummy. The mummy could magically come to life when it reached the Field of Reeds.



Here is one of the earliest Egyptian mummies. A lotion was used to preserve the skin, and he was wrapped in cloth. Then, the body was buried in a pit with some of the things he would need for life after death. Shoes, arrows for hunting, and a basket were some of the things left with him.

Gradually, mummies got much fancier! Here are steps for making a mummy.



Wash Body



Cover in Salt



Wrap in Linen



Wrap in Bands



Place in Coffin

# Mummies



Making a mummy took a long time. During the process, a religious leader wore a mask shaped like the head of a dog. This mask symbolized the god Anubis who had a dog shape. The job of the god Anubis was to protect the dead.

To start the mummy-making process, the workers made a little slit on the side of the body. Then, they reached into the body and removed the liver, the lungs, the intestines, and the stomach. These organs were preserved in jars called canopic jars. You can see canopic jars below. There is a different jar for each organ.

Egyptians left the heart in the body. They thought the brain wasn't important, so they removed it by poking a stick through the nose and pulling out the brain. They threw it away.

Each head on a canopic jar symbolized a god that protected an organ. Here are the names of the gods and the organs that they protected.

Duamutef  
Stomach

Hapy  
Lungs

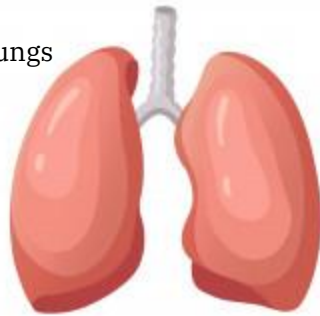
Qebhsenuf  
Intestines

Imsety  
Liver

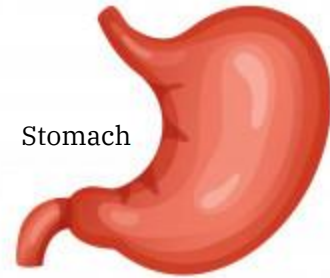


Pretend you are a priest in Egypt. Here are organs that you have removed from a mummy you are making. Somehow, they got mixed up! You need to put them in the right canopic jar. Draw a line from the organ to the correct jar. You can use the picture of canopic jars from the previous page to help you.

Lungs



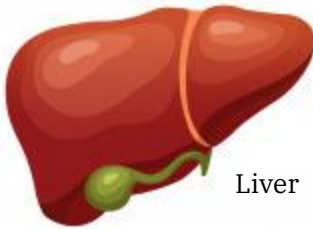
Stomach



Intestines



Liver



# Mummies

The funeral begins when the mummy is ready. A funeral is a special ceremony for a dead person.

Family and friends take the mummy to the tomb. The priest says magical spells to protect the body on the journey to the Field of Reeds. Here is a papyrus showing the funeral for a man named Ani. Can you see his mummy being pulled in a special cart by cows? Relatives are behind him. The priest is in front. Ani's wife is beside him. Once they got to the tomb, they leave the mummy inside with lots of food, drink, furniture, clothes, and jewelry to be used in the Field of Reeds. Then the family leaves.



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After death, the mummy had to go through a test by the gods. The weight of the mummy's heart was compared to a feather. If the person had been good in life, the heart would be light as the feather and they could go to the Field of Reeds. If they were bad, the heart would be heavier than a feather and a monster would be waiting to eat them.

