

Egyptian Gods and Goddesses

The ancient Egyptians worshipped hundreds of gods and goddesses. They believed these gods controlled nature, the weather, and even life after death. Temples were built in their honour and priests looked after them every day.

Many gods were shown with human bodies but animal heads. Ra, the mighty sun god, had the head of a falcon and was thought to sail across the sky each day in a golden boat. Anubis, shown with a jackal's head, guided the souls of dead people to the afterlife.

Osiris was the god of the dead and the afterlife. His wife, Isis, was a powerful goddess of magic and protection. Their son, Horus, was the god of the sky and kingship. Pharaohs, the rulers of Egypt, believed they were related to Horus.

Thoth, the god of writing and wisdom, had the head of an ibis, a long-beaked bird. The Egyptians believed their gods needed to be kept happy so that Egypt would be safe and prosperous.

Questions

1. How many gods did the ancient Egyptians worship?
2. What did the Egyptians believe their gods controlled?
3. Who looked after the temples every day?
4. How were many Egyptian gods shown in pictures and statues?
5. What did Ra look like and what was he thought to do each day?
6. What was the role of Anubis?
7. Who was the god of the afterlife?
8. What was Isis the goddess of?
9. What was Thoth the god of, and what did he look like?
10. Why do you think it was important to the Egyptians that their gods were kept happy?



Text B Quiz



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