

E is for Egypt

By: Sam's 7th grade



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Table of Contents

A is for Akh - Jeremiah Teklu 3

B is for Beetle - Ryan Cooper 4

C is for Cleopatra- Benjamin Berhanu 5

D is for Dynasties - Melvin Gnoassia 6

E is for Egypt- Abigail Bryant 7

F is for Flood Cycle-Zakia Thomas 8

G is for Gods- Austin Jackson 9

H is for Hieroglyphics-George Esemé 10

I is for Isis-Caroline A 11

J is for jars-Ariana Benitez 12

K is for Kush-Abyaz Amir 13

L is for Limestone-Justin Ways-Hinnat 14

M is for Mummies-Vitoria Galabov 15

N is for Nile River - Zion Robinson 16

O is for Osiris - Jay Narayanan 17

P is for Pharaoh - Mylie Francis 18

Q is for Queen Hatshepsut- Dillon Dockett 19

R is for Ramses the Great - Abyaz Amir 20

S is for Sphinxes - Jackson Gross 21

T is for Temples- Joshua Rose 22

U is for Uaset - Oluwatamilore Tokunboh-Salako 23

V is for Valley Kings - Kaley Markovitz 24

W is for Writing -Noah Woubishet 25

X is for -Kaia Jordan 26

Y is for Yaru - Caroline Anderson 26

Z is for Zoser - Nahom Mesfin 28

About this class and this book - 29

A by Jeremiah Teklu

A is for *Akh*. *Akh* is the life force inside each person. Ancient Egyptians believed it was taken to Yaru once someone dies. According to ancient Egyptian beliefs, the *Akh* has necessities such as: water and food, just like me and you. Ancient Egyptians believed *Akh* was the part of the body that survived death and enjoyed luxury. There are also other parts of a deceased person known as *ka* and *ba*. *Ka* is the soul/life force, and *ba* is the body. If people are disrespected and do not get the proper funeral or burial, their *Akh* will not be able to go into the afterlife or even stand trial. The *Akh*, *ka*, and *ba* also need proper mummification and preservation to keep them from suffering.

The place where the *Akh* may spend the rest of eternity is in Yaru. In order for *Akh* to get into Yaru, there is a trial held by a god wearing a big white hat with a crook and a flail named Osiris. During the trial, the god Anubis weighs the dead person's heart against the feather of an ostrich. If the two weigh the same, then you are very lucky. When the heart weighs just as much as an ostrich feather, the deceased person's *Akh*, *ka* and *ba* are taken into the afterlife.

If the heart does not weigh exactly the same as the ostrich feather. If you are not so lucky with the ostrich feather, and if the ostrich feather either weighs more or less than the heart, your *Akh*, *ka*, and *ba* get thrown into a pit with a monster named Ammit. This monster has the terrifying head and jaws of a crocodile, a mane and torso of a lion, and a hind of a hippopotamus. Ammit will then eat up the deceased person's *Akh*, *ka*, and *ba* and they will be gone for all eternity.



B: by Ryan Cooper

B is for Dung Beetles, also known as scarab beetles. They are a type of beetle that were idolized by the ancient Egyptians. They were worshiped because they were thought to roll the disk of the morning sun over the eastern horizon at daybreak in order to make the sun rise. They were also thought to be lucky. Therefore, they were in a lot of temple entrances. They were also worshiped because people saw them as embodiments of Khepri, the god of nature.

In addition to idolizing scarab beetles, Egyptians also often had jewelry with scarab beetles on them. There are over 30,000 scarab species in the world. Often times nobles had amulets of scarab beetles on jewelry and other accessories. Scarab amulets were often placed on the mummies of wealthy people to protect them in the afterlife. For ancient Egyptians, the scarab also symbolized life and rebirth.

“Dung beetle” is a strange name. “Dung” means “the excrement of animals” or “manure.” In other words, poop! There actually is a reason for this; as a male dung beetle you are expected to roll little balls of dung into holes. After that, the female dung beetle lays an egg in the dung that the male rolled into the hole. Gross, but what happens next is worse. When the baby comes out, it eats the dung it was born in. After that, the process just happens all over again.



C by: Benny Berhanu

C is for Cleopatra. Queen Cleopatra was one of the few women who ruled Egypt. She ruled with great beauty, intelligence, and charm. Cleopatra is considered to be the last pharaoh of Egypt. However, Cleopatra was also famous for her relationships with Julius Caesar and Marcus Antony.

Cleopatra started her reign as the queen of Egypt in 52 BCE as the co-ruler of Egypt alongside her brother, King Ptolemy XIII. However, when her brother rebelled against her, Cleopatra was forced out of Egypt. In order to regain her throne, Cleopatra allied with Julius Caesar, the leader of Rome. With the help of Rome, Cleopatra formed an army and defeated Ptolemy and his army, and Cleopatra regained her position as the ruler of Egypt.

During her time at Rome, Cleopatra developed a relationship with Julius Caesar. Cleopatra and Julius Caesar ended up in a relationship until Julius Caesar was assassinated in March 15, 44 BCE. After Caesar's assassination, Cleopatra fell in love with another Roman general named Mark Antony. However the Roman senate was furious about this for obvious reasons and forced them to flee Egypt, where they both committed suicide. No one is for sure how Cleopatra died but many people believe that Cleopatra committed suicide by having a cobra bite her. However, others are now lead to believe that Cleopatra actually injected poison to herself with a hair pin. Cleopatra's death is one of the biggest mysteries in Ancient Egyptian History.



D: By Melvin Gnoassia

D is for dynasties. Dynasties are families that rule ancient Egypt. Which means kingship would be passed right to the first born pharaoh. These dynasties determined how Egypt was ruled for their specific times. Before you learn about dynasties, you first have to learn about the Ptolemies; they might have been the most prominent dynasty. Their dynasty included Cleopatra. The Ptolemies made certain rules that made or broke Egypt. For example, the first Ptolemy was intolerant of some Egyptian religious practices. They also started wars with Syria trying to expand. Egypt also had civil wars over control of Egypt

Many people think dynasties are a simple passing down of the rule, this is incorrect. The ideal instance is, the pharaoh has a son and when he dies the kid becomes pharaoh. Sometimes, however, two sons had equal rights to the throne. That's when bloodshed is involved. Do you know King Tut? He is a well-known pharaoh he was eight while ruling. That is not at all the age to rule! Sometimes a man was not in power, this is surprising for Egypt since back then men were supposed to rule.

Dynasties do not last long. There were 31 dynasties. Rule switched between families frequently. This is mainly due to bloodshed the Ptolemies, for example, gained power after Alexander the Great died. Menes, the first pharaoh, started a dynasty that lasted 414 years. Consider Hatshepsut., She wasn't supposed to rule but because the person who was supposed to rule was too young.