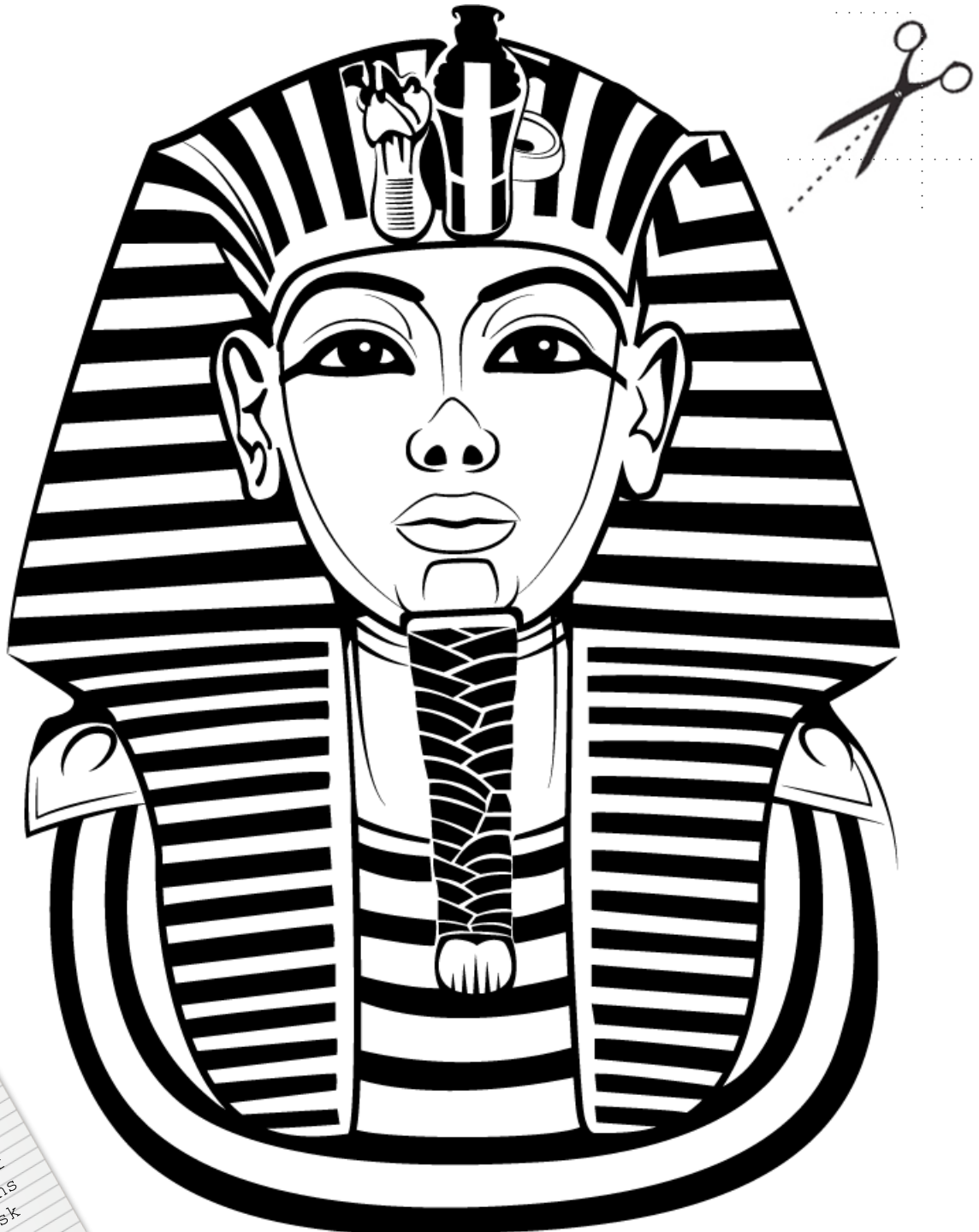


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This papyrus shows the heart of Ani being compared to the weight of a feather. Ani is waiting on the left to see the results. The monster is waiting on the right in case Ani is bad. Of course he has been good!



This is a drawing of a mask that was placed over the mummy of the head of King Tutankhamun in his tomb. This mask was made of solid gold! You can color it and cut it out. Glue it to a stick to hold in front of your face. You can pretend to be a pharaoh.



Can you see the nemes headdress and the fake beard? Both of these are signs that this mask belongs to a pharaoh.





# Egyptian Pyramids

**DID YOU KNOW?** Egyptians were outstanding builders! The Great Pyramid of Khufu is still the largest stone building in the world.

Everyone thinks of pyramids when they think of Egypt. They are one of the most wonderful things ever built. Even today, we are not sure how they were built! People used to think that slaves built pyramids, but now we know that's not true.

The pyramids were built as a place to bury the pharaoh.

Archaeologists have discovered villages near pyramids where the builders and their families lived. They were very skilled craftspeople and were well fed and paid by the pharaoh for their work. Here are the ruins of the workers village. The roofs fell in after the builders finished building the pyramids and left to go home.



Builders had to experiment before they finally figured out how to build a pyramid!

The first pyramid—the “Step Pyramid.”



Oops... someone made a mistake!  
The “Bent Pyramid.”





# Egyptian Pyramids

SUCCESS!

Khufu built what is called the “Great Pyramid” because it is the biggest and the best. For years, it was the biggest stone structure on earth.

So, what does this pyramid look like inside?  
Well, there isn't really a lot to see.

