

## Egyptian Gods and Goddesses

The ancient Egyptians had a rich and complex religion with over two thousand gods and goddesses. Each one had a special role, and people prayed to different gods depending on what they needed help with. Farmers prayed for good harvests, mothers prayed for healthy children, and rulers prayed for victory in battle.

Many gods were depicted as part human and part animal. Ra, the sun god, had a falcon's head and was one of the most important gods in all of Egypt. Each day he was believed to travel across the sky in a solar boat, bringing light to the world. At night he journeyed through the underworld.

Osiris, god of the dead, was said to judge the hearts of people after they died. His wife Isis was a powerful goddess of magic, and their son Horus represented kingship. Pharaohs were seen as living versions of Horus on Earth.

Anubis, the jackal-headed god, watched over the mummification process and guided souls. Thoth, with his ibis head, was the god of knowledge, writing, and the moon.

The Egyptians built enormous temples to honour their gods and employed thousands of priests and priestesses to perform daily rituals. Religion was at the very heart of Egyptian life.

## Questions

1. Approximately how many gods and goddesses did the ancient Egyptians have?
2. Why did people pray to different gods at different times?
3. Give one example of someone praying to a god and what they might have prayed for.
4. What did Ra look like and what was his daily journey?
5. What happened to Ra at night?
6. What was the role of Osiris after a person died?
7. What did Horus represent, and how were pharaohs connected to him?
8. What was Anubis responsible for?
9. What were Thoth's areas of responsibility?
10. The article says religion was "at the very heart of Egyptian life." Using clues from the text, explain what this means and why it might have been true.



Text C Quiz



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