E by: Abby Bryant

E is for Egypt. Lower and Upper Egypt made up ancient Egypt. One interesting fact is that lower Egypt is on top where the branch opens to the Mediterranean Sea. On the other hand, Upper Egypt is on the bottom. It is this way because that is the way the water flows. Lower Egypt is important because it provided a way of living to many Egyptians such as food, water, etc. Lower and Upper Egypt is fun to picture because the Nile looks like a flower blooming.

There are the pharaohs in Upper and Lower Egypt. The pharaohs were known as the rulers of the “Two Lands,” referring to Upper and Lower Egypt. They wore a double crown to symbolize the two lands.

Most Egyptians were farmers. They grew crops and provided some of the food. The Nile helped a lot because in order to grow their crops they need the water from the Nile. Most of the soldiers were footmen. There was a well defined order in the Egyptian army. Scribes were important people in Ancient Egypt as they were the only people who knew how to read and write. Scribes came from wealthy families and took years of training to learn the complex Egyptian hieroglyphics.

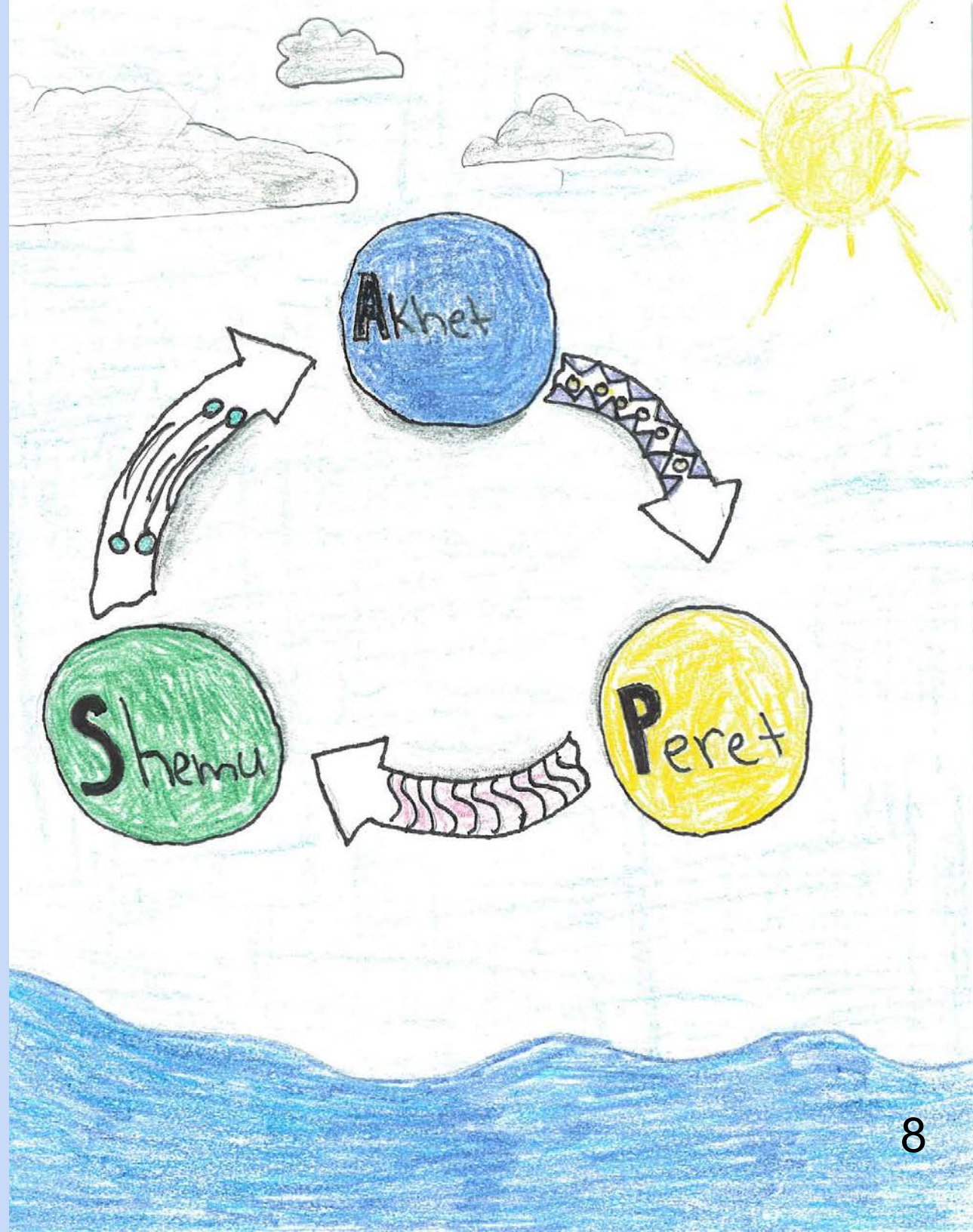


F by: Zakia C. Thomas

F is for flood cycle. The Nile's flood cycle was essential to ancient Egyptian life. The flood cycle is also the only reason ancient Egyptians could survive. When the Nile flooded, it created silt, which helped farmers grow crops. The crops gave them food and they could trade the crops for other things. The Nile also provided fish for the Egyptians to eat and sell. There wasn't a lot of water in that region so the Nile was the only significant source of water to use. The ancient Egyptians based their lives around the cycle of the Nile. For example, the Egyptians built their calendars and season on the Nile's cycle.

The ancient Egyptians identified the different changes in the levels of water as different seasons in the year. There were three seasons: Akhet, Peret, and Shemu. The first season was called Akhet (between the months of June and September). In this season the Nile floods the lands and fertilizes it with silt. During this time, farmers did jobs like quarrying and canal repair. The second season was called Peret. (from October to mid-February). In this season the water in the Nile goes down but it is still high enough to fill the irrigation canals. During this season, crops were also planted and tended. The last season was called Shemu (from mid-February to the end of May).

The Egyptians also based their calendars on the Nile's cycle. They based their calendars on the Nile's flood cycle because it was predictable. "Predictable" meaning that the flooding and the water decreasing was easy to detect and that it happened around the same period of time each year. The Egyptian calendar came from the changes of seasons, the Nile, and the lunar calendar. Their year had 365 days, 12 months, and in each month there were 30 days.



