

Ancient Egypt

Gods and G

There were more than 2000 gods in ancient Egypt. Most took human form but some had the heads of animals. Here is a selection of the more important gods that Egyptians would have worshipped.

1. Ra - Ra was God of the sun and the lord of the gods. He is shown to have the body of a human and the head of a falcon. Above his head sits a sun disc with a sacred cobra twisted round it. It is said that Ra sailed the heavens in a boat called 'Barque of Millions of Years'. At the end of every day many thought Ra had died as he sailed through the night in the Underworld leaving the moon to light the night sky until he was born again at dawn.

2. Amun - Amun was an important God because it is said that he created all things. However, there are not many stories or pictures of him as he was invisible. Many of the pictures of him come from when he mixes with another God like Ra, when he becomes Amun-Ra. Amun is usually in human form but sometimes has a ram's head.

3. Horus - Horus has the head a hawk which makes him look similar to Ra but Horus has a crown made to look like the two parts of Egypt, the red and the white to show that he ruled all of the land. Horus was the God of the sky and it was believed that the pharaohs were a living version of Horus making them godlike.

4. Thoth - Thoth was the God of wisdom, writing, time and the moon. The ancient Egyptians believed that Thoth created hieroglyphics and kept a record of all knowledge. He has the head of an ibis bird, a long beaked bird common in Egypt.

5. Ma'at - Ma'at was the goddess of order and harmony and the wife of Thoth. To promise to follow Ma'at and be a fair leader.

6. Isis - Isis is the mother of Horus and one of the goddesses. Sometimes she is shown with a throne on her head and other times she is shown similar to Hathor.

7. Osiris - Osiris is the God of the dead and the brother of Isis. He is shown wearing the white kilt of a mummy. He wears a white crook and flail. Although he was the God of the dead, Egyptians still liked him for helping people to live in the next life.

8. Hathor - Hathor was the goddess of love and dance. She looked after all women in Egypt. Hathor sometimes took the form of a cow with a disk above her head.

9. Anubis - Anubis was the God of embalming and mummification ritual. It is believed he helped the dead to pass to the next life. Anubis was the guide who helped them pass to the next life. In the Hall of Weighing your heart, Anubis would wait for you in the hall to weigh your heart. If your heart was lighter than a feather, you would live forever. If it was heavier, your heart would be eaten by the demon Ammit. Anubis had the head of a jackal.

10. Sekhmet - Sekhmet was goddess of war and medicine. She has a head of a lion, and she is known to the Egyptians and her breath created the desert.

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Goddesses

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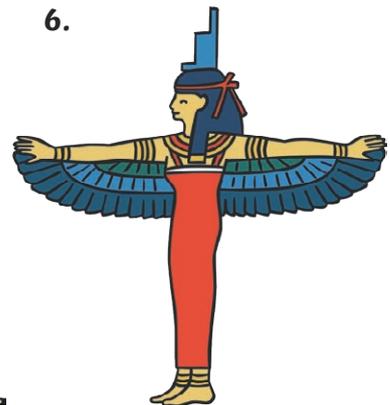
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