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GODS AND GODDESSES



The ancient Egyptian god Horus is portrayed in human form with a falcon head at the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut (left) and as a falcon at the Edfu Temple (inset).

Ancient Egyptians had over 2000 gods and goddesses. Some were local to a city or an area and some were known across Egypt. Many gods and goddesses had the head of animal and body of human. Over time, ancient Egyptian gods changed roles and forms, sometimes even merging with other gods.

THE NILE AND THE GODS

The Nile was a strong influence on the ancient Egyptian religion. According to legend, the flooding of the Nile was caused by the tears of Isis, mourning for Osiris.

There were many gods associated with the Nile. Hapi, the god of the Nile inundation, was worshipped throughout Egypt and was honoured in celebrations when the Nile flooded.

AMUN RA

King of the gods
God of wind

Amun was a local god but when the capital was moved to Thebes, he became a national god. Eventually he was combined with the god Ra and became the more powerful Amun-Ra. He was pictured with the head of a ram, or as a man wearing an ostrich plume headdress.

sacred to Ancient Egyptians. She was depicted as a cat or a woman with the head of a cat.



BES

God of Protection

Bes protected pregnant woman, newborn babies and mothers. Ancient Egyptians believed Bes also protected people against snake bites. He was pictured as an ugly dwarf with a headdress.



ANUBIS

God of mummification

Anubis supervised embalming and was a guardian and protector of the dead. During mummification, a priest would often wear the mask of Anubis. It was believed that Anubis oversaw the judgement of the deceased. He was depicted with the head of a jackal or wolf.



HATHOR

Goddess of the sky

Hathor was the mother of Ra and sailed across the sky each day in his boat. She drove away evil and brought goodness out in people. Hathor was pictured as a woman with the head of a cow, ears of a cow, or simply in cow form.



HORUS

God of the sky and black soil

Horus was the son of Isis and Osiris. Horus won a fight with his uncle, Set. He lost an eye in the battle but he became king of Egypt. He gave pharaohs their power. Horus was also depicted as a falcon with a crown.



ISIS

Goddess of motherhood and love

Isis was the wife and sister of Osiris, mother of Horus. She resurrected Osiris, creating the first mummy. She was sometimes depicted with wings or with a throne on her head.

BASTET

Goddess of cats, women and children

Bastet protected the home from evil spirits. Cats were



MA'AT

Goddess of truth, justice and balance

Maat was the daughter of Ra and the wife of Thoth. She weighed the heart of those who died against her feather to decide who would travel to the afterlife. She is depicted as a woman with an ostrich feather on her head, sometimes winged. Sometimes she was pictured as an ostrich feather.



OSIRIS

God of the dead, king of the underworld

Osiris was the husband of Isis. He taught Egyptians agriculture and gave them barley. After death Egyptians believed that the pharaoh became Osiris. As king of the underworld, Osiris was portrayed as a mummified man with green skin.



RA

God of the sun

Ra created all forms of life by speaking their secret names. Ra ruled all he created, including the sky, earth and underworld. It was believed that Ra died every night and was reborn each morning. Ra was shown as a man with the head of a falcon with a sun disc on his head.



SEKMET

Goddess of medicine and war

Sekmet could cure disease and stop a plague. She was portrayed with the head of a lion.

SET

God of the desert, darkness and chaos

Set was lord of the red land of the desert. In Egyptian mythology, Set murdered

his brother Osiris. Set, sometimes known as Seth, was pictured with the head of a beast. He is sometimes depicted as a shaggy red dog.

SOBEK

Nile god of strength and power

Sobek could protect people against the dangers of the Nile. Crocodiles were worshipped in some parts of Egypt, some were even mummified. Sobek had the head of a crocodile.