G by: Austin Jackson

G is for Gods. From the jackal-headed god of the underworld, Osiris, to the winged goddess of magic and love, Isis, there's a god for everything. The believers of Egyptian gods were polytheistic (which means they believed in multiple gods). That means no god has power over everything. There are gods of dead, moon, sun, sky, and motherhood. Gods had special powers though, such as the ability to live almost forever, to not die from deadly stuff, and to be in more than one place at once. Gods also have animal aspects. One of the more well known is god Osiris who has a supposed jackal head. Another one is a cow goddess named Hathor

Like all religions, there is a creation myth in ancient Egyptian religion. The Egyptian creation myth is closely tied to gods because they are a main part of the story and it contains the origins of some of the gods

The story goes like this: Once there was nothing except dark water without any reason to exist, but there was Heka who was the god of magic. He was waiting for the earth to be created. One day, the primordial hill rose with Atum or Ptah depending on the story standing on top of it. He didn't like loneliness so he gave birth to two children by mating with his own shadow. They were, Shu god of air, whom Atum spat out and Tefnut goddess of moisture, whom Atum puked out. These two went out to create the world and but Atum got worried so, he sent an eye after them. But when they brought it back he was so happy he cried. The tears created men and women. The men and women had nowhere to go so Shu and Tefnut gave birth to Geb (The Earth) and Nut (The Sky). They loved each other very much. Atum didn't like this so he pushed Nut towards the heavens so they could never be near each other again, but they already had 5 children being Osiris, Isis, Set, Nephthys, and Horus.

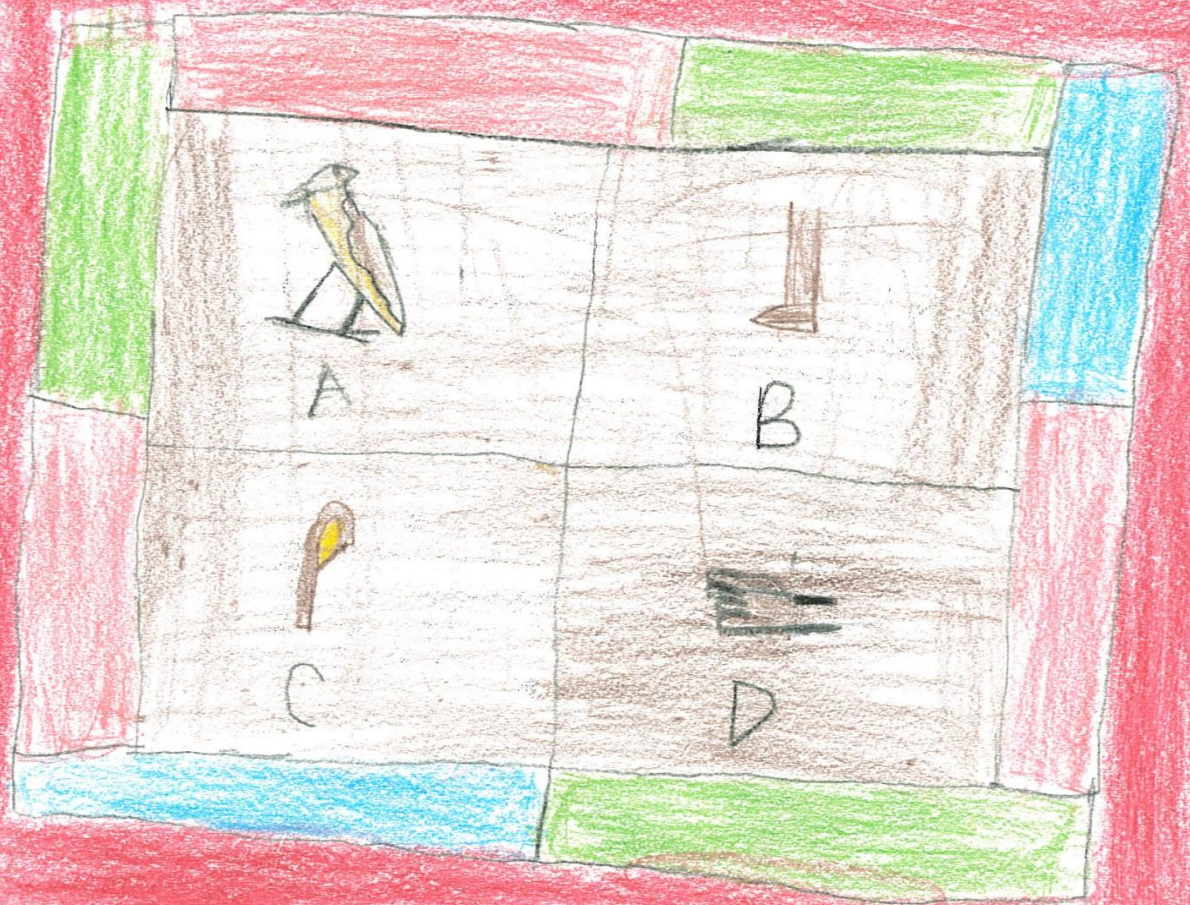


H by: George Esemé

H is for Hieroglyphics. Hieroglyphs were the formal writing system used in Ancient Egypt. The ancient alphabet used over 1000 characters. These hieroglyphs are sacred carvings, so they were referred to as “holy writing.” Hieroglyphs are shown in forms of pictures and symbols. A single picture symbol could stand for a whole word. For example, the letter “E” is represented by a feather. Discoveries show that hieroglyphics are one of the oldest forms of writing. The earliest evidence of hieroglyphs could have first been used around 3300 or 3200 BC.

Egyptians wrote hieroglyphs in long lines from right to left, and from top to bottom. Hieroglyphs represent objects such as tools, animals, and boats. They could also represent ideas and motion. Only a small portion of the Egyptian population, primarily royalty, priests, and civil officials, used hieroglyphs because of how hard it was, and the time it would take to teach everyone how to read and write it. Hieroglyphics were used for more than 3,500 years.

Jean-Francois Champollion was the first person to crack hieroglyphics in 1822 using the Rosetta stone. Many people worked on deciphering hieroglyphs over several hundred years. However, the structure of the script was very difficult to work out.



I by: Caroline Ashe-Donnem

I is for Isis. Isis was the Ancient Egyptian goddess of marriage, fertility, motherhood, magic, and medicine. Isis was the mother of Horus, the god version of the pharaoh, and wife of Osiris, god of the dead and ruler of the underworld. Since she is the mother of Horus, people considered her to be the mother of all pharaohs. Isis was a role model for all women of Egypt because she was a strong woman with power and because of her being the goddess of motherhood and fertility. Being so powerful made Isis very popular.

Isis was a very important and popular goddess. She was one of the most important goddesses because she was the mother of all of the pharaohs. Another reason was that she could cure the sick and bring people back to life. Osiris and Horus became just as popular as Isis. The three of them ended up getting so popular that they replaced three gods known as Amon, Mut, and Khons.

Isis was popular in so many different places that people gave her different titles and names. Isis's main name "Isis" comes from the Egyptian word "Eset," which means "the seat." She is named this because it refers to Isis's stability and to the Egyptian throne because she has been considered the mother of all pharaohs. One of the results of Isis being worshiped in so many places is that she gets a lot of titles and names. Some of her titles were, "Queen of all gods," and the "Divine One." One of Isis's titles was the "Goddess with the Thousand Names" because she also has many names just like all of her titles. Some of her many names are Aset, Aust, Eenohebis, Eset, Esu and, Hesat.