There are steep, narrow hallways and many stairs. There's a room where the pharaoh's body was placed. There are mysteries too! Archaeologists are still trying to find answers to why some rooms were not finished and some stairs have a dead end. Maybe YOU can help solve the mystery of Khufu's pyramid!



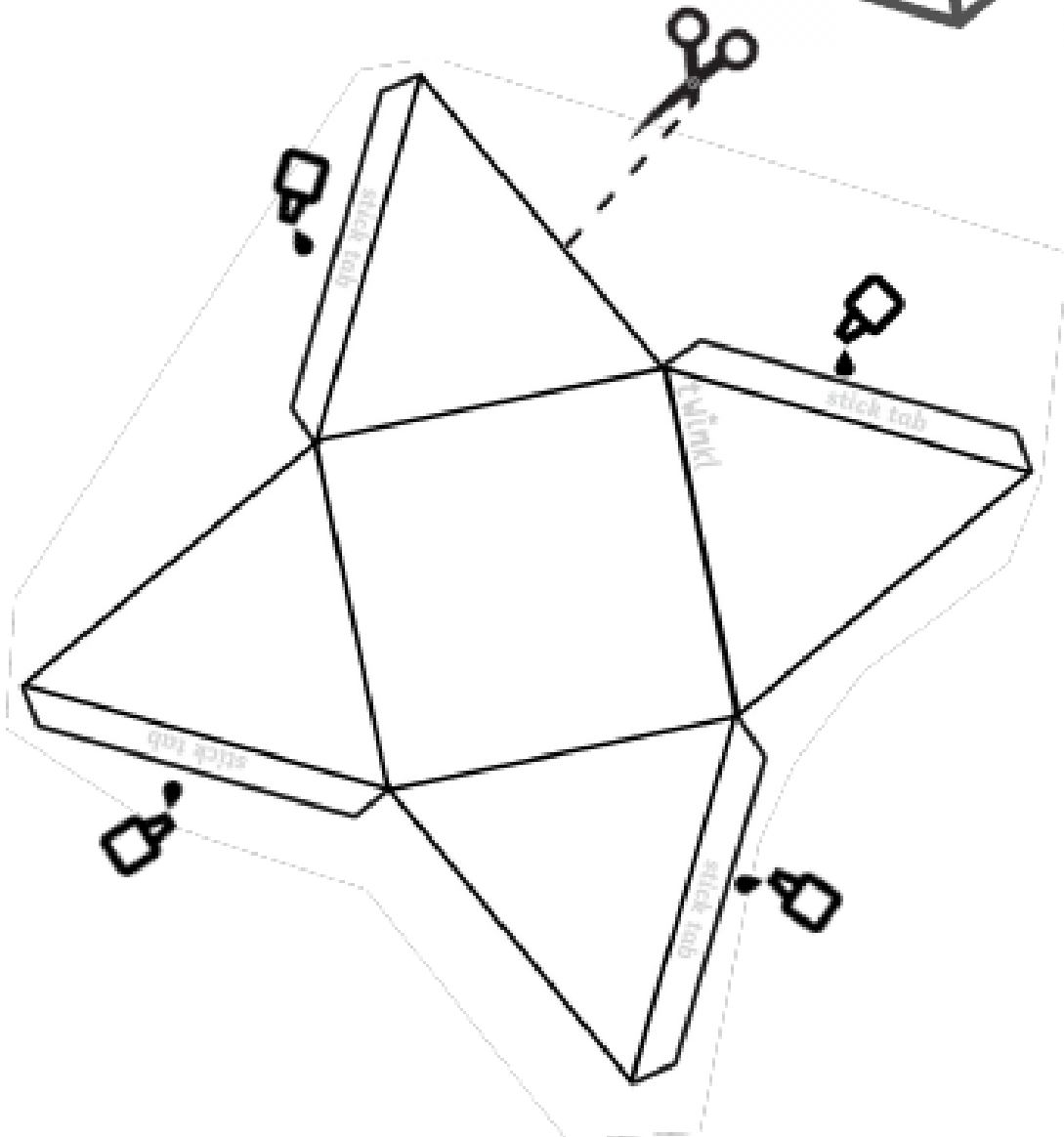
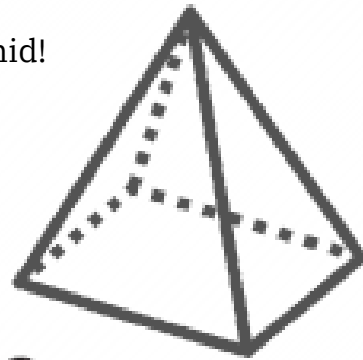


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# Egyptian Pyramids

You can make your own three-dimensional pyramid!



