

# Ancient Egypt

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# Egyptian Religion



- **POLYTHEISM**: the belief in many gods.
- **MONOTHEISM**: the belief in one god.
- Egyptian gods controlled the forces of nature.
- Egyptians identified the gods with animals, ex: cats, jackals, dogs, falcons, cows, hawks, etc...



# Egyptian Religion

- **AMON-RE (RA):** most important god; the **sun god**; depicted as a hawk headed man.
- **OSIRIS:** **god of the Nile and the Dead**; bearded green faced man in mummy wrappings.
- **ISIS:** **wife of Osiris**; wings, horns or hieroglyphics on head.
- **SET (SETH):** **evil brother of Osiris**; head of an unknown animal, a crocodile, a hippopotamus or a black pig.
- **HORUS:** **sky god** and son of Osiris/Isis who revenged the death of his father; falcon headed man.
- **ANUBIS:** **guide of dead and god of embalming**; dog or jackal head.
- **HATHOR:** **goddess of motherhood**, love, music and dancing; cow head.

# Egyptian Religion



Amon



Anubis



Isis



Osiris



Horus



Set



Sobek



Ra



# Story of Osiris

- Killed by his evil brother *SET*.
- Body was cut up into 14 pieces and spread throughout the world.
- Wife, Isis, found all body parts and brought him back to life
- Son, Horus, will later seek revenge on Set and kill him.
- He did not return to the world of the living but reigned as judge of the dead.



# Egyptian Afterlife



- The Egyptians believed in life after death
- When you die, you go to the underworld where Osiris judges you
- He weighs your heart against a feather (symbol of truth)
- If heart is light (innocence), one goes to the **OTHER WORLD**, (Happy Field of Flood)
- If heart is heavy (guilt), one is fed to Ammit, the **DEVOURER OF SOULS**, crocodile shaped Eater of the Dead

