

Unit 3 Home Learning Week 7

Monday - History

Ancient Egyptians

Learning Objective:

To find out who the pharaohs were and why they were important.



What is a pharaoh?

The pharaohs were the kings and queens of ancient Egypt. People believed the pharaoh to be half-mortal and half-god. He was believed to be the living incarnation of Horus, the sun god. Just like other royal families, the position of pharaoh was hereditary. It was usually the eldest son who became pharaoh when his father died. However, there were often cases of murder and strange disappearances so that other families became rulers. Every time a new family came to the throne, a new kingdom began. There were more than 30 royal dynasties in the history of ancient Egypt and around 170 pharaohs.



"Lord of the Two Lands"

The pharaoh was the ruler of upper and lower Egypt, giving him the title of 'Lord of the Two Lands'. The pharaoh owned all the land of Egypt.

He collected the taxes, controlled the army, made the laws and was generally in charge of running the country. He had viziers and nobles who helped him in the different regions of Egypt but all decisions and power ultimately rested on the pharaoh.

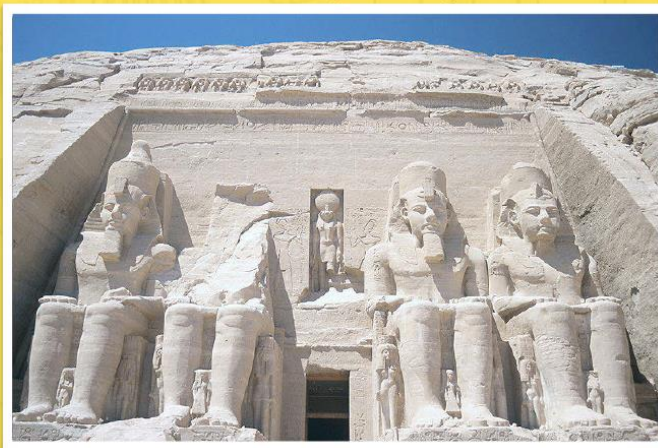


BACK

NEXT

"High Priest of Every Temple"

Another title held by the pharaoh was 'High Priest of Every Temple'. The pharaoh represented the gods on earth and was responsible for making sure that the gods were kept happy. He did this by ensuring the priests performed rituals and ceremonies for the gods and by building temples.



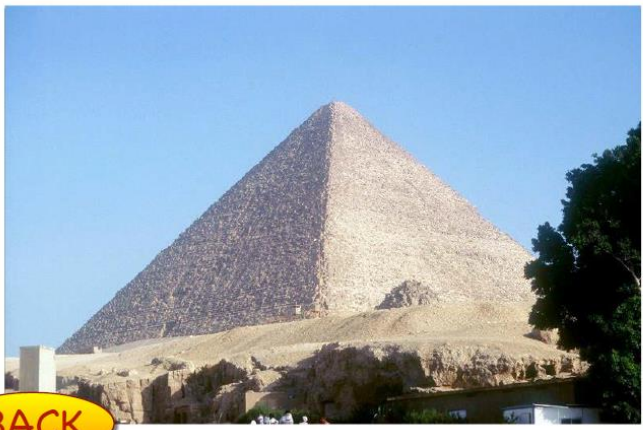
The Abu Simbel temple in southern Egypt, built by Rameses II in the 13th century BC.

BACK

NEXT

The Death of a Pharaoh

The ancient Egyptians believed in life after death. They preserved bodies using a process called mummification because they believed that people would need their bodies, as well as other items, in the afterlife. When a pharaoh died, their bodies were often placed in pyramids.



BACK

These acted as tombs and housed treasures and other objects that a pharaoh would need in the afterlife. The ancient Egyptians believed the pharaoh would become a god when he died.

NEXT

Do you know the names of any famous pharaohs?



BACK

NEXT

Tutankhamen

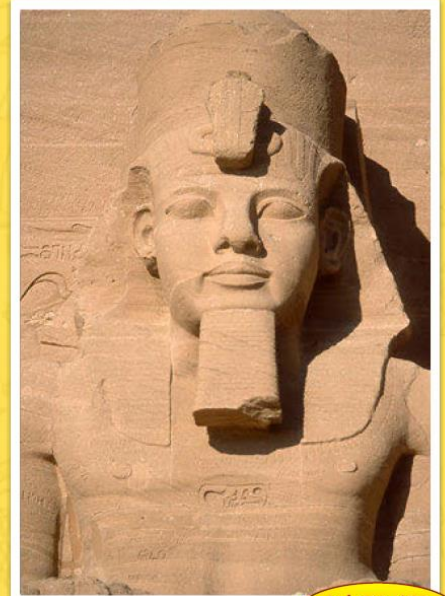


Tutankhamen is now one of the most famous pharaohs but until Howard Carter discovered his tomb in 1922, no one had really heard of him. He became king at the age of nine was married to his half-sister, Ankhesenamun. He died when he was just 18 years old.

