

WALT understand the role of Pharaohs in Ancient Egypt

WILF:

- Explain what a pharaoh is and what they did.
- Name the main Pharaohs of the times and when they ruled.
- Locate where the pharaohs are buried
- Understand when the end of Egyptian civilisation occurred.



pharaoh

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A huge statue of the pharaoh Ramses II stands at the temple of Luxor in Egypt.

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Introduction



The rulers of **ancient Egypt** were called pharaohs. The word pharaoh means “great house.” It originally described the royal palace but later described the rulers themselves.

Role



Pharaohs were absolute, or all-powerful, rulers. They made laws, controlled the land and its resources, and maintained an army. Assistants called viziers and other officials helped pharaohs to govern. Pharaohs were also religious leaders. In fact, Egyptians worshipped their pharaohs as gods.

Let's take a closer look at some of them...

Narmer: The First Egyptian Pharaoh



Summary of reign:

The first pharaoh of Egypt was Narmer, who united Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt. Egypt was once divided into two kingdoms. The kingdom in Lower Egypt was called the red crown and the one in Upper Egypt was known as the white crown.

Around 3100 B.C. Narmer, the pharaoh of the north, conquered the south and Egypt became united. He founded the first capital of Egypt where the two lands met. It was called Memphis. The story of Ancient Egypt begins from when the north and the south were united as one country.

Remembered because: He was not the first to attempt unifying Egypt, but he was the first to accomplish it, bringing together what had previously been two separate tribes.

King Djoser: The Great Builder



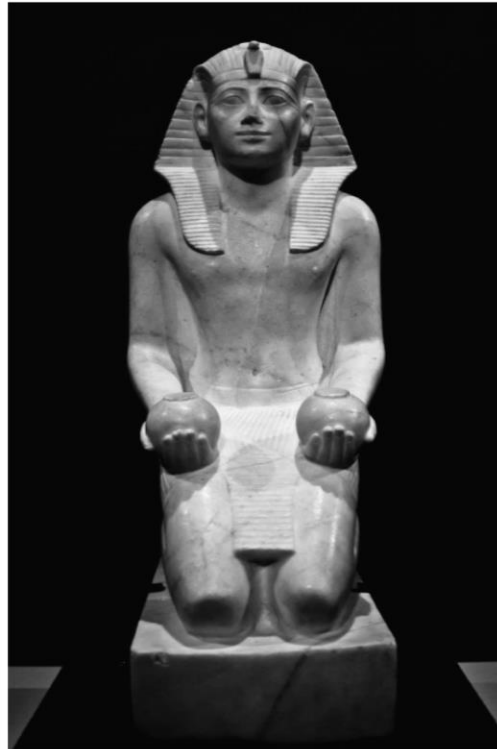
Summary of reign:

Djoser increased the wealth of Egypt by exploring the Sinai Peninsula area looking for turquoise, copper and other precious metals. He was a great military commander, who waged successful wars against the inhabitants of the Sinai Peninsula. He built many temples and shrines, including a great temple at Heliopolis.

Remembered because: He was responsible for the world's first known monumental stone building, the Step Pyramid at Sakkara. The main purpose of the step pyramid served to protect Djoser for eternity by protecting his mummy and wealth.

Thutmose III: A Skilled Warrior

Date of Reign: 1479 to 1425 BC



Summary of reign:

Thutmose III was a brilliant general who never lost a battle. He brought the Egyptian empire to the pinnacle of its power by conquering all of Syria, crossing the Euphrates river to defeat the Mitannians, and travelling south along the Nile River to Sudan.

Thutmose III built a great number of temples and monuments to commemorate his deeds. He also set up a number of obelisks (a tall, four-sided, narrow tapering monument), one of which, called Cleopatra's Needle, now stands on the Embankment in London.

Remembered because: His military achievements brought fabulous wealth AND power to Egypt. **Location of Burial:** Valley of the Kings

Akhenaten: A Controversial Ruler

Date of Reign: 1352-1334 BC



Summary of reign:

Akhenaten rejected the traditional religion, announcing that the gods worshiped in Egypt were to be merged into one god, Aton, a sun deity - who spoke only to him. He closed all the temples to the old gods.

He moved the capital from Thebes to the city he named Akhetaton, in Middle Egypt.

Remembered because: Akhenaten didn't have the support of the people and his new religion and city didn't last after he died.

Married to: Nefertiti

Location of Burial: Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, Amarna

Tutankhamun: The Boy King



Date of Reign: 1337 – 1328 BC

Click the image to watch a video! Or, read:

Tutankhamun's father's reforms left Egypt in a terrible state. Tutankhamun restored the old religion and moved the capital from Akhetaten back to its traditional home.

He repaired the damage inflicted upon the temples during Akhenaten's reign. He constructed his tomb in the Valley of the Kings. He also continued construction at the Temple of Karnak.

Remembered because: His tomb, containing fabulous treasures, was discovered in 1922 by British archaeologists, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon. **Location of Burial:** Valley of the Kings

He became pharaoh at the young age of nine and reigned at a time when the Egyptian Empire was at its height.

