

## Mudita-myths

A myth is a story that is passed down from generation to generation that expresses their culture, lifestyle and religion. The foundation of Egyptian mythology is the Pharaoh. The pharo was a embodiment of gods on earth and when he passed he was even considered to be Osiris, the god of death and the underworld. One aspect of mythology that is the most important is the afterlife and the underworld. Like other religions egypt's myths include their gods a lot. Here is a breakdown of all the gods:

**Ra:** Ra is the sun god. He symbolized with the solar disk and is connected to light and heat. He wears the solar disk on top of a hawks head. He can also change his form to become different shapes.

**RA-Herakhti:** RA-Herakhti is an incarnation of Ra. The only thing is that he lives on earth. He is linked to the horizon and in early mythology he is shown as a king.

**Thoth:** Thonth is the god of learning and wisdom. He is Ra's son and is known to be the god with no mother..He has the head of a sacred Egyptian bird the ibis. Usually the ibis's head is under a crescent disk.

**Osiris:** Osiris is the god of the underworld. This is because after his death and resurrection he did not fully return to earth; instead he became the god of the underworld, allowing his son to rule earth.

**Isis:** isis is considered the greatest goddess in Egyptian mythology. She is oriris's wife and together they were parents to horus who ruled earth. Isis also brought back osisis after he was brutally murdered by his brother Seth.

**Seth:** Seth was the god of chaotic forces, which is why people refer to him as god of the storms and deserts. Seth was osiris's brother and Seth helped Ra (the sun god) when he needed to journey into the underworld every night. But as Osiris became more important Seth became jealous and ended up murdering Osiris.

**Anubis:** Anubis used to be the god of the underworld but could not be when osiris took over. So now he is the god of death and dying. He is also known as the guardian of the dead because he was the one who led the souls to either osiris or Amit the goddess of destruction.

**Bes:** Bes was a dwarf god who guarded many things against misfortune and evil spirits. He guarded pleasure, music, dance and he even protected the pharos and a god of a children. He also protected homes by killing pests, warding off evil, babysitting, encouraging fertility and adding women in labor.

**Apophis:** apophis is A deadly serpent and is the chief demon of the night.he attacks others with mist and his goal is to destroy ra and his goal is to prevent the sun from rising each morning.

Hathor: Hathor is the goddess of fertility and love. She is often shown as a cow or a woman wearing a headdress. But when Ra sends her to destroy people on earth she becomes Sakhmet, goddess of war and destiny.

Sakhmet: Sakhmet is a close friend of Ptah, (the designer of the universe). She starts out as Hathor goddess of love and fertility but when Ra asked her to destroy all of his enemies. Her name means powerful one and she wears the head of a lioness.

Knonsu: Knosnu is the god of time and moon and is thought similarly to Bes, to have powers to drive away evil spirits from humans. Many Egyptian pieces of work show him as a mummy with a curved moon resting above his head.

Mut: Mut is the "mother-goddess" of all goddesses. She shows her power by either wearing a lion headdress or a vulture headdress. She is married to Amun Ra making her queen of the heavens.

Ptah: Some consider Ptah to be the greatest god, so great that all the other gods are incarnations of him. He is also thought to be the designer of the universe. He is shown as a mummy holding a scepter. HE is thought to create everything in the world. Some small communities such as the one in Memphis also considered him as the god of artist.

Sobek: Sobek is known as the crocodile god because of his crocodile appearance. He is the god of fertility of people and their crops. He is also associated with water.

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Montu: Montu is linked to winning wars. He is close friends with Amun and later, becomes his adopted son. Montu is often shown with a hawk's head. He has a sacred bull, which is believed to be the soul of Ra.

However gods were not the only mythical characters here are some others

Abutu-fish: A magical fish that appears with Ra's boat at sunrise

Amun: usually Amun is shown wearing a crown with feathers in it. He is the god of the wind. When he is joined with Ra he becomes Amun-ra. This makes him the supreme god of Egypt

## Popular myths

There are many myths that ancient Egyptians have passed on and I will talk about one of them, being the story of Ra. The story of Ra originated in the city of Heliopolis (upper Egypt) and was the center of worship for sun god Ra. Ra was one of the first gods. Because Ra was very important he was greatly admired by the Egyptians.