The discovery of King Tut's tomb was very important because, unlike many other tombs, it had been virtually untouched since his death. Most other tombs were raided by tomb robbers. This allowed archaeologists to learn a lot about ancient Egypt.

Rameses II

Rameses II ruled during the 19th dynasty from 1279 to 1212 BC. He had lots of different wives and over 100 children. Rameses was a strong king and is known for expanding the territory of Egypt and building lots of impressive temples and monuments, the most famous of which is the Abu Simbel temples. Rameses ruled for 67 years and died when he was over 90 years old. Rameses II is often referred to as Rameses the Great.



Cleopatra

Cleopatra was one of the most famous of the Egyptian queens and there have been lots of books, plays and films created about her life. She had two significant love affairs, first with Julius Caesar before he was murdered, and then with Marcus Antonius (known better as Mark Antony).

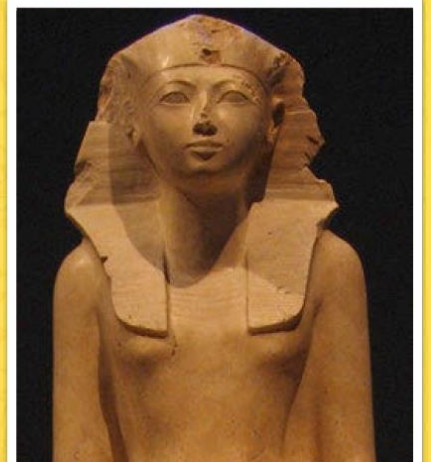


Some think she seduced these Roman rulers to keep her power as ruler of Egypt. When Mark Antony committed suicide because he believed Cleopatra to be dead, she killed herself by letting herself be bitten by a snake. Cleopatra was the last pharaoh. When she died, the Roman Empire took over Egypt.

Hetshepsut

Queen Hetshepsut was the first powerful female leader in history. Before her, pharaohs had all been men. She was the queen of Thutmose II and when he died, she declared herself as ruler.

She did lots of clever things to ensure her position, such as dressing in a king's clothing and claiming that the god Amun-Ra spoke to her. Hetshepsut ruled for 20 years and during her reign Egypt prospered. There were lots of new temples built, many new trade links were established and the economy flourished.



Bronze activity

Can you use the words in the word bank to fill in the gaps in the information below about pharaohs?



Word Bank

laws

Egyptians

god

Horus

queens

family

army

Pharaohs were the kings and _____ of ancient Egypt. The pharaoh owned all of Egypt and was in charge of everyone and everything in it. He or she controlled the _____, collected taxes and made the _____. The ancient _____ believed that pharaohs were half man and half _____. When a man or woman became the pharaoh he or she was incarnated with the spirit of _____, the sun god. The position of pharaoh was passed on through the royal _____.

Silver Activity



Word Bank

Lands	pharaoh
religion	hereditary
Horus	god
queens	controlling
charge	important
laws	royal
Priest	owned

Pharaohs were the kings and _____ of ancient Egypt. The pharaoh _____ all of Egypt and was in _____ of everyone and everything in it. He/she had two titles: 'Lord of Two _____' and 'High _____ of Every Temple'. This means that as well as being in charge of creating _____, _____ the army and collecting taxes, he/she was also the most _____ person in Egyptian _____. This is because the ancient Egyptians believed when a man or woman became the _____ he/she was incarnated with the spirit of _____, the sun god. This made him half man and half _____. The position of pharaoh was _____. This means it was passed on through the _____ family.



Famous Pharaohs



Name: Khufu

Reigned: 2589 - 2566 BC

Khufu is also known as King Cheops and is the builder of the Great Pyramid of Giza. The Giza pyramids are famous as being the oldest of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World and the only one to still be in existence today.

Name: Khafra

Reigned: 2558 - 2504 BC

Khafra is famous for building the second of the pyramids at Giza and the Sphinx which guards his tomb. Some historians believe that the head of the Sphinx is carved in Khafra's image.

Name: Hatshepsut

Reigned: 1472 - 1457 BC

Hatshepsut is remembered not only because she was a woman (it was very rare for a woman to be a ruler) but also because of the many accomplishments she achieved throughout her reign. During her reign, trade flourished, the economy grew and she built and restored many magnificent temples and other buildings.

