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## Ancient Egypt

- The **Nile** is a river in eastern Africa and it runs from south to north.
- Ancient Egypt was divided into two regions, Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt.
- The most important thing the Nile provided to the Ancient Egyptians was fertile land.
- Most of Egypt is desert, but along the Nile River the soil is rich and good for growing crops.
- The Nile River also provided a lot of building materials for the Ancient Egyptians.
  - They used the mud from the riverbanks to make sundried bricks.
  - These bricks were used in building homes, walls, and other buildings.
  - The Egyptians also quarried limestone and sandstone from the hills along the side of the Nile.
- Since most of the major cities of Ancient Egypt were built along the Nile River, the river could be used like a major highway throughout the Empire.
- Boats constantly travelled up and down the Nile carrying people and goods.

### Sources:

- The Egyptians wrote on **papyrus** or carved into **stone**. They used three main kinds of writing:
  - ⇒ The **hieroglyphs** were the oldest. These were pictures describing or symbolizing certain meanings, later clusters of consonants.
  - ⇒ **Hieratic writing** was younger and it was used mostly by priests in religious texts.
  - ⇒ Later, **demotic** (or popular) writing was the simplest and most widely spread. It was used for administration, tax records and everyday life.
  - ⇒ Egyptian writing was deciphered by French archeologist **J. F. Champollion** in 1822.

## Cities

- **Memphis** - Memphis was the capital of Egypt from 2950 BC to 2180 BC. Some historians estimate that, during its peak, Memphis was the largest city in the world. Memphis continued to be a large and important city in Egypt even after the capital was moved to Thebes. It was also a center of religion with many temples.
- **Thebes** - Thebes first became the capital of Egypt around 2135 BC. It served off and on as capital until around 1279 BC. Thebes and Memphis generally rivalled each other as the largest and greatest cities in Egypt. Thebes was an important political and religious city. It housed several major temples including the Temple of Luxor and the Temple of Karnak.
- **Alexandria** - Alexandria served as the capital city from 332 BC to 641 AD. The city became the capital when Alexander the Great conquered Egypt and one of his generals established the Ptolemy Dynasty. Alexandria remained the capital for nearly a thousand years. In ancient times, the city was famous for the Lighthouse of Alexandria, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was also known as the intellectual centre of the world and home to the largest library in the world. Alexandria is located in northern Egypt on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It is the second largest city in Egypt today.
- **Amarna** - Amarna was the capital city of Egypt during the reign of the Pharaoh Akhenaton. The pharaoh created his own religion that worshiped the god Aton. He built the city to honour Aton. It was abandoned shortly after Akhenaton died.

## Pyramids

The pyramids were built as burial places and monuments to the Pharaohs. As part of their religion, the Egyptians believed that the Pharaoh needed certain things to succeed in the afterlife. Deep inside the pyramid the Pharaoh would be buried with all sorts of items and treasure that he may need to survive in the afterlife.

### Types of Pyramids

Some of the earlier pyramids, called step pyramids, have large ledges every so often that look like giant steps. Archeologists think that the steps were built

as stairways for the pharaoh to use to climb to the sun god.

Later pyramids have more sloping and flat sides. These pyramids represent a mound that emerged at the beginning of time. The sun god stood on the mound and created the other gods and goddesses.

### **Interesting Facts about the Great Pyramid of Giza**

- It is thought that the architect of the pyramid was Khufu's vizier (his second in command) named Hemiunu.
- There were three small pyramids next to the Great Pyramid built for Khufu's wives.
- It was the tallest man-made structure in the world for over 3,800 years.
- It's estimated that this pyramid was made from 2.3 million blocks of rock weighing 5.9 million tons.
- Recent evidence suggests that paid skilled workers built the Giza Pyramids, not slaves.
- Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build the Great Pyramid of Giza.
- The walls were often covered with carvings and paintings
- No treasure was found inside the pyramid. It was likely looted by grave robbers over a thousand years ago.
- The pyramid was originally covered with flat polished white limestone. It would have had a smooth surface and shone brightly in the sun. These cover stones were removed to construct other buildings over the years.
- When the pyramid was built, it was around 481 feet tall. Today, because of erosion and the removal of the top piece, the pyramid is around 455 feet tall. At its base, each side is approximately 755 feet long.

