


Heavenly creatures

 Ancient Egyptians worshipped many different gods and goddesses. Some were important only to certain parts of the country, but others were honoured by everyone – and they included...



Did you know...?
There were over 2,000 names of gods in Ancient Egypt!

ANUBIS

With the body of a man and the head of a jackal, Anubis was the god of the dead, and also of mummification. Yikes!

AMUN-RE

Believed to be the father of all the pharaohs, and king of all the gods, the ram-headed Amun-Re was crowned with a Sun-like disc.

MAAT

The goddess, Maat, stood for truth and justice. Egyptians believed she controlled the seasons and the movements of the stars.


THOTH

Representing writing, wisdom and magic, Thoth had the head of an ibis (a heron-like bird) and was often shown with a writing tablet.



The pharaohs tried to bribe the gods with huge temples!

Set in stone

 Eager to join these gods in the afterlife, pharaohs built massive, lavishly decorated temples to them. The most impressive of all was a vast complex of buildings, statues and gardens at Karnak, in the ancient capital, Thebes. Around 30 pharaohs added new parts to it over many centuries, and it's the largest ancient religious site in the world.

Egypt's rulers



The rulers of ancient Egypt were called pharaohs, and they were worshipped like gods. They tried hard to live up to the role, too, by leaving their marks on Earth in the form of temples to their gods – and to themselves! Meet some of Egypt's most famous rulers...

CLEOPATRA

Ruling wasn't just for boys! Cleopatra was Egypt's last pharaoh, and as her empire fell to the invading Roman army around 30 BC, it's believed she took her own life with the bite of an asp – a deadly snake. Eek!



Ramesses II's temple had four huge statues of himself. How vain!

RAMSES II

Perhaps the most powerful pharaoh of all, Ramesses II had a temple carved from towering cliffs at Abu Simbel. His architects designed it so that the inner shrine would be lit up by the rays of the Sun on two days of the year.

TUTANKHAMUN

This pharaoh's 3,000-year-old tomb was discovered by British archaeologist, Howard Carter, in 1922. The innermost of his four sarcophaguses (coffins) were made of more



Pharaohs vs people



The life of the pharaohs' people wasn't nearly as glamorous! Most were simple workers or farmers, who lived in houses typically built of bricks made from Nile mud and straw, with courtyards where families could work and play. These would contain a clay oven or a hearth for a wood or charcoal fire. Basic foods were vegetables, bread made of wheat, lentils, and delicious exotic fruits. A thick, soupy beer made of barley was a common drink for adults and children, too!



Did you know...?

Only the rich could afford to eat meat – they loved to feast on beef, geese and pigeons!

Join Max to find out more about the Ancient Egyptians over the page!