— = Child
--- = Affair
... = Married

J by: Ariana Benitez

J is for jars. Ancient Egyptians used canopic jars to contain the organs of the dead. They believed that the dead needed their organs in the afterlife. There were four different jars shaped like the four sons of Horus. Horus was the god of the sky.. The jars were usually made out of limestone or pottery. They put the organs into them and buried them next to the mummified body.

During 2181- 1298 BCE, the jars were shaped like the faces of the deceased. After some time they changed to the more commonly known shaped jars. The four jars were called Hapi, Duamutef, Imsety, and Qebehsenuef. The baboon-headed Hapi jar guarded the lungs. The Human-headed Imsety jar was the guardian of the liver. Jackal-headed Duamutef guarded the stomach and upper intestines and falcon-headed Qebehsenuef guarded the lower intestines. Around 1069 BCE, the embalmers started to embalm the organs and put them back into the body. The canopic jars were still buried but left empty.

Canopic jars were a big part of ancient Egyptians beliefs on the afterlife. When they were mummifying the bodies, the brain was taken out with a metal hook and thrown away. They thought the brain had no real purpose but to make mucus. They placed the heart back in the body because they believed that it was the center of a person's being and intelligence and that they needed it for the afterlife. They often put a large dung beetle, called a scarab, or another type of amulet would be placed over the heart to protect it and the body. All of these elements were important for Egyptians on their trip to the afterlife.



K by: Abyaz Amir

K is for Kush. Kush played a big role in Egyptian history, including through trading, culture, and even the ruling of Egypt. Kush was a city in northern Nubia or modern day Sudan. The reign of Kush lasted from 1069 BCE to 350 BCE. Like ancient Egypt, Nubia was divided into two parts. The Northern part was Kush and the southern part was Wawat. Kush was in the first cataract of the Nile. A famous city in Kush was Kerma, which had a large settlement of people and was known for their hunting lifestyle. Meroe was also another famous city in Kush. The capital of Kush was moved down to Meroe for safety because they were getting attacked by Psammetichus II of Egypt who was destroying towns, temples, and monuments of Meroe.

Kashta was an important leader of Kush who was one of the first Kushite leaders to sit on Egypt's throne as Pharaoh. After Kashta, Kushite kings ruled in Egypt until the Assyrian invasion. Piankhi was also one of the greatest leaders of Egypt, as he took over Egypt after Kashta died. His passion inspired the troops and he was deeply religious. Kush was known for their archery skills and how they made their bows and arrows. This was one of theirs. Egyptian people called their land Ta-Seti "land of the bow" for their archery skills.

Trade linked Kush and ancient Egypt. Kush was the main supplier of raw material to the ancient Egyptians and gave them things such as copper, gold, silver, and stone. The Kushites were also the main supplier of slaves that ended up being in the Egyptian army or as servants.. Also, Kush followed the same culture and religion of Egypt.



L by: Justin Ways-Hinnant

L is for Limestone. Limestone is a strong stone used to build the grand temples of Egypt. Limestone was important and essential in ancient Egyptian life because it was used to make important objects like jewelry. Limestone is very heavy, so many people were needed to transport it. Also, limestone was used to make jewelry, art, and monuments. The jewelry, art, and monuments were used in the ancient Egyptian people's daily lives. The pyramids that the Egyptians built were so tall they needed more than 5 million bricks of limestone to build. Each of the Pyramids of Giza took 2.3 million limestone bricks, and each limestone brick weighed roughly one ton.

Limestone is made two different ways. The limestone bricks are very strong. The way they are formed contributes to their strength. It was formed by living animals and evaporation. The way that animals help make limestone is that ocean creatures such as clams and oysters die. When they die, they leave behind their shell and is broken down by waves. Then the sediment goes to the ocean floor and settles for years and creates limestone. The way limestone is created by evaporation is when water with particles of calcium carbonate evaporates and the sediment that is left behind gets compacted by the water pressure and turns into limestone.

Egyptians got their limestone from quarries. A quarry is a deep pit with minerals and metals that can be mined for use. Egyptians got their limestone, including the Giza Plateau and the Tura Upriver. Limestone is transported by boat. The boats have to be strong if they are carrying lots of heavy limestone bricks. The boats carrying limestone would travel down the Nile River until they reached their destination.



M by: Vivi Galabov

M is for mummies. Ancient Egyptians got mummified when they died. Usually only the pharaohs and nobles were mummified because mummification was very expensive. Common people also got mummified but they had different mummification procedures than the rich. When people got mummified they need a mummy mask because to go to the afterlife, the *ba* and *ka* need to meet. The *ba* and *ka* are parts of the soul that join together and find the soul. In Ancient Egypt they called it the *ahk*. Without all three joined, ancient Egyptians believed there was no way to go to the afterlife. To do so, however, the *ahk* needed a way to identify each person and that is why people had mummy masks.

Mummies were wrapped in a soft linen to preserve the body. When pharaohs were mummified, they were wrapped with magical charms to help them in the afterlife. This included jewelry and other expensive items. Makeup meant a person was forever beautiful in the afterlife. The color and material of different amulets and necklaces gave different advantages in the afterlife.

Getting wrapped was not the only step to getting mummified. In fact, there were actually five steps. First, they had to remove the brain and organs. Then the body needed to be dried using a salt called natron. Only after this was complete could the mummy actually be wrapped. Then they put charms with the body. Finally, the mummy would be ready to go into the tomb.



N by: Zion Robinson

N is for the Nile. The Nile river brought life to Egypt and helped it develop. It is the longest river in the world. It begins in central Africa and runs through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile flowed south of Egypt. The Nile's floods of the river provided water and fertile soil for farming. The Nile provided Egypt with a lot of food, and this helped Egypt develop. After farming across the Nile, civilization began to develop. The river provided lots of fish, and the Nile river provided Egypt with an abundance of food and watered their crops. The Nile also allowed farmers to raise animals.

The Nile river starts in central Africa and runs north through to the Mediterranean sea. The Nile flowed south of Egypt and through the rocky, hilly land. The Nile river got its name from the Greek word Neilos. The Nile floods provided water and fertile soils. In the Ancient Egyptian language, the Nile was called H'pi or iteru, meaning river.

The Nile flooded Upper Egypt in the middle of summer, and lower Egypt in the fall. The capital of Lower Egypt is located in the Northwest Nile delta. The Nile's floods were easier to predict than those of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in Mesopotamia. The Nile flooding covered the land around it with rich silt. Each year, however, rainfall to the south of Egypt in the highlands of East Africa caused the Nile to flood. The silt that came from the floods made the land dark, which is why they call their country the "black land."