Little packages of pre-cooked meals were left in a pharaoh's tomb. Sort of like an order from McDonald's!

# Egyptian Tombs

**DID YOU KNOW?** Pharaohs built tombs underground in a hidden valley to prevent robbers from stealing the beautiful jewels they left behind.

After a while, Egyptians stopped building pyramids. Instead, pharaohs built tombs to hold their mummies. These tombs were beautiful! The walls and ceilings were covered with paintings.



Egyptians placed *everything* they would need for a good life after death in their tombs. Sometimes they used miniature models, statues, or pictures to stand in for the real thing. They thought these would magically spring to life and become full size. Here are some of the things left in a tomb. The white boxes are like lunchboxes full of food so no one would go hungry after they died!





Artifacts help  
archaeologists  
learn about how  
people lived in  
the past.

# Measure an Artifact

**DID YOU KNOW?** A shabti was a statue in the tomb of a person. Shabtis would magically come to life to do chores for you.



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You have been working as an archaeologist in an Egyptian tomb! You have found many shabtis! It is your job to measure them. You can do that here. Included on this page is a small ruler. Cut it out and use it to measure the artifacts shown.

**Measure and record the length of the Shabti ON THE LEFT from top to bottom.** Write the answer in centimeters and inches here:

Length from top to bottom in inches \_\_\_\_\_

Length from top to bottom in centimeters \_\_\_\_\_

**Next, measure and record the length of the SMALLEST Shabti here:**

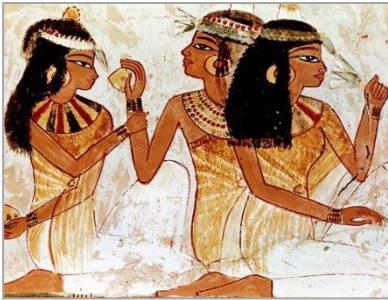
Length from top to bottom inches \_\_\_\_\_

Length from top to bottom in centimeters \_\_\_\_\_

Egyptians thought that art on the walls of the tomb would come to life, so they painted images of daily life such as parties.

# Egyptian Tombs

Here are just some of the things that have been found in tombs. Egyptians thought that they could use all these things after they died.