### **Sphinx**

- A Sphinx is a mythological creature with the body of a lion and the head of a person. In Ancient Egypt a lot of times the head was that of a Pharaoh or a god.
- The Egyptians built sphinx statues to guard important areas such as tombs and temples.
- The Great Sphinx is 241 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 66 feet high.
- The eyes on the face are 6 feet tall, the ears over three feet tall, and the nose would have been nearly 5 feet long before it was knocked off. It is carved out of the bedrock in a trench at the Giza site
- It was the Greeks who gave the name **sphinx** to the creature.

## **Government**

- The Ancient Egyptian Government was ruled first and foremost by the **Pharaoh**.
- The Pharaoh was the supreme leader not only of the government, but also of the religion.
- However, the Pharaoh couldn't run the government all by himself, so he had a hierarchy of rulers and leaders below him who ran different aspects of the government.

## **Vizier**

- The Primary leader of the Government under the Pharaoh was the Vizier.
- The vizier was the Chief Overseer of the land, sort of like a Prime Minister.
- All the other officials reported into the vizier.

## **Nomarks**

- Under the vizier were local governors called Nomarks.
- Nomarks ruled over an area of land called a nome.
- A nome was like a state or province.
- Nomarks were sometimes appointed by the Pharaoh, while at other times the position of nomark would be hereditary and handed down from father to son.

- Until the end of the 20th dynasty it was an **autocracy**.
- Later the pharaohs were assisted in their rule by high priests so Egypt became a **theocracy**.
- The priests were the educated class so they had most of the political power.

**Amenhotep IV** (18th dynasty) undertakes a great **religious reform** –changing the Egyptian polytheistic faith to monotheism with the only god **Aton**. He also changes his name to **Akhenaton** and builds a new capital city **Akhenaton**

<b>Pre dynastic period-</b>		before 3400 BCE
<b>Early dynasties</b>		
First dynasty-	I	3400- 3150 BCE
Second dynast-	II	3150- 2980 BCE
<b>Old Kingdom</b>		
<b>Pyramid period-</b>	III, IV, V, VI	2980- 2475 BCE
<b>Feudal Period-</b>	VII, VIII, IX, X	2475- 2160 BCE
<b>Middle Kingdom-</b>	XI, XII	2160- 1788 BCE
<b>Hyksos period-</b>	XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII	1788- 1580 BCE
<b>Imperialism-</b>	XVIII, XIX, XX	1580- 1090 BCE
<b>Foreign invasion-</b>	XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV	1090- 663 BCE
Saite period-	XXVI	663- 525 BCE
<b>Persian rule-</b>	XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX	525- 332 BCE
<b>Greek rule</b>		332 BCE onward

**Ptolemaic dynasty** (Ptolemy I Soter in 305 BCE; Ptolemy II Philadelphus was the king of Ptolemaic Egypt from 283 to 246 BCE)

**Roman Rule**

30 BCE

**Muslim**

7<sup>th</sup> Century AD

## **Social Condition**

- Egyptian society was highly stratified- Pharaoh, Government officials, Priests, Scribes, Artisans and Peasants.
- Egyptian society was structured like a pyramid.
- At the very top of this **social pyramid** was the pharaoh, Egypt's **supreme** ruler.
- Egyptian religion strengthened the pharaoh's authority.
- Pharaohs were believed to be gods, and their word was law.

## **Government Officials**

- Government officials belonged to the highest class on Egypt's social structure, after the pharaoh.
- Their job was to assist the pharaoh in his or her role as supreme ruler of Egypt.
- Government officials were often members of the pharaoh's family or other upper-class families.
- Most of them inherited their positions from family members.