Did you know? Forensic analysis of his mummy has put his age at death at about 18.

Seti I: A Great Ruler

Date of Reign: 1290–1279 BC



Summary of reign:

Seti I built the Great Temple of Abydos also known as the Osireion. He began the construction of this significant temple and it was finished during the reign of his son, Ramses the Great.

Seti I led the capture of a Syrian town called “Kadesh”. Many Pharaohs had unsuccessfully attempted to take this land. Together with his son, they triumphantly entered Kadesh and built a victory monument at the site.

Remembered because: Seti I had a great predicament during his reign. This began with a prophecy which stated that a boy would grow up to take his throne. This alarmed him so much that he ordered his men to kill every male child born in Egypt. You may remember this from the bible story of Moses.

Location of Burial: Valley of the Kings

Ramses The Great

Date of Reign: 1279 BC – 1213 BC



Summary of reign:

During his reign as Pharaoh, Ramses II led the Egyptian army against several enemies including the Hittites, Syrians, Libyans and Nubians. He expanded the Egyptian Empire and secured its borders.

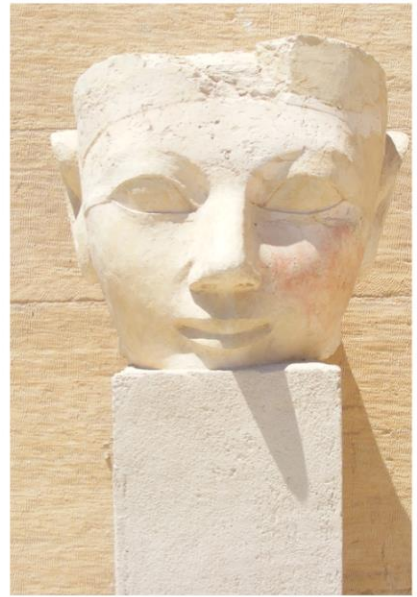
Ramses II is also known as a great builder. He rebuilt many of the existing temples in Egypt and built many new structures of his own including: Ramesseum temple, Abu Simbel temple and a new capital city of Egypt called Pi-Ramesses.

Location of Burial: Valley of the Kings

Remembered because: He lived to be over 90 years old. At the temple of Abu Simbel, he built 4 statues of himself which were 69 feet high!

Hatshepsut: The second known female pharaoh.

Date of Reign: 1473 BC – 1458 BC



Summary of reign:

Hatshepsut was born an Egyptian princess as her Father was Thutmose I. At the very young age of 12, she married her stepbrother Thutmose II but when he died, Hatshepsut helped rule the nation for her young nephew and stepson. During her reign, Egypt was at peace and Hatshepsut set up trade deals with foreign countries making Egypt a rich nation.

Location of Burial: Valley of the Kings

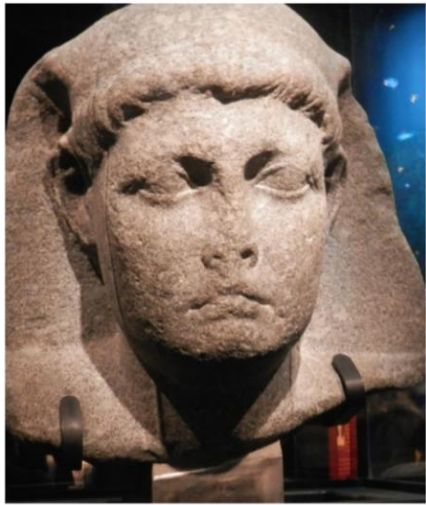
Remembered because: Hatshepsut was the longest reigning female pharaoh in Egypt, and is considered one of Egypt's most successful pharaohs.

Married to: Thutmose II

Cleopatra VII Philopator

51 BC to 10 or 12 August 30 BC (21 years)

Summary of reign:



Cleopatra VII was the daughter of Pharaoh Ptolemy XII and thought of as his favourite child. She learnt a lot about how the country was run from him. When she was 18, her Father died meaning power over Egypt was passed down to Cleopatra and her 10 year old brother Ptolemy XIII. However, when Ptolemy XIII became older, he wanted more power and forced Cleopatra out.

In 48 BC Cleopatra met Julius Caesar and asked him to help her win back power. Julius Caesar fought against Ptolemy's army and won meaning Cleopatra could rule over Egypt again.

Buried in: the long-lost **tomb of Antony and Cleopatra**, unfound.

Remembered because: Cleopatra VII was the last pharaoh of Ancient Egypt.

The end of Ancient Egypt...

Cleopatra VII surrendered Egypt to the armies of Augustus (Julius Caesar's nephew) - the Romans took over. The Romans then ruled Egypt for 6 centuries (600 years!).

Click here for a recap of the timeline, and to see what was going on in Europe:

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/egypt/timeline.html>

Your Activity:

Research a Pharaoh of your choice and make a fact file about them, including:

- Who came before and after them?
- How long did they rule?
- What were their main achievements?
- Where were they buried?
- Any other notable facts?

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