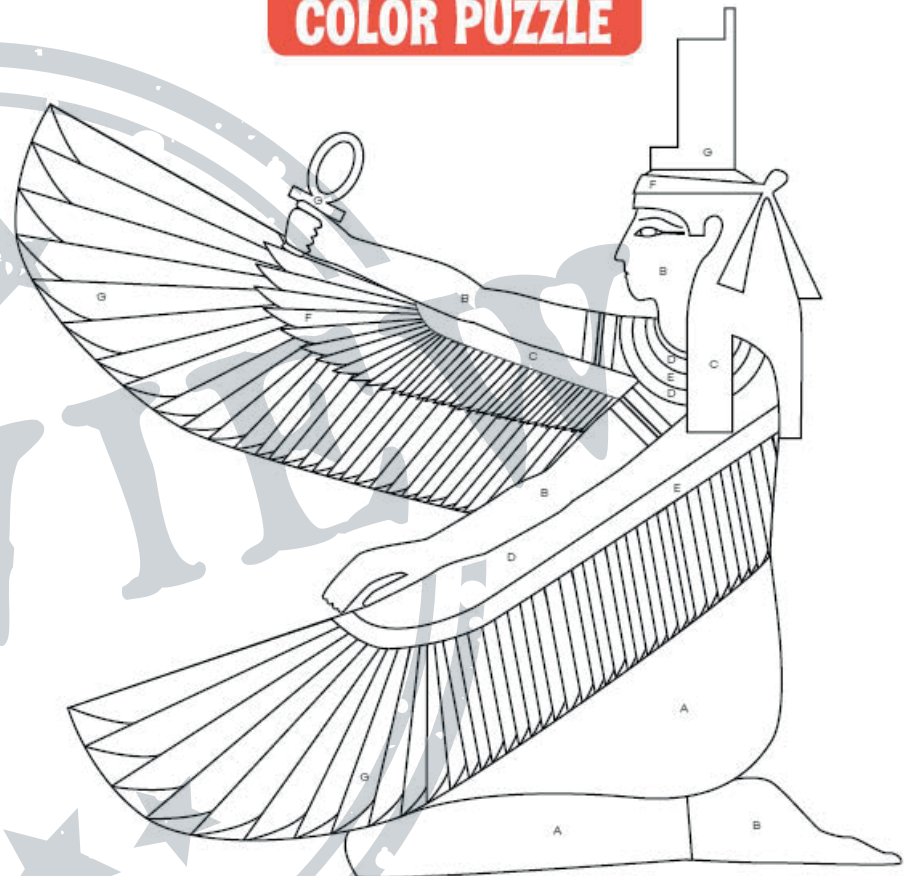


THOTH

God of writing, knowledge, magic and the moon

Thoth recorded the deeds of the dead. Ancient Egyptians believed he invented writing. Thoth was portrayed with the head of an ibis, which is a bird with a long bill, although sometimes he was shown as a seated baboon with a disc on his head.

COLOR PUZZLE



- A - Who is the goddess of love?
- B - Who was the god of the sun?
- C - Who weighed the heart of those who died against her feather?
- D - Which god was pictured as an ugly dwarf?
- E - Which god was portrayed as a mummified man?
- F - Who recorded the deeds of the dead?
- G - Who was the god of chaos and darkness?

- Set = Gold/Orange
- Osiris = Green
- Ra = Yellow
- Ma'at = Dark Blue
- Bes = Blue
- Thoth = Red
- Isis = Purple

FIND THE MATCH

Draw a line to match the name of the god or goddess to their description.

ANUBIS

ISIS

SEKMET

SOBEK

BES

HORUS

RA

Created the first mummy

Head of a crocodile

Could cure disease

Head of a falcon and sun on his head

Protected against snake bites



FACT FILE

Create a fact file for your favorite ancient Egyptian god or goddess.

Name: _____

Role: _____

Draw a picture: _____

Description: _____

Special powers: _____

Interesting facts: _____

TRUE OR FALSE

Circle T (True) or F (False) for each of the following statements.

- 1 According to legend, the flooding of the Nile was caused by the tears of Isis. T F
- 2 Amun-Ra was pictured with the head of an ostrich. T F
- 3 Bastet was the goddess of cats, women and children. T F
- 4 Ra created all forms of life by speaking their secret names. T F
- 5 Ancient Egyptians believed Sekmet invented writing. T F
- 6 Isis resurrected Osiris, creating the first mummy. T F
- 7 It was believed that Ra died every morning and was reborn each night. T F
- 8 After death Egyptians believed that the pharaoh became Osiris. T F
- 9 Crocodiles were worshipped by Egyptians, some were even mummified. T F



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COLOR PUZZLE



FIND THE MATCH

Draw a line to match the name of the god or goddess to their description.

ANUBIS

ISIS



DEO

HORUS

Head a falcon and sun disk on his headdress

RA

- A - ...
- B - ...
- C - ...
- D - ...
- E - Which ... portrayed as a ...
- F - Who recorded the deeds of the dead?
- G - Who was the god of chaos and darkness?

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TRUE OR FALSE

Circle T (True) or F (False) for each of the following statements.

1. ... F
2. ... F
3. ... F
4. ... F
5. Ancient Egyptians believed Sekmet invented writing. T F
6. Isis resurrected Osiris, creating the first mummy. T F
7. It was believed that Ra died every morning and was reborn each night. T F
8. After death Egyptians believed that the pharaoh became Osiris. T F
9. Crocodiles were worshipped by Egyptians, some were even mummified. T F

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3 answer sheets