- Three important officials were the **vizier**, the **chief treasurer**, and the **general of the armies**.
- The **vizier** had more power than anyone except the pharaoh.
  - The vizier advised the pharaoh and carried out his commands.
  - He appointed and supervised many of the other government officials.
  - The vizier also served as a kind of chief judge.
- The **chief treasurer** oversaw the government's wealth.
  - His main duty was to collect taxes.
  - People paid their taxes in grain, cows, cloth, and silver.
- The top military commander in Egypt was the **general of the armies**.
  - He advised the pharaoh in matters of war and national security, such as how to protect Egypt's borders from invaders.
  - He also helped the pharaoh make alliances with other kingdoms.

## **Priests**

- Priests were powerful and highly respected in society.
- A large network of priests served under the pharaoh, who was considered the highest-ranked priest of all.
- The High Priest advised the pharaoh and oversaw all religious ceremonies.
- Temple priests were in charge of the temples scattered throughout Egypt.
- Other priests gave advice and performed healings.
- Women were allowed to be priestesses in Egypt.
- They were generally regarded as equal to male priests.

- Temple priests played an extremely important role in Egyptian religion.
- Every temple was home to one or more Egyptian gods.
- Priests had a special role to play in burial practices. Priests oversaw this sacred ritual.

## **Scribes**

- In the social structure, **scribes** were one level below priests.
- Scribes were Egypt's official writers and record keepers.
- They were highly respected and well paid.
- Most scribes worked for the government.
- Others worked for priests or nobles.
- They came from all classes of society.
- Ancient Egyptians kept all kinds of records, so scribes held a wide variety of jobs.
- They recorded accounts of the grain and food supply.
- They wrote down the results of the government census, which counted the people living in Egypt.
- Some scribes calculated and collected taxes.
- Legal scribes recorded court cases and helped enforce laws.
- Military scribes kept track of the army's soldiers and food supply, and the number of enemies killed in battle.
- Scribes also carried rolls of papyrus (paper).

## **Artisans**

- Below the scribes in the social structure were the artisans.
- Egypt's artisans were highly skilled labourers who created some of the most beautiful art objects in the ancient world.

- Artisans specialized in any one of a number of crafts.
- Workers in this class included carpenters, jewellers, leatherworkers, metalworkers, painters, potters, sculptors, and weavers.
- The most skilled artisans were the stone carvers.
- Stone carvers played an important role in tomb building.
- Artisans were a class toward the lower middle of society.

### **Peasants**

- Peasants were the lowest and largest class in Egypt's social structure.
- They were generally considered unskilled labourers.
- When not busy working the fields, peasants helped build monuments like the pyramids.
- Peasant life revolved around the Nile River.
- Peasants made up the bulk of the population, but agricultural produce was owned directly by the state, temple, or noble family that owned the land.

### **Egyptian Women**

- In Ancient Egypt, social dignity was not based on gender, but rather on social.
- This means that women held many important and influential positions in Ancient Egypt and typically enjoyed many of the legal and economic rights given to the men within their respective social class.
- Women in Ancient Egypt had a high degree of equal opportunity and freedom.
- Other recorded occupation was that of Judge and Vizier to Pharaoh.
- Women had wealth independently from their husbands.
- Women were able to settle on monetary choices independently.

- When entering a marriage, women could claim joint property with their husbands.
- Inscriptions and sketches portraying women and men going to feasts; hunting and fishing together is an indicator of the equal union of men and women in social life.
- Women were very educated and highly regarded in their specialization (female doctors).
- The head of the legal system was officially the pharaoh, who was responsible for enacting laws, delivering justice, and maintaining law and order.
- Court documents show that Egyptian law was based on a common-sense view of right and wrong.

## **Economic Condition**

### **Agriculture**

- Natural river irrigation.
- The building of dams and canals was done at local or regional levels.
- The building of dams at right angles to the flow of the Nile, separating the Nile Valley into basins.
- Egypt gave the world the first hydraulic engineering and systematic irrigation.
- The Egyptians had little ploughing to do because the flooding of the Nile deposited all of the rich soil directly on top.
- They only needed to lightly turn the soil, so ploughs were lighter weight.
- The Egyptian plough was lightly built and tied to the horns of the cattle.