O by: Jay Narayanan

O is for Osiris. Osiris is a green-skinned god who controls the underworld and judges the hearts of the dead to send them onto the afterlife. Osiris is portrayed with green or black skin because he represents the fertile Nile and the afterlife. He is often depicted as a king wearing the crown of Atef. During the weighing of the heart, Osiris is accompanied by Ma'at, the goddess of balance, Anubis, the god of death, and Ammit, a demon. Ma'at weighs the heart against an ostrich feather. If the heart of the person was heavier than the feather, it would be fed to Ammit. If it was not, then Osiris would accept them into the Field of Reeds.

Osiris, despite being the god of death and the underworld, is also the god of fertilization who controls the flood cycle and agricultural aspects. He is husband and brother to Isis, the goddess of magic, and father or brother of Horus, the god of the sky, but this depends on what part of Egypt this information came from. It is rumored that Set, who was the brother of Osiris, killed him. Many stories say that Set often took the form of an animal who killed Osiris such as a crocodile. Another version is that he was drowned in the Nile and his body was sent throughout different parts of Egypt before being brought back to life by the magic of his wife, Isis.

Abydos was an ancient site that worshipped many gods and goddesses. It was also the major cult center for Osiris. This means that he was the major god that was worshipped in this part of Egypt. In honor of Osiris, they would carry an image of Osiris from his temple to where they thought his tomb was but it was later discovered to belong to Djer, a first dynasty king. Abydos formed the main beliefs of Osiris.

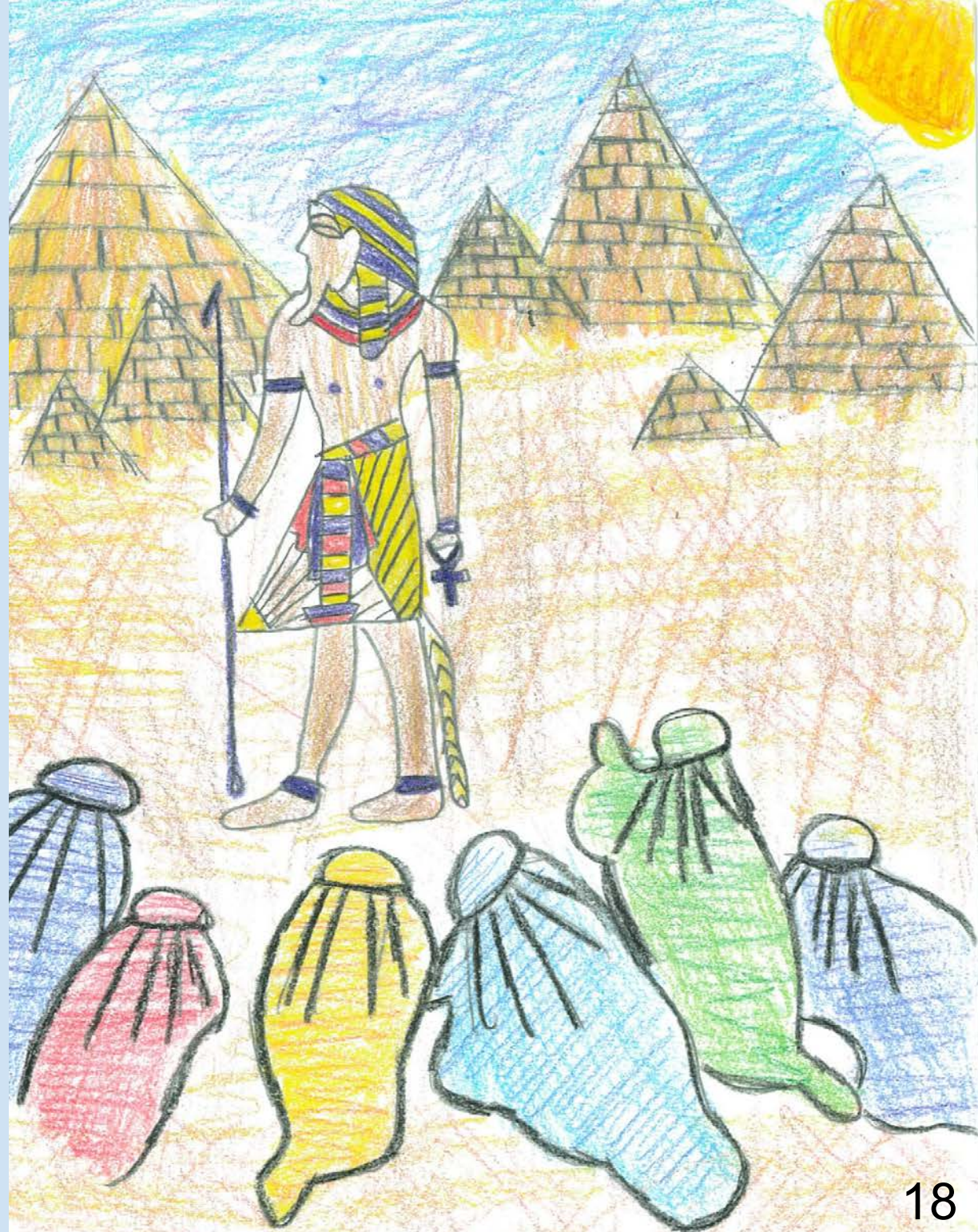


P by: Mylie Francis

P is for Pharaoh. Pharaohs were the leaders of Egypt that people trust and look up to, for a person to rule well. The direct translation of Pharaoh is “great house,” which was referring to the king's palace. Pharaohs also have the name of “lord of two lands.” This is because they ruled both upper and lower Egypt. Menes, who was the first pharaoh in the Old Kingdom, united upper and lower Egypt this is why whenever they go out, they must wear a double crown. A double crown is a crown which represents both upper and lower Egypt. The white on the crown represents the lower part, and the red part represents the upper part of Egypt.

Pharaohs had to preserve the God-given talent called ma’at. Ma’at is the order of truth, balance, and harmony. Pharaohs had to keep these talents and orders, in order to have calmness, patience, and delicateness, while also maintaining the strength to do what needed to be done and hold all the information necessary to rule Egypt. Pharaohs become pharaohs when the pharaoh that is ruling, has a son, he would rule when his father dies. However, If a pharaoh does not have a son, they go to his closest relatives, or friends to rule, which means they start a new dynasty.

Pharaohs were so important that they were basically the mediator between gods and humans. This means that while the pharaoh is human and operates normally, they are powerful and great, and looked upon as gods. Unlike today's presidents, pharaohs ruled with complete power. This means that they did not have to go through a Congress, and they could just make up any rule or regulation, and get their way. The reason why it could be a good thing because the pharaoh could keep people happy by doing whatever he wants. The reason why it could also be a bad thing is that if a good pharaoh has a son who is a bad pharaoh, and doesn't like the people, he could create huge inflammations, which are large increases in taxes, or kill whoever he wanted. These were the reasons why pharaohs were so important and good for Egypt.