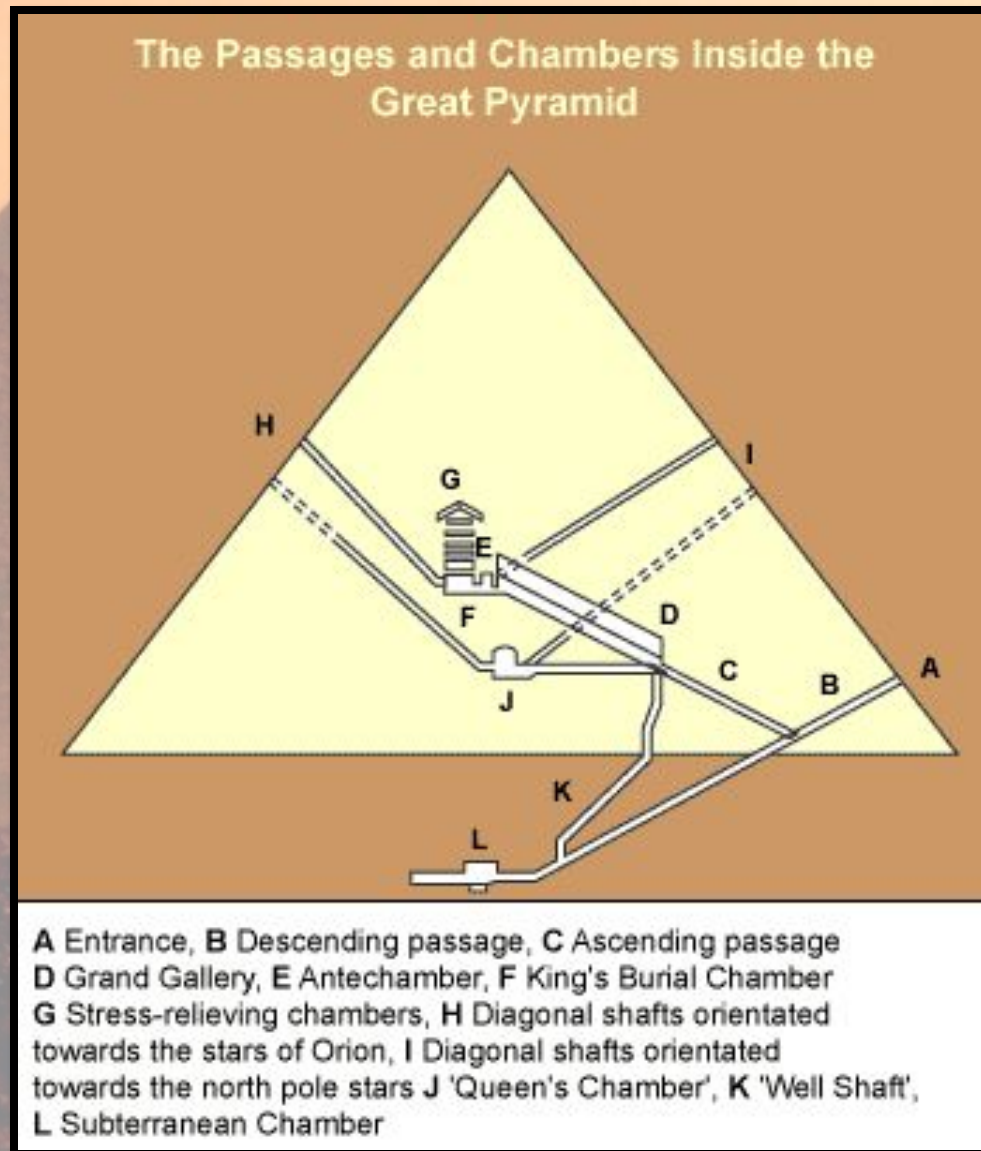


# Egyptian Afterlife

- Egyptians looked forward to their afterlife and planned well for life after death.
- **PYRAMIDS:** burial tombs for the kings.
- They would be filled with food and riches to go with them into the afterlife.
- Egyptian people worked on the building of the pyramids 3 months a year during flood season.



# Pyramid (Interior View)





## EGYPTIAN SOCIAL PYRAMID

This diagram shows how Egyptian society was shaped. Which groups formed the top two levels of the social pyramid? The bottom two levels?