- Cows were generally used for ploughing, which caused their milk production to decrease during ploughing time.
- Early sickles, used to cut wheat, had flint teeth set in a wooden or bone haft.
- Important crops were barley and wheat.
- Grapes were much appreciated in ancient Egypt. There are abundant depictions of grapes, grape culture, and wine making.
- The naturally occurring papyrus reeds used for paper, ropes, mats and many other things.
- Surveyors measured fields for purposes of tax collection.
- Large stones were used to establish property boundaries.

## **Industries**

- Wood was scarce and rarely used.
- Considered a costly artificial semi-precious stone for making ornaments.
- Glass was manufactured in state owned factories, and was used by the nobility only.
- Glass was made from melting the raw materials of silica quartz and soda.
- Glass was used to make beads, amulets, and pendants
- In ancient Egypt, coloured glasses were also in use.
- The papyrus plant was used by Egyptian for paper making in 3000 BC, and a writing system.

- Mines and quarries were entirely monopolies of the state, and their management being entrusted to the highest officials
- Metallurgical practice were of extreme importance to the State and were carefully guarded from the vulgar
- The Egyptians were the first recorded people to use sails on their ships.

## Trade

- As there was very little wood available, most vessels were made of bundled papyrus reeds
- Linen light fabric, was appropriate for hot the climate which was exported.
- Trade was occurring in the 5th century BCE onwards, especially with Canaan, Lebanon, Nubia and Punt (place).
- Just before the First Dynasty, Egypt had a colony in southern Canaan that produced Egyptian pottery for export to Egypt.
- In the Second Dynasty, Byblos provided quality timber that could not be found in Egypt.
- By the Fifth Dynasty, trade with Punt gave Egyptians gold, aromatic resins, ebony, ivory, and wild animals.
- A well-travelled land route from the Nile to the Red Sea. Another route, the Darb el-Arbain, was used from the time of the Old Kingdom of Egypt.
- Egyptians built ships as early as 3000 BCE by lashing planks of wood together and stuffing the gaps with reeds. They used them to import goods from Lebanon and Punt.
- Egyptians built ships as early as 3000 BCE by lashing planks of wood together and stuffing the gaps with reeds.
- The Egyptians were masters of trade in the ancient world.

- Egyptians and their trading partners sailed along the Nile River to trade their goods, but sometimes also travelled to and from the Eastern or Western Deserts.
- Egyptians **bartered** with their precious resources, including gold, papyrus, linen, and grain.
- Trade was also used in promoting friendship between civilizations.
- Egypt determined how much of an item was being offered for trade by comparison to pieces of metal of known weight.
- In 400 B.C.E., **gold, silver, and bronze coins** became the **currency** of Egypt, but even then, bartering was still popular.
- Trade affects all of the social classes of Egypt
- Trade in ancient Egypt was important because it gave civilians the resources required to live and prosper.
- Egypt imported gold, timber, bronze, pottery, olive oil, ivory, lapis lazuli, and the skins of wild animals.
- Egypt primarily exported grain but also perfumes and unguent oils.

## **Egyptian religion**

- Religion played a dominant role in the life of the ancient Egyptians, leaving its impress upon almost everything.
- The Pharaoh was the living representative of god and the rule of the god was maintained by him on earth.
- The art was an impression of religious symbolism.
- The literature and philosophy were suffused with religious teachings.
- The government of the old Kingdom was a theocracy.
- Egyptian religion was polytheistic which means they believed in more than one god.
- The religion of the ancient Egyptians went through various stages- from polytheism to monotheism and back to polytheism.