Q By: Dillon M. Dockett

Q is for Queen Hatshepsut. What if I told you that a woman ruled as a king. Would you believe the sacrifice she made of turning into a man to rule? Well, Queen Hatshepsut had no intention of being a queen, so she did not know much about it. Hatshepsut was married to an Egyptian pharaoh named Thutmose II. Sadly, he died, leaving his son (who was five at the time) the throne of Egypt. Since he was underage, he could not rule Egypt. So Hatshepsut had to take action and become a queen. In fact, she was the second female pharaoh to rule Egypt ever! She was part of the 18th dynasty and the 15th pharaoh. She had reigned for approximately 15-30 years but, not many sources tell her exact time.

While Queen Hatshepsut reigned, she was somewhat peaceful and was focused on the economic part of Egypt. She improved trade between Asia Minor and Greece. She used the money to fund the agriculture in Egypt and the art. In fact, she has a huge temple that is dedicated to her in Thebes. Since she was trading with all of these different colonies, they each had different materials such as gold, ivory, and rich resources. Although she was peaceful, people do say that she still had a military near some trading post so invaders would not raid.

After she died, her stepson, Thutmose III, had ruled. Filled with hatred and not letting him rule, he vandalized, destroyed, and wrecked nearly everything she constructed. He had no regret over the things he just did. They say he wrecked them because he wanted to keep the dynasty going.



R by: Abyaz Amir

R is for Ramses the Great.

Ramses the great was an Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh. He reigned as pharaoh of Egypt from 1279 BCE-1213 BCE. Ramses the great had 50 sons and 53 daughters. Ramses the great was one of the greatest Pharaohs of Egypt as he drew the Hittites out of Egypt in the 1200s BCE. He was the third Pharaoh of the 19th Dynasty

Ramses the Great assisted his father in his military campaign at the age of 14. At the age of 22 Ramses the great started his own campaign with his own sons. In 1275 BCE he began the battle of Kadesh which was the battle against the Hittites and he successfully drove the out of Egypt and ended the reign of the Hittites in Egypt.

After the Battle of Kadesh Ramses the great devoted himself to improving Egypt's Infrastructure. Strengthening its borders so there will be protecting Egypt from invaders and he wanted to commission vast building projects. Ramses the Great was also the first person to sign a peace treaty with Hattusili III.



S by: Jackson Gross

S is for Sphinx. The most recognized sphinx is a HUGE lion statue in the great Giza Desert of Egypt. It was created between 2603-2578 B.C.E. and is one of the most recognized things about Egypt. Sphinxes represent things like the horizon, wisdom, and power. They sit at the entrance to temples to keep away the evil and they are meant to strike fear. They were worshiped as sun gods like Ra's baboons. cultures, Greek and Egyptian.

The Great Sphinx located at Giza is one big block of limestone. It took about 3 years to make and is one of the most recognized things in Egypt. It most likely has Pharaoh Khafre's head on it but some people think it is Pharaoh Khufu's head because his tomb at the Pyramids of Giza is close by. The evidence shows it was most likely Khafre's head because it was built after his dad's (Khufu) time. The Sphinx measures 66 feet at its highest point and 244 feet long at its longest point.

Most Egyptian sphinxes have a royal headdress (the normally blue and gold striped cloth on a pharaoh's head in Egypt) and a rectangular beard that pharaoh's supposedly had that represented importance. They have the pharaohs face on them like Khufu's head if they were built during his rule.