Here's how the story goes:

From deep within the dark waters a being (Ra) wills himself into existence. Ra fills his mouth with water and spits out 2 children- a boy named Shu and a girl named Tefnut. By doing this instead of one god he becomes three. He sends Shu and Tefnut away to chase away the darkness and chaos. They fly away leaving Ra behind. While they are gone Ra creates an eye then he sends it away with a mission to find his children. When the eye returns to Ra he sees that Ra has another eye in his face! The first eye became very angry. Because of this Ra gives the Eye the power of the sun and the eye on his face the power of the moon. Ra weeps. He is in awe of his creation. His tears give birth to men and women. Meanwhile Shu and Tefnut have grown up and formed a bond. They make twins Geb goddess of the earth and Nut goddess of the sky. Shu separates them and then the heavens are created. Nut gives birth to 5 more gods; Osiris the king, Horus the elder, Seth god of the disasters, Isis the queen, and Nephthys, goddess of the house. These gods take their place with the reattachment of Ra's children-part of the great Ennead, or group of nine they will make all future life except for one last god. Ra creates Thoth the very last god a very clever and powerful son. Ra rises from the waters of the Nun in his solar boat. It is made of the sun. Ra is freaky to bathe the world in light. At the beginning of this journey he takes form of Keppri, the scorpion (a type of beetle). The boat rises up with Hourus steering the rudder. Then more gods appear - Maat the goddess of truth and Nehebekka, the goddess of revival. A pharaoh who had died recently and was resurrected by Nehebekka rides in the bow. He looks after Keppri's jar of water. As the boat clubs upward Keppri's radiance grows stronger and at the height of his power he becomes Ra the sun god. As the day wears on Ra's power begins to fade. He changes into his human form, called Atum. As they drop behind the western mountains they prepare to enter Tuat the underworld. As they enter the legion of devils that sprang from the darkness. The serpent's name is Apophis. This fierce night-demon attacks the boat... Atum steps in and throws a deadly sunbolt. Apophis counter attacks with an eclipse. It blocks out the sun's rays. Then Atum transforms into a cat and finally kills Apophis. The serpent's body is chopped into a hundred pieces. His blood stains the evening sky. Triumph Ra rises to light another day.

Here are some other popular myths:

- Osiris & Isis
- Horus fights Seth
- The Peasant Who Became King,
- The Princess Of Bekhten,
- And The Golden Lotus
- The Myth of Ra and Isis,
- the book of Thoth, and

- the seven years famine
- Se-Osiris and sent a visit the underworld
- The creation of the gods and humans
- The murder of osiris
- Isis and the seven scorpions
- The revenge of horus
- The princess and the demon
- The near destruction of humanity
- The cleverest Egyptian of them all
- The shipwrecked sailor

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## Religion And Gods

The oldest form of religious worship in Egypt was animal worship.

Akhenaten was a king who led a religious revolution against the gods and religion of his own country. Akhenaten was the second son of the pharaoh Amenhotep III. Amenhotep ruled Egypt from 1370 to 1353 BC. He was the eldest surviving son of the pharaoh Thutmose IV. Thutmose left behind a stable country when he died.

Amenhotep married Tiye. Tiye was equal and just as important to her husband. Such Triads listed were worshiped: Osiris, his wife Isis, and their son Horus; Ptah, his wife Sekhmet, and their son Nefertem; and Amen, his wife Mut, and their son Khonsu. At the same time Amenhotep had 7 other wives. Amenhotep and Tiye had two sons and four daughters. Thutmose and Amenhotep ( later named Akhenaten). Thutmose was the eldest son and heir to the throne. When he was about sixteen he was sent to Memphis, Egypt to learn how to become a high priest of the god Ptah. Then their daughters Sitamun, Henuttaneb, Isis, and Nebetah. Sitamun may have married her father but they did have a daughter named Baketaten.

Lauren

Ancient Egypt beliefs.

## Page 70 from the class book:

In Egypt, people depended on the sun for their crops to grow, and the Nile River to help their soil to be fertile. And because of this, their two most crucial gods were God Hapi (the river god), and Re (the sun god)

Unlike people in Mesopotamia, Egyptians were very hopeful for the afterlife. They believed that the afterlife would be even better than present life, and that the dead arrived at a place of peace.

Another important god in Egyptian times was Osiris. And according to legends, he gave the Egyptian the Egyptian people laws, and taught them to learn farming. On the other hand, his wife Isis was represented to be a faithful mother, and wife. But together, the two ruled over the world of the dead.

### Page 71 from the class book:

The earliest people in Egypt believed that the only people who could enjoy the afterlife were the pharaohs. This is because they thought that a pharaoh's soul would reside in its body. And in order for the soul to reach the afterlife, the body had to be protected.

### Book- Hatshepsut and Ancient Egypt by Miriam Greenblatt

Page 57:

The Egyptian religion mostly consisted of their important gods and goddesses. And at first each town would worship a totem animal like a lion or hippo.

The most important god to Egyptian culture was Amen-Re. This god was actually a combination of two different gods named Amen (the god of Thebes), and Re (the sun god). Because of this, the priest of Amen-Re received so much land, cattle, and other goods, that they once controlled about half of Egypt's wealth.