- In the beginning each city appears to have had its local deities, who were guardian gods of the locality.
- The unification of the country resulted not only in a consolidation of territory but in a fusion of divinities as well.
- All local deities were merged into the most powerful Sun god Ra/Re.
- Sun god Ra/Re was an addition the god of righteousness, justice and truth and the upholder of the moral order of the universe.
- Other respected gods were
  - **Osiris**, the Nile god
  - **Horus**, the sky god
  - **Anubis**, the god of the dead
  - **Set**, the god of destruction
- Most Egyptian gods possessed some animal features in their appearance.
- **The Osiris- Isis Cult**
  - This cult began its existence as a nature religion.
  - The god personified the growth of vegetation and the life-giving powers.
  - According to belief, **Osiris** had been a benevolent ruler, who taught his people agriculture and other practical arts and gave them laws.
  - After a time he was treacherously slain by his wicked brother **Set**, and his body cut into pieces.
  - His wife **Isis**, who was his sister, went in search of the pieces, put them together in front of the god **Anubis**, and miraculously he restored his body to life.
  - The god regained his kingdom and continued his beneficent rule for a time.
  - He descended to the nether world to serve as judge of the dead.
  - Horus, his posthumous son, finally grew to manhood and avenged his father's death by killing **Set**.
  - The death and resurrection of Osiris symbolised the recession of the Nile in the autumn and the coming of the flood in the spring.

# Monotheistic Religion

## Atonism

- The only monotheistic period was during the reign of **Amenhotep IV** (Akhenaton), who **promoted the sun god Aton** and banned all other gods.
- In the ancient world, there were many gods representing different aspects of the natural world such as the sun or moon.
- One Egyptian pharaoh in a bold move decided that he was going to change everything about religion by focusing on one god even if it upset everyone.
- That one god would be the Aton.
- According to Egyptian beliefs, Re created everything including all of the other gods.
- Re was often depicted in art and on tombs as a sun disk.
- The Aton was believed to derive from the image of the sun disk of Re.
- Since the sun crosses the sky every day, the **Aton was related to the idea of creation and continued existence providing life and energy.**
- **Amenhotep IV** lived during the time of the 18th dynasty and his reign falls in around 1353 - 1336 BCE. His father was Amenophis III and his mother was Queen Tiye.
- After becoming Pharaoh upon his father's death, **Amenhotep IV changed his name to Akhenaton which means, 'he who is effective on the Aton's behalf,'** highlighting the importance of his belief in the Aton.
- It is not clear as to why he decided to focus on the worship of the Aton rather than the traditional gods of Egypt.

- It is possible he did so **to curb the power of the priests of Amon.**
- After changing his name, Akhenaton embarked on a series of changes in his kingdom which scholars describe as a 'revolution.'
- First, he decided to vacate the two main cities (Memphis and Thebes) that had been used by previous pharaohs to rule.
- **Memphis had been an administrative centre and Thebes was a religious centre.**
- He decided to **build a new city that he would name Akhenaton or 'Horizon of the Aton'** (el-Amarna).
- **This city was marked out by stele**, or stone columns with declarations carved into them declaring the pharaoh's intention for building the city.
- He embarked on changing the religion by declaring that the old ways were wrong.
- Akhenaton wanted everyone to forget about the afterlife and live in the here and now.
- Akhenaton declared that he was the only one to speak directly to the Aton.
- In the ninth year of his reign Akhenaton declared a more radical version of his new religion by declaring Aton not merely the supreme god but the only god, and **Akhenaton was the son of Aton.**
- **Atonism was the worship of the Egyptian god Aton**, the representation of the sun god.
- The move separated the Pharaoh and his court from the influence of the priesthood and from the traditional centres of worship.

- **Aton is pictured in hieroglyphics as the disk of the sun** extending blessings to the denizens of earth.
- Pharaoh **Amenhotep IV promoted Atonism** in an attempt to consolidate Egyptian polytheism to the worship of only one god.
- **Atonism was Egypt's state religion** for around 20 years, before subsequent rulers returned to the traditional gods.
- **New temples were constructed in which the Aton** was worshipped in the open sunlight rather than in dark temple enclosures, as the old gods had been.
- **With Akhenaton's death**, the **Aton cult** he had founded almost immediately **fell out** of favour due to pressures from the Priesthood of Amon.
- Tutankhaton, who succeeded him and abandoned Akhenaton, the city falling into ruin.
- The temples that Akhenaton had built were disassembled.