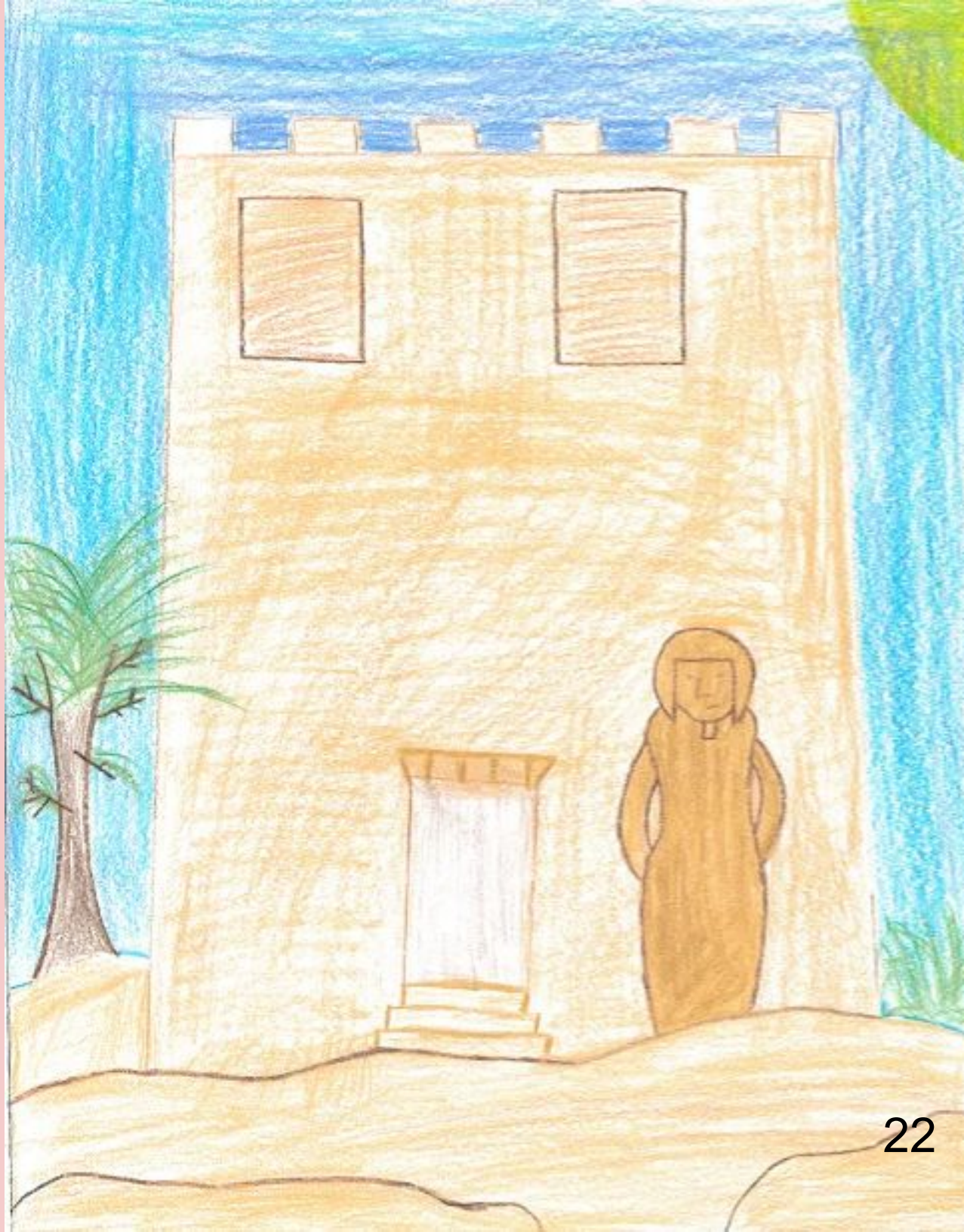


T by: Joshua Rose

T is for temples. Temples were places of worship and social life for the Ancient Egyptians. Temples played a big role in social and economic life for the ancient Egyptians. First of all, people went to the temples to give gifts to the gods. The temples were thought to be home to the gods. The priest performed rituals and ceremonies in the temples. They also had festivals at the temples. At the festivals, people gave thanks to the gods and asked for favors. Temples employed a lot of people. People had to build them and, the people who ran them were nobles. People giving money to the temples made the nobles wealthier and more powerful. Eventually, the nobles started taking power from the pharaohs and the nobles ruled for about 160 years.

The temples were made of limestone which is a strong material and this is why some of the temples still stand today centuries later. The insides of the temples were covered in paintings and there were some statues. These paintings and statues tell us about life back then. People who built the temples were highly skilled and highly trained. Construction of these temples gave people jobs because people were needed to build them. The architecture is so good that some of the temples still stand today even after being through war and earthquakes.

The temple of Luxor was located in the capital of ancient Egypt called Thebes. It is located near the banks of the Nile and was an important political and religious center for the Egyptians. The temple was made and expanded by three pharaohs, Amenhotep III, Tutankhamun, and Ramses II. The temple has a sanctuary and a birth house. A birth house is where the rites associated with the pharaohs were performed. The inside had scenes of marriage and the king's birth.



Uby: Oluwatamilore Tokunboh-Salako

U is for Ubastet. Ubastet was specifically known as the goddess of cats in ancient Egyptian religion. She was one of the most important goddesses in ancient Egyptian history because she was used for so many different purposes. Ubastet was the defender of the pharaoh. Ubastet was usually depicted as a woman with a cat's head on it.

Ubastet was mainly the reason why cats were so respected. Cats were considered royal pets. They sometimes even lived with the pharaoh in their palace. Whenever a cat died, people would shave off their eyebrows as a sign of mourning. When a fire broke out, people would be more concerned with saving the cats than putting out the fire.

Ubastet was the goddess of other things. She became the goddess of perfume. Later on, she became the goddess of home, fertility, and childbirth. Before she was a cat-headed goddess, she was a lion-headed goddess. People thought that they were safe because Bastet was watching over them. In paintings, Bastet was usually shown with a scepter in her hand which symbolized her power. As you can see, Ubastet was a very important goddess in ancient Egypt.

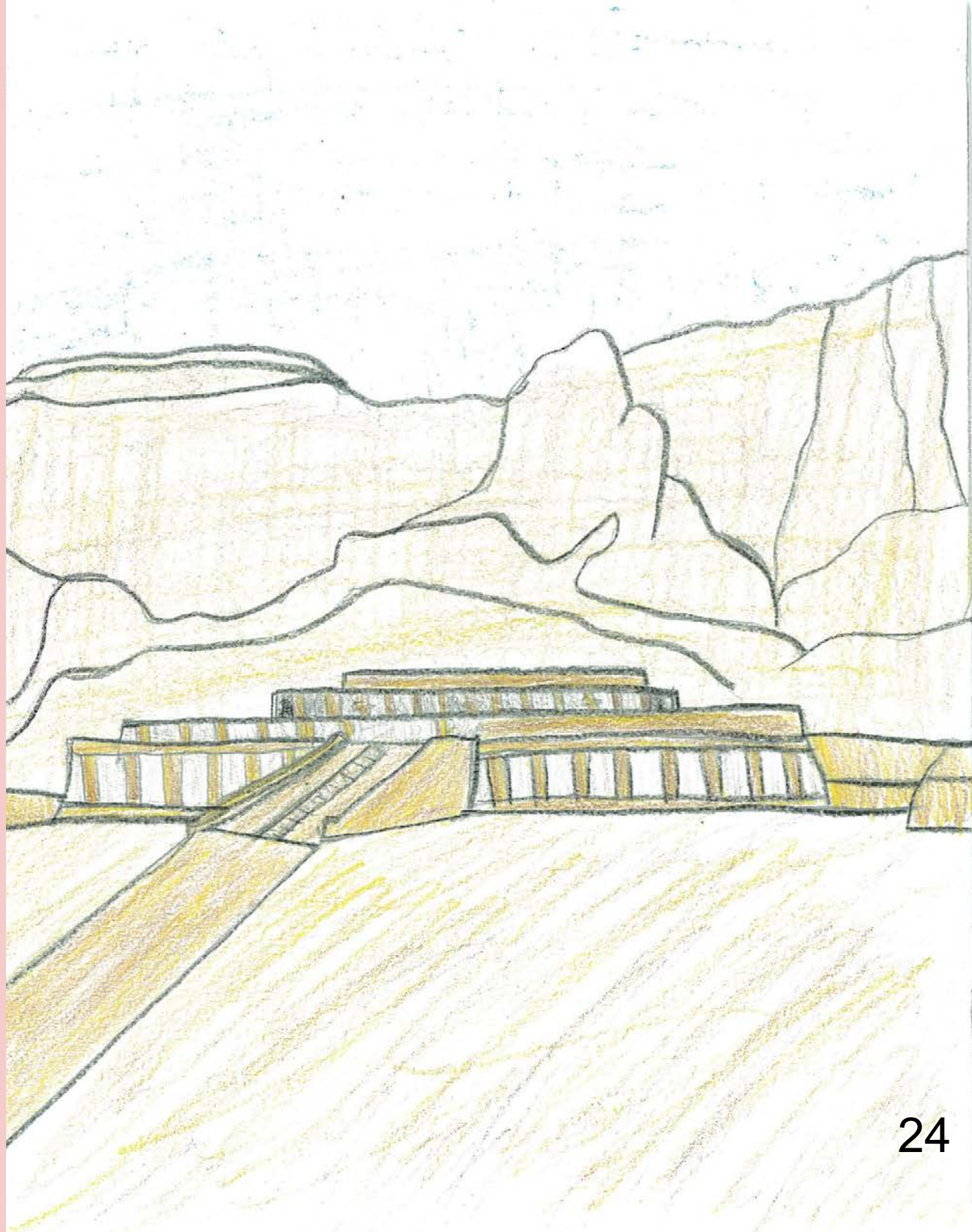


V by: Kaley Markovitz

V is for Valley of Kings. This is where ancient Egyptians buried their pharaohs, queens, and high priests after they stopped using pyramids. The Egyptians believed that the people buried in the valley would be well prepared for their afterlife. Paintings on the walls around the tombs showed the royalty who surrounded them on their journey to the afterlife. However, the Valley of Kings wasn't the first place that people were buried. The Valley of Kings was a burial site because the Egyptians wanted to protect the mummies and their treasure from thieves.