Pharaoh

Government officials

Vizier

Priest

Noble

Soldiers

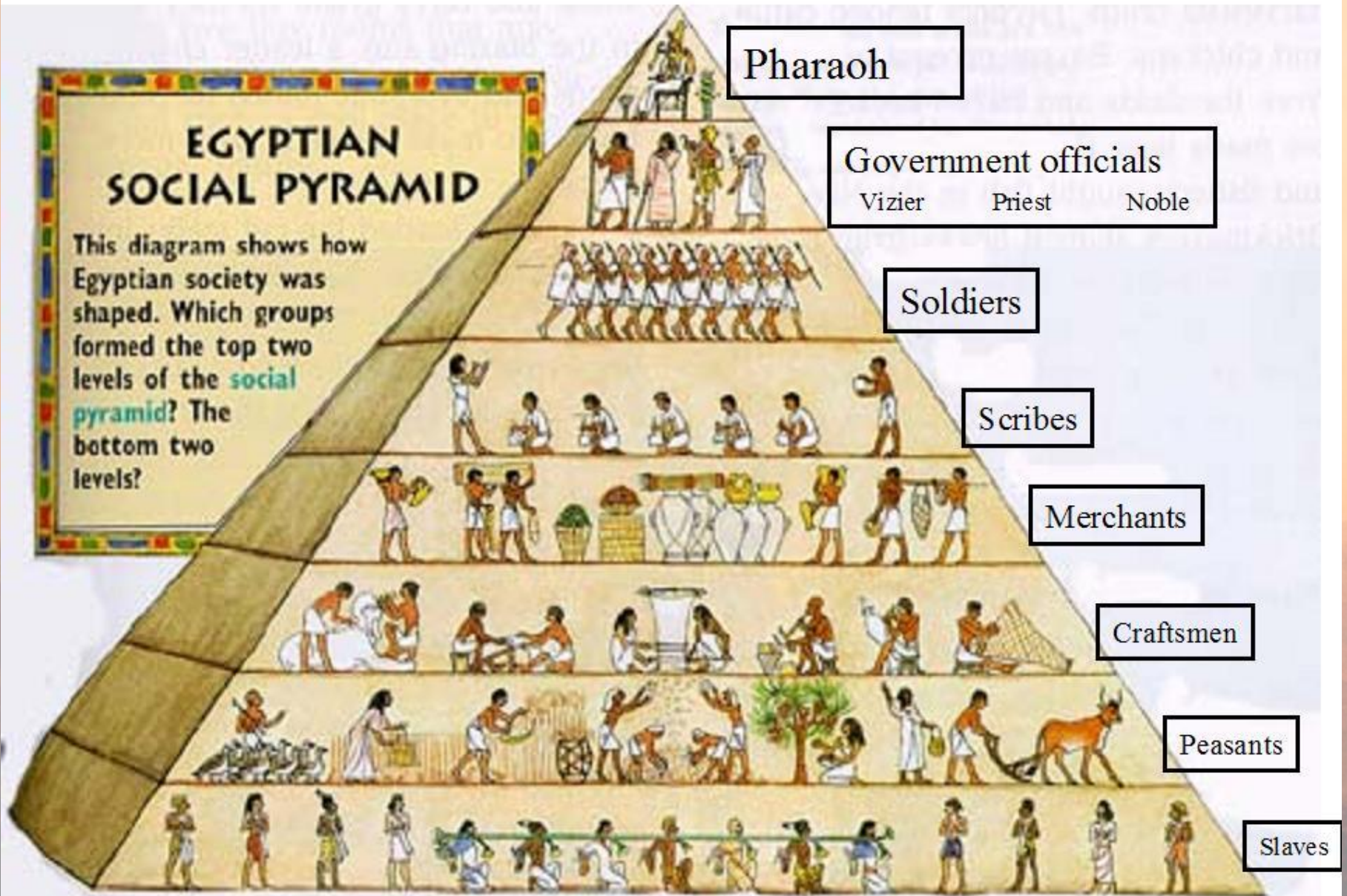
Scribes

Merchants

Craftsmen

Peasants

Slaves



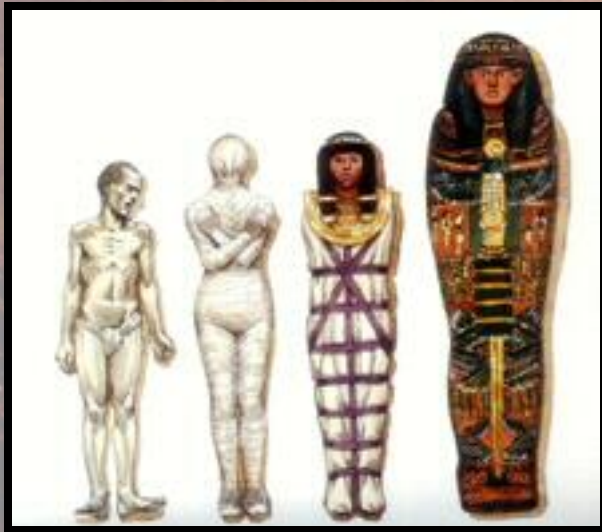
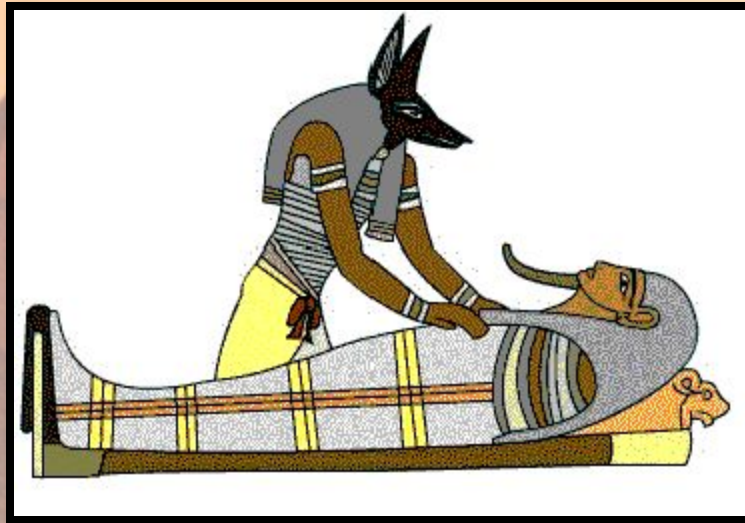
# Egyptian Burial Process