## **Egyptian Art**

### **Architecture**

- The most common buildings of Ancient Egypt were tombs, pyramids and temples.
- The most elaborate tombs in ancient times were those built by the Egyptians for their kings, the pharaohs.
- Early on, the Egyptians built **mastabas**, tombs made of dried bricks which were then used to shore up shafts and chambers dug into the earth.

- In every mastaba there was a large room for ceremonies honouring the spirit of the deceased and an adjoining smaller room, the **serdab**, where a statue of the dead person would be placed so that the spirit could witness and enjoy the ceremonies.
- The most famous tomb is probably **the tomb of Tutankhamen**.
- The mastabas continued as a tomb for the common people but for royalty it was replaced by the structure known as the **pyramid**.
- The shape of a pyramid is thought to be representative of the descending rays of the sun.
- Commencing with the Step Pyramid at Saqqara, the royal **pyramids** would reach their height in splendor in the construction of the Great Pyramid of Khufu at **Giza** (built 2551-2528 BCE). The royal pyramids were adorned with paintings depicting the life and accomplishments of the deceased king and filled with all those necessities the spirit would need in the afterlife in the Field of Reeds. Pharaohs were interred in the area known as The Valley of the Kings and their tombs were elaborate eternal homes which reflected their status as divine rulers.
- The **temples** were dedicated to specific gods.
  - The most famous temple complexes were in **Luxor and Karnak**.
- The **pyramids** were not built during the whole Egyptian era (only in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasties).
- The first **pyramid** called the **Step Pyramid** was built by **Imhotep** vizier of pharaoh **Djoser** around 3000 BC at **Saqqara**.
- Another was built by **Snefru/Sneferu**.
  - The Bent Pyramid was build in his reign.
  - The Bent Pyramid rises from the desert at a 54-degree inclination.
  - The Bent Pyramid represents a transitional form between step-sided and smooth-sided pyramids.
  - Originally pyramids were polished with limestone outer casing remains largely intact.

- The well-known classic pyramids of Egypt were built by the **pharaohs of the 4th dynasty**.
- Pyramids were constructed out of millions of stone blocks transported along the river Nile on ships and moved by slaves.
- The three pyramids of **Giza** were built by:
  - **Khufu**- the biggest pyramid in Giza, originally 146.6 m high, 2 million limestone used, each of the blocks weights between 2.5 and 15 tons.
  - **Khafre**- the pyramid is watched over by the **Sphinx**
  - **Menkaure**- the smallest pyramid in Giza
- The first tombs were **mastabas**.
- The most famous temple complexes were in **Luxor and Karnak**.
- They were often decorated by huge **statues – colossi**, for example by Ramesse II at Abu Simbel, and **obelisks**.
- **Luxor Temple** is a large Ancient Egyptian temple complex located on the east bank of the Nile River in the city today known as Luxor (ancient Thebes) and was constructed approximately 1400 BCE.
  - The temple is **one of the best preserved of all of the ancient monuments** with large amounts of the structure, statuary and relief carvings still intact.
  - It is **dedicated to Amon**, king of the gods, his consort **Mut (mother goddess)**, and their son **Khons/Khonsu**.
  - **Construction** of the temple was begun by the pharaoh **Amenhotep III** (1390-52 BC) and was completed by **Tutankhamen** (1336-27 BC) and **Horemheb** (1323-1295 BC) and then added to by **Rameses II** (1279-13 BC).
  - The Luxor Temple is **constructed of sandstone blocks from Nubia**.
  - The temple complex is **surrounded by mud-brick walls**, symbolic of the separation between the world and the sacred realm of the gods.