painting of a party



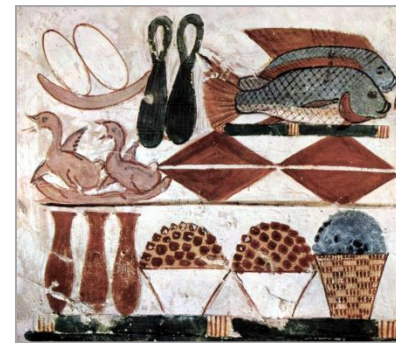
games



a golden chair



miniature model of a boat



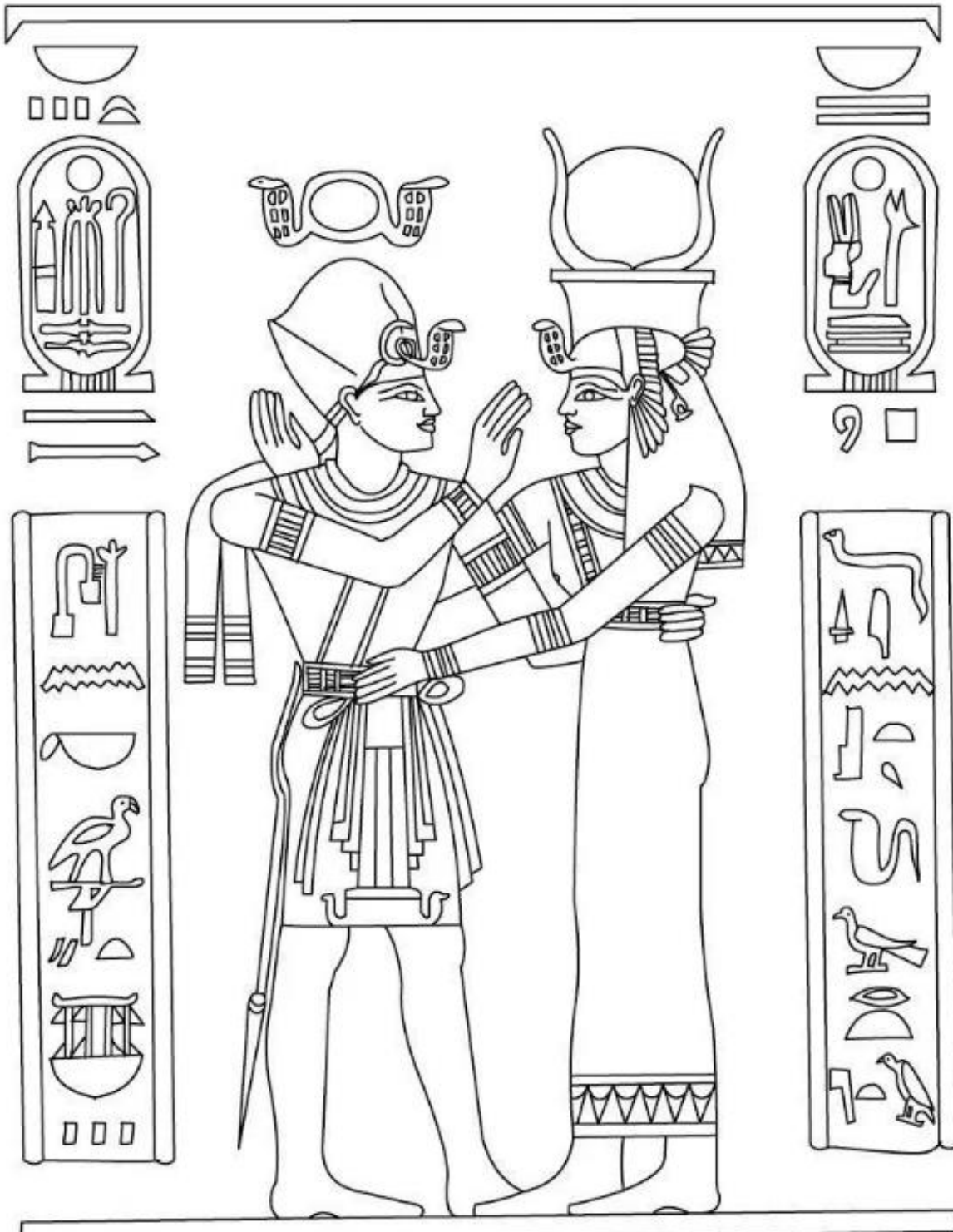
painting of food for a party



Shabtis



Here's a sheet to color showing a scene from a tomb. Can you see the cartouche around the hieroglyphs? That means this is a royal tomb.





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# Put Together a Perfume Jar

Put the pieces together to make a beautiful little fish. The original was made of glass. It was hollow inside. A cork would have sealed its mouth.



Archaeologists found this beautiful little fish under the floor of a house! They think it was a perfume bottle.





# Ancient Egyptian Recipe

**DID YOU KNOW?** The world's oldest honey was found in an Egyptian tomb. It was over 3,000 years old and still good to eat!

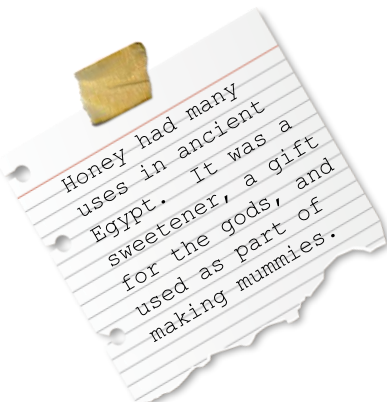
You can make some ancient Egyptian food! The Egyptians had a cheese that was like our yogurt. This dish is something they would have had for dessert.



## Yogurt and Honey

1 cup of unsweetened yogurt  
2 tablespoons of honey (or more, if you prefer it sweeter)

Mix together in a bowl for an ancient Egyptian dessert.



hieroglyph for honey bee

# Egyptian Achievements

Its amazing to think the ancient Egyptians created a culture that lasted for almost 5,000 years! Here are some of the impressive things they did.

## Hieroglyphs



## Domesticated cats



Egyptians were the first to domesticate, or tame, cats.



RISD

## Mummies

## Pyramids



# Words to Know

**Archaeologist** is a person who studies the human past. An archaeologist looks at the things that people have left behind.

**Canopic Jars** held the lungs, stomach, liver, and intestines from the mummy. The brain was not saved. It was thrown away.



