

Ancient Egypt Vocabulary



Key Terms

Theocracy: a type of government in which rule is based on religious authority

Rosetta Stone: the key to understanding hieroglyphics

Hieroglyphics: form of ancient writing that used pictures and symbols

Dynasty: family of rulers whose right to rule is hereditary

Polytheism: belief in many gods

Monotheism: belief in one god

Mummification: process of preserving the body after death with chemicals

Empire: form of government that unites different territories and people under one ruler

Papyrus: paper made from the stem of a plant

Important People

Pharaoh: title for an Egyptian ruler; means “Great House”

Scribes: clerks who read and wrote hieroglyphics

Caravans: groups of people traveling together for safety over long distances

Hyksos: group of advanced people who took control of Egypt with their scimitars and chariots

Menes: first Egyptian pharaoh; united Upper and Lower Egypt (Old Kingdom)

King Tutankhamen: Young boy pharaoh whose tomb was found untouched in the "Valley of the Kings".
Restored Egypt to polytheism. (New Kingdom)

Amenhotep IV: attempted to make Egypt monotheistic by banning all the Egyptian gods except the sun god (New Kingdom)

Cleopatra: woman pharaoh who tried to reunite Egypt but failed and the Roman Empire took over (New Kingdom)

Mentuhotep: pharaoh who creates two national work projects to create farm land and new transportation routes (Middle Kingdom)

Thutmose III: Step-son of the first female pharaoh who ruled in the New Kingdom (New Kingdom)

Hatshepsut: First female pharaoh (New Kingdom)

Ramses II: called “The Great”. He built many temples and monuments