***MUMMIFICATION:***  
process that  
preserved the body  
of the dead for entry  
into the afterlife.





# Mummification



# Mummification

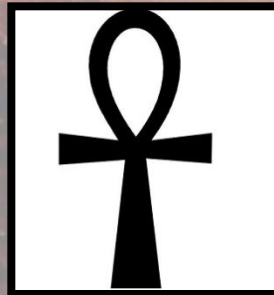


**Natron**



**Canopic Jars**

**Ankh**

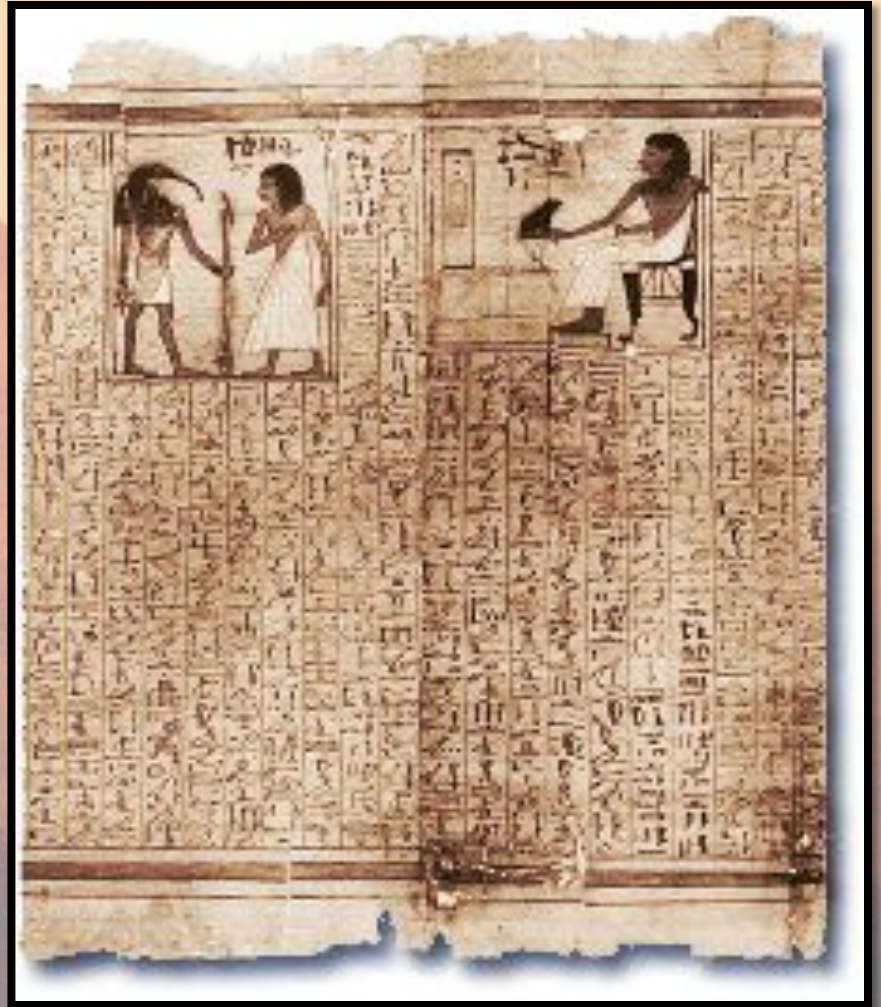


**Symbol of  
Eternal Life**



# Book of the Dead

- **BOOK OF THE DEAD:**
  - Egyptian book which would **help the Egyptians get into the Otherworld.**
  - It contained magic spells, prayers and **hymns** to the gods which were to be spoken on the journey into the afterlife.

































# Egyptian Writing

- **HIEROGLYPHICS**: Egyptian writing
- **DEMOTIC**: simpler hieroglyphics
- **SCRIBE**: one who could read and write in ancient Egypt.
- **Hieroglyphics** would be carved into stone or wood and later written on PAPYRUS: Egyptian paper.
- **JEAN CHAMPOLLION**: the French scholar who translate hieroglyphics by letter.





# Egyptian Hieroglyphics

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  A   |  B   |  B   |  C   |  D   |  E   |
|  F   |  G   |  H   |  H   |  I   |  J   |
|  K   |  L   |  M   |  N    |  N   |  O   |
|  P  |  Q  |  R   |  S   |  T   |  T   |
|  U |  V |  W |  X |  Y |  Z |

# Arts of ancient Egypt

- Ancient Egyptian art reached a high level in painting and sculpture, and was both highly stylized and symbolic.





# Arts of ancient Egypt



## Painting

- Not all Egyptian reliefs were painted, and less prestigious works in tombs, temples and palaces were merely painted on a flat surface.

## Sculpture

- The monumental sculpture of ancient Egypt's temples and tombs is world-famous, but refined and delicate small works exist in much greater numbers.










# Arts of ancient Egypt



## Architecture

- Ancient Egyptian architects used sun-dried and kiln-baked bricks, fine sandstone, limestone and granite. Architects carefully planned all their work.

## Hieroglyphs

- Hieroglyphs are the ancient Egyptian writing system in which pictures and symbols stand for sounds and words. Jean-Francois Champollion first decoded hieroglyphs from the Rosetta Stone, which was found in 1799. Hieroglyphs have more than 700 symbols.