It was easy for thieves to steal the loot once they were inside one of the pyramids. By contrast, the location of the valley made it hard to get to because of the weather and the desert that surrounds it. As a result, Egyptians thought it would be the perfect place to keep the dead. On top of that, there were many tunnels, and caves, so it was a little hard to navigate. Even though some thieves managed to get inside and steal treasure, the valley did not get raided as much as the pyramids did. Because of this, the Valley of Kings provides more material for historians to study.

The Valley of Kings allows us to understand the burial practices and religious practices in ancient Egypt because valley had many mummies inside of it and still does. From it, we can understand the way ancient Egyptians believed the dead should be buried. It also helps historians understand their religion better because they way they buried the mummies connected to their religion. The valley also helps us understand how they treated the different social classes. They made sure to find a safe place to put the mummies of the royals, and they went through a lot of trouble to mummify them. By contrast, they buried the poor out in the desert. This tells us they didn't care much about what happened to the lower class when they died.



W by: Noah Woubishet

W is for writing. Ancient Egyptian writing has evolved since the early dynastic period (c. 3100- 2686 BCE). In the early days of ancient Egyptian writing they wrote on stones, but further down the line, they made papyrus, demotic, and other important things related to writing in ancient Egypt. The god Thoth had given them the word “hieroglyphics”. People wrote hieroglyphics on walls and stone. People also wrote them on tombs. Hieroglyphics helped develop modern writing throughout the centuries.

Egyptians had a number of things to write on, and also had a number of ways to write. Reeds are plants that were made into paper. They pressed the reeds together and wrote on them. Hieroglyphics is Greek for “sacred texts.” In 1799, French soldiers found hieroglyphics on the Rosetta stone. A demotic is a cursive-like writing that was used on taxes and legal documents. It was made around the early 7th-century BCE.

Scribes are people that write, read, and manage. Egyptian hieroglyphics. Scribes hold a certain knowledge over people. Being a scribe is a hard job to manage. Remembering over hundreds of hieroglyphics is nowhere near easy. They study for 12 years. But women weren’t able to study hieroglyphics like men because this was during a period of sexism.



X by: Kaia Jordan

X is for x-ray. X-rays are important in learning about ancient Egyptian history because they reveal how a person lived and died. Archaeologist used X-rays to scan mummies and see how people looked 3,000 years ago. They examine bone and muscle to learn about mummies. X-raying mummies can tell how a person died. X-rays can tell how a person lived and survived. X-rays can show what things have been buried with the mummy, like magic Egyptian amulets or household goods.

Archaeologists also used X-rays to read text and writings that are found in coffins and on the masks of mummies. Egyptians put different writings in coffins and on the masks of mummies. Archaeologist used X-rays to read the text (writings) that are on papyrus on the outside of coffins. They papyrus was almost hidden but X-rays could still read through all of the dust and dirt that appeared over time. The writings are stories, diaries, and sales contracts.

Archaeologists used X-rays to learn about animal mummies as well. Egyptians mummified different animals like cats, cows, falcons, frog, baboons, bulls, and vultures. Some animals were pets buried with owners. Archaeologist uses two different types of X-rays for mummified animals. They used X-rays and CT scans on the animals. The scan can identify the difference between muscle and bones of the animals.



Y by: Caroline Anderson

Y is for Yaru. Yaru was the final heavenly resting place for ancient Egyptians. They tend to their crops happily for the rest of the afterlife. They would have to tend to a plot of land. In the earlier days of Egypt, many people thought that only pharaohs could go into the afterlife, but over time, regular people could also reach Yaru. They had to go through a long journey to get to Yaru, but it was like a paradise. In Yaru, they could see all of their loved ones that have passed away, their old homes, and their past pets.

In Yaru, there was no sadness, anger, or pain, and whoever made it would stay there blissfully for the rest of eternity. The things the ancient Egyptians brought into their tombs, they could bring with them into Yaru. This could include items such as perfumes, jewels, amulets, and other precious items were in the tombs of some Egyptians. Yaru is just like the person's former home and former plot of land.

How do you get into Yaru? Well, the first step to getting there was to die. The dead person was then mummified and put in a tomb. Objects are put in the tomb that will help them on their journey or something they want to bring into the afterlife. The spirit would then make the expedition through Duat, the underworld. Many gods and goddesses are involved in the process of getting into Yaru such as Anubis, Osiris, Ma'at, Ra, and 42 other gods for his judgment. Many Egyptians would use the last bit of their money to go to the afterlife. People who were rich enough had a higher chance of going.



Z by: Nahom Mesfin

Z is for Zoser. Zoser is also spelled Djoser. His name is spelled in different ways because ancient Egyptians used Hieroglyphics, which is a completely different language with different letters. So we try to make it sound similar to how it was said in Egypt. Zoser was a pharaoh in the third dynasty, which lasted for 75 years (2650 - 2575 BCE). Egyptians believed that pharaohs were demigods (half god, half human). For example, the step pyramid is really important for tombs. Zoser also built a temple for the god Khnum which stopped the 7-year famine.

When Zoser was pharaoh, there was an innovation of architecture made out of stone. In Egypt, architecture is one of the most important things. One of Zoser's greatest accomplishments was the step pyramid. Step pyramids are tombs that were for the rich and important people. The temple made for the god Khnum was one of the most important architecture because it saved the Egyptians. Khnum is the god of the source of the Nile.

During Zoser's rule, there was a seven-year famine. During the famine, many people died. There was a temple that Zoser created for the god Khnum. After Zoser visited the temple, the famine stopped. Zoser saved many Egyptians and was called a savior. Zoser was very helpful and kind for his people in many ways, thanks to his help on architecture and more.



About the class and the book

We made *E is for Egypt* because we were learning about ancient Egypt, and we wanted to make a book for other people to read and learn. We have done good research and did very well on drawing a picture of our topic. During class, we used websites, textbooks, and more to do research on our topic. Some students in addition to their letter worked on the front cover, or the back cover, and more. For each letter in the book, each student had to draw a picture related to the topic they researched.

We're 7th graders attending the Barrie School in Silver Spring, Maryland. Our class has been studying and taking notes on the ancient Egyptian culture and life. We decided to apply our studies and knowledge in order to make a book. We made this a children's book for kids that range from third through fifth grade. We have 25 students in our class and each student worked on a person, place, or subject that starts with their assigned letter.