- The **entrance** to the temple itself is known as the **first pylon**.
  - It was built by Ramesses II and was decorated with scenes of his military expeditions.
  - Two red granite **obelisks** originally stood in front of the first pylon, more than 25 meters now remains.
  - Six colossal statues of Ramesses II have survived.
  - The outer courtyard at Luxor is known as the **courtyard of Ramesses II**.
  - It is 57 meters long and 51 meters wide.
  - The **courtyard of Amenhotep III** is connected to the courtyard of Ramesses II measures 45 meters by 56 meters.
  - Luxor Temple was the focus of one of the most important religious festivals in ancient Egypt – **the annual Opet Festival** (procession though hidden from sight in a sacred barque, from the temple of Amun in Karnak, to the temple of Luxor).
- **Karnak Temple** Complex comprises a mix of decayed temples, chapels, pylons, and other buildings that span from the reign of **Sesostris I** in the Middle Kingdom, all the way to the Ptolemaic period and the New Kingdom.
    - Approximately **thirty pharaohs contributed** to the buildings, allowing it to reach a size, complexity, and diversity not found elsewhere in Egypt.
    - The most famous aspect of **Karnak** is the oversized Hypostyle Hall (roof under pillars), containing 134 massive columns arranged in 16 rows, 122 of these columns are 10 meters tall, and the other 12 are 21 meters tall with a diameter of over three meters.
    - **Karnak Temple dates** from around 2055 BC to around 100 AD

## Sculpture

- Egyptian sculpture served primarily as adjuncts to architecture.
- Statues of pharaohs were commonly of colossal size.
- Some of them were coloured to enhance the portrait, and the eyes were frequently inlaid with rock crystal.
- The Egyptians used the technique of sunk relief, which is best viewed in sunlight for the outlines and forms to be emphasized by shadows.
- The distinctive pose of standing statues facing forward with one foot in front of the other was helpful for the balance and strength of the piece.
- By 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty the idea of the **Ka** statue was firmly established.
- Early tombs also contained small models of the slaves, animals, buildings and objects such as boats necessary for the deceased to continue his lifestyle in the after world.
- Small figures of deities, or their animal personifications, are very common, and found in popular materials such as pottery.
- The Egyptians carved sculptures of their gods and pharaohs, were always facing forward.
- Very strict conventions were followed while crafting statues and specific rules governed appearance of every Egyptian god.
- Egyptian sculpture was the representation of men and women.
- Women were often represented in an idealistic form.
- Sculptures made of copper, bronze and other metals were cast using the lost wax method.

- Large sculptures were usually carved from sandstone.
- The Egyptians produced some wonderful **wooden sculptures**.
- The Egyptians were never able to make free standing human sculptures. Either the figures were sitting down or coming out of a wall.
- Many of the sculptures of Egypt were decorated with fine gems, jewels and gold.

## Paintings

- Egyptian paintings were found in tombs and burial places.
- The Egyptians painted the walls and ceilings in the belief that the one who had passed would be able to take all of the images of their life with them and only the deceased and the Egyptian gods would ever see the paintings.
- Egyptian reliefs were painted.
- Many ancient Egyptian paintings have survived in tombs.
- Temples and palaces were merely painted on a flat surface.
- Stone surfaces were prepared by whitewash.
- The binding medium used in painting remains unclear (egg tempera, various gums and resins).
- The paint was applied to dried plaster.
- Egyptian painting was used in a number of ways, including painting directly on the surface.
- Another method was to create a 'relief', which a raised image above the background and then carefully painting the details of the image.

- There is a second type of relief which was carved out and is referred to as 'sunk relief', and the images were painted with a raised background surrounding them.
- Egyptian paintings are painted in such a way to show a profile view and a side view of the animal or person at the same time.
- Their main colours were red, blue, white, green, gold, black and yellow.
- Paintings showing scenes of hunting and fishing can have lively close-up landscape.
- Egyptian painting did not develop a sense of depth.