

Egyptian Mythology

Monuments and Heiroglyphs



Book List:

1. The Egyptian Book of the Dead
2. The Red Pyramid Series by Rick Riordan
3. Treasury of Egyptian Mythology by, Donna Jo Napoli
4. Myths & Monuments of Ancient Egypt by Lucia Gahlin
5. Tomb Quest Series by Michael Northrop
6. Hieroglyphs Paperback by Joyce Milton

Website References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_hieroglyphs

<https://www.touropia.com/ancient-egyptian-monuments/>

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldcivilization/chapter/ancient-egyptian-monuments/>

<http://www.landofpyramids.org/hieroglyphs-and-hieroglyphics.htm>



Pyramid



Pyramids were built to be the tombs for the pharaohs and their queens. Tunnels and chambers inside the pyramids were not only the burial place of the kings, but housed luxuries and goods. Ancient Egyptian religion taught that the tomb held everything the pharaoh would need in the afterlife.

The Bent Pyramid (above) is located in Dahshur. It was built by the pharaoh Sneferu and rises at a 55 degree angle, until it suddenly changes into a 43 degree incline. Page one of this study guide pictures the famous pyramids of Giza.

Obelisk



A tapered monolithic structure carved from a single piece of stone, the obelisks of Egypt were usually made in pairs to stand at the entrances of temples. Many of the ancient obelisks were removed from their original place and displayed elsewhere in the world, such as the Luxor (ancient Thebes) obelisk (pictured above), now in Paris.

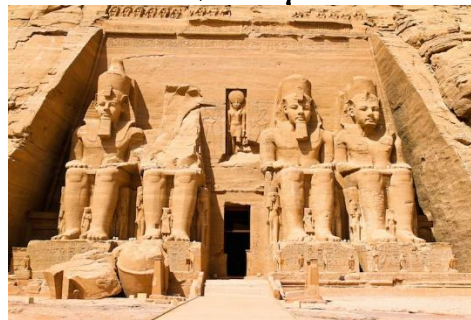
Sphinx



Great Sphinx of Giza, a colossal limestone statue of a recumbent sphinx located in Giza, Egypt, that likely dates from the reign of King Khafre (c. 2575–c. 2465 BCE) and depicts his face.

The Sphinx is a legendary creature mentioned in Greek and Egyptian myths. According to the legend, the Greek sphinx had a lion's body, a woman's head and an eagle's chest and wings (and the tail of a serpent in some versions of the accounts). Egyptian sphinx, on the other hand, was shown as a male. As for another difference between these two legendary beasts, Greek sphinx was a merciless and treacherous creature while her Egyptian counterpart was a benevolent figure in Egyptian mythology. Both creatures were considered as guardians of important places like temples and were featured at entrances to such places.

Temples



Left to right: Karnak, Abu Simbel and the Temple of Hatshepsut

Egyptian temples were built for the official worship of the gods and in commemoration of the pharaohs. Temples were seen as houses for the gods. Within them, the Egyptian priests performed a variety of rituals, the central functions of Egyptian religion: giving offerings to the gods, reenacting their mythological interactions through festivals, and warding off the forces of chaos. These rituals were seen as necessary for the gods to continue to uphold maat, the divine order of the universe.

Hieroglyphs

Egyptian hieroglyphs were the formal writing system used in Ancient Egypt. Hieroglyphs combined logographic, syllabic and alphabetic elements, with a total of some 1,000 distinct characters.



The Rosetta Stone is one decree written in 196 BC in three scripts.

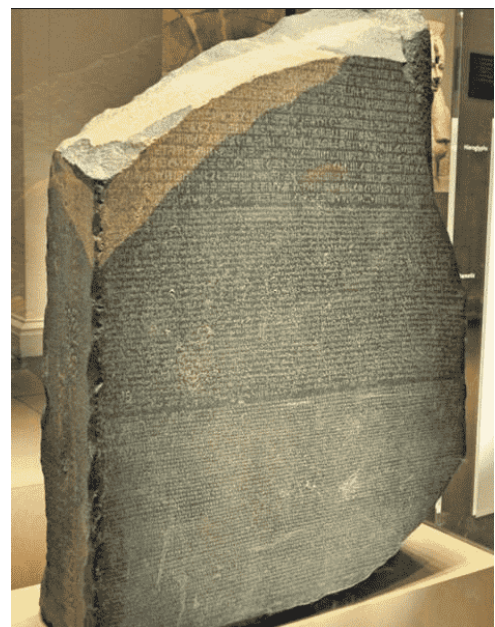
The first was *hieroglyphic* which was the script used for important or religious documents.

The second was *demotic* which was the common script of Egypt.

The third was *Greek* which was the language of the rulers of Egypt at that time.

The Rosetta Stone was written in all three scripts so that the priests, government officials and rulers of Egypt could read what it said.



























Until its discovery in 1799 AD, no one knew what the pictured language of the Ancient Egyptians meant.



Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphics

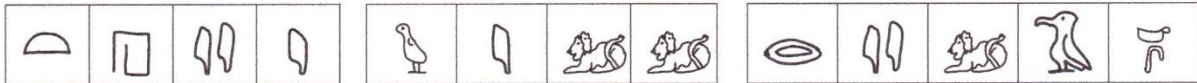
CRACK-THE-CODE

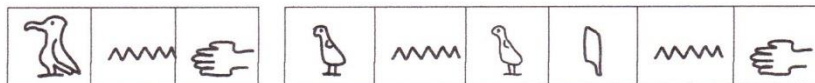
Use the following key to crack the code and solve the ancient riddles.

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

Why don't mummies take vacations?







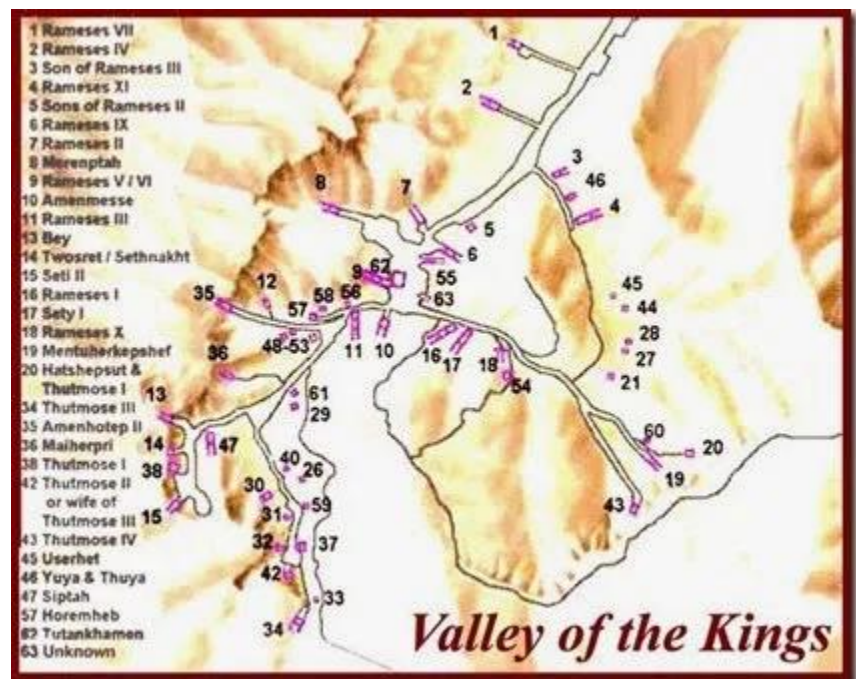
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