**Mummy** is the body of a person or animal that has been preserved after death. This allows it to go to the Field of Reeds to live forever. This could only happen if the person was good during life.



**Cartouche** is a rope in an oval shape. It is placed around the hieroglyphics for a royal name. Egyptians thought it had magical powers to protect a name.



**Hieroglyphs** Symbols that can mean a sound or a word or an idea.



**Papyrus** is the first type of paper. It was made from thin strips cut from the stalk of the papyrus reed. These strips were laid in a crisscross design to make a sheet. Sheets were glued together to make a roll.



# Words to Know

**Pharaoh** is the Egyptian word for king. Egyptians thought of him as a god. A special headdress and a fake beard were their symbols of a king.



**Shabti** is a tiny statue of person placed in a tomb. It would magically come to life to do chores for you after you died.



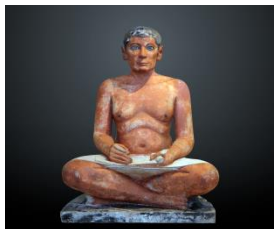
**Pyramid** is a large triangle-shaped structure built out of stone. A pyramid held the pharaoh's mummy.



**Tomb** is a place that holds the mummy of a person, as well as everything needed for a comfortable, happy life after death. Tombs were cut out of rock or dug into the desert floor.



**Scribe** is a highly skilled person who studied for years to learn how to write in hieroglyphs. This knowledge was often passed down in families.



**You** are the person reading this page! We hope you enjoyed your journey with us. Best wishes for more adventures in Egypt!



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# Egypt Word Search

Can you find these words? They can go in any direction.

K P S C L N T R U C J W C U Y W R R  
 E T K A P Y R A M I D L F F X U M O  
 C C Y H P Y L G O R E I H G E W U N  
 J A K N Q W P D G X E Z D E N G M G  
 D R U X K H U F U L V H W N W H M L  
 R T T G B D H R D S Z I J A C B Y M  
 H O A R A H P O E S X G Z A A T R A  
 L U O Q I H F W D Z Y I N D X H N O  
 R C G Q V R F B Y E H O T Z Q U V P  
 Y H R F E J Q W L C P J R O B T W A  
 K E B E J O H F R I R U E I M C P P  
 M I D K F T P O C N C R S Z J B J Y  
 P S O Q E I T J Q S G Y E U J Y H R  
 L K P D S E A P K J K A D R V F I U  
 Z V I E T R R D I M A R Y P P E T S  
 X B V L V D T E O M G S A R S Q Z E  
 O N P I D Z O Z T X T S A M V B R V  
 M P A N S D L M B Y S J H L D S N G

ANUBIS  
 DESERT  
 KHUFU  
 PAPYRUS  
 STEP PYRAMID

CANOPIC JAR  
 FIELD OF REEDS  
 MUMMY  
 PHARAOH  
 TOMB

CARTOUCHE  
 HIEROGLYPH  
 NILE  
 PYRAMID



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# Egypt Word Search Key

Can you find these words? They can go in any direction.

K P S C L N T R U C J W C U Y W R R  
 E T K A P Y R A M I D L F F X U M O  
 C C Y H P Y L G O R E I H G E W U N  
 J A K N Q W P D G X E Z D E N G M G  
 D R U X K H U F U L V H W N W H M L  
 R T T G B D H R D S Z I J A C B Y M  
 H O A R A H P O E S X G Z A A T R A  
 L U O Q I H F W D Z Y I N D X H N O  
 R C G Q V R F B Y E H O T Z Q U V P  
 Y H R F E J Q W L C P J R O B T W A  
 K E B E J O H F R I R U E I M C P P  
 M I D K F T P O C N C R S Z J B J Y  
 P S O Q E I T J Q S G Y E U J Y H R  
 L K P D S E A P K J K A D R V F I U  
 Z V I E T R R D I M A R Y P P E T S  
 X B V L V D T E O M G S A R S Q Z E  
 O N P I D Z O Z T X T S A M V B R V  
 M P A N S D L M B Y S J H L D S N G

ANUBIS  
 DESERT  
 KHUFU  
 PAPYRUS  
 STEP PYRAMID

CANOPIC JAR  
 FIELD OF REEDS  
 MUMMY  
 PHARAOH  
 TOMB

CARTOUCHE  
 HIEROGLYPH  
 NILE  
 PYRAMID