Name: Ankhenaten

Reigned: 1351 - 1337 BC

Ankhenaten is most remembered for changing the belief system of ancient Egypt, if only for a short while. He introduced Aten, a sun god, as the one true god and changed Egypt from a kingdom that worshiped many gods to a kingdom that worshiped just one.

Name: Tutankhamen

Reigned: 1334 - 1325 BC

Tutankhamen is not remembered for his reign as king as much as he is famous for the discovery of his tomb by Howard Carter in 1922. His tomb had been untouched for 3,000 years and told archaeologists and historians a lot about life in ancient Egypt from the artefacts found within the tomb.

Name: Rameses II

Reigned: 1279 - 1213 BC

Rameses II is also known as Rameses the Great. He was a great military ruler and famously defeated the Hittites to regain control of lands that had been lost during the reign of Ankhenaten. He is also famous for building the Abu Simbel temples which have statues of himself and his family carved into the stone. Some historians believe that Rameses II is the pharaoh who features in the story of Moses.

Name: Cleopatra

Reigned: 51 - 30 BC

Cleopatra was famous for her beauty. She had a famous meeting with Julius Caesar of Rome in which she arrived wrapped in a Persian rug. She is also remembered for her affair and marriage to Mark Anthony. When they lost a battle against the Romans, both Cleopatra and Mark Anthony committed suicide. Most historians believe Cleopatra killed herself by letting a snake bite her. After her death, the Romans took control of the kingdom and the Egyptian civilisation ended.



Read the Information Sheet 'Famous Pharaohs' then answer the questions below:

1. Which of the pharaohs listed ruled the longest time ago? _____

 2. Who did Rameses II famously defeat in battle? _____

 3. Which pharaoh built the sphinx and why? _____

 4. Who was Aten and why was he important in the reign of Ankhenaten? _____

 5. For how many years was Tutankhamen pharaoh? _____
 6. For how many years was Khafra pharaoh? _____
 7. Who is remembered for building the Abu Simbel temples? _____
 8. Which two pharaohs had their tombs built at Giza? _____
 9. How did Cleopatra die? _____

 9. List three things that made Hapshetsut's reign successful: _____

 10. Explain why the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb was so important: _____

 11. What is special about the Great Pyramid of Giza today? _____

 12. Who was the last pharaoh of Egypt and why? _____

-

Answers

Bronze Activity

Pharaohs were the kings and queens of ancient Egypt. The pharaoh owned all of Egypt and was in charge of everyone and everything in it. He or she controlled the army, collected taxes and made the laws. The ancient Egyptians believed that pharaohs were half man and half god. When a man or woman became the pharaoh he or she was incarnated with the spirit of Horus, the sun god. The position of pharaoh was passed on through the royal family.

Silver Activity

Pharaohs were the kings and queens of ancient Egypt. The pharaoh owned all of Egypt and was in charge of everyone and everything in it. He/she had two titles: 'Lord of Two Lands' and 'High Priest of Every Temple'. This means that as well as being in charge of creating laws, controlling the army and collecting taxes, he/she was also the most important person in Egyptian religion. This is because the ancient Egyptians believed when a man or woman became the pharaoh he/she was incarnated with the spirit of Horus, the sun god. This made him half man and half god. The position of pharaoh was hereditary. This means it was passed on through the royal family.

Gold Activity



1. Which of the pharaohs listed ruled the longest time ago? Khufu
2. Who did Rameses II famously defeat in battle? The Hittites
3. Which pharaoh built the sphinx and why? Khafra built the sphinx to guard his tomb.
4. Who was Aten and why was he important in the reign of Ankenaten? Aten was a sun god who Ankenaten introduced as the one true god.
5. For how many years was Tutankhamen pharaoh? Nine years
6. For how many years was Khafra pharaoh? 54 years
7. Who is remembered for building the Abu Simbel temples? Rameses II
8. Which two pharaohs had their tombs built at Giza? Khufu and Khafra
9. How did Cleopatra die? Cleopatra committed suicide by letting a snake bite her.
9. List three things that made Hapshetsut's reign successful: Trade flourished, the economy grew and she built and restored many magnificent temples.
10. Explain why the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb was so important: His tomb was important because it had been untouched for 3000 years. This meant archeologists could find out a lot about ancient Egypt from the artefacts.
11. What is special about the Great Pyramid of Giza today? It is the only one of the seven ancient wonders of the world to be still in existence today.
12. Who was the last pharaoh of Egypt and why? Cleopatra was the last pharaoh of Egypt because after her death, the Romans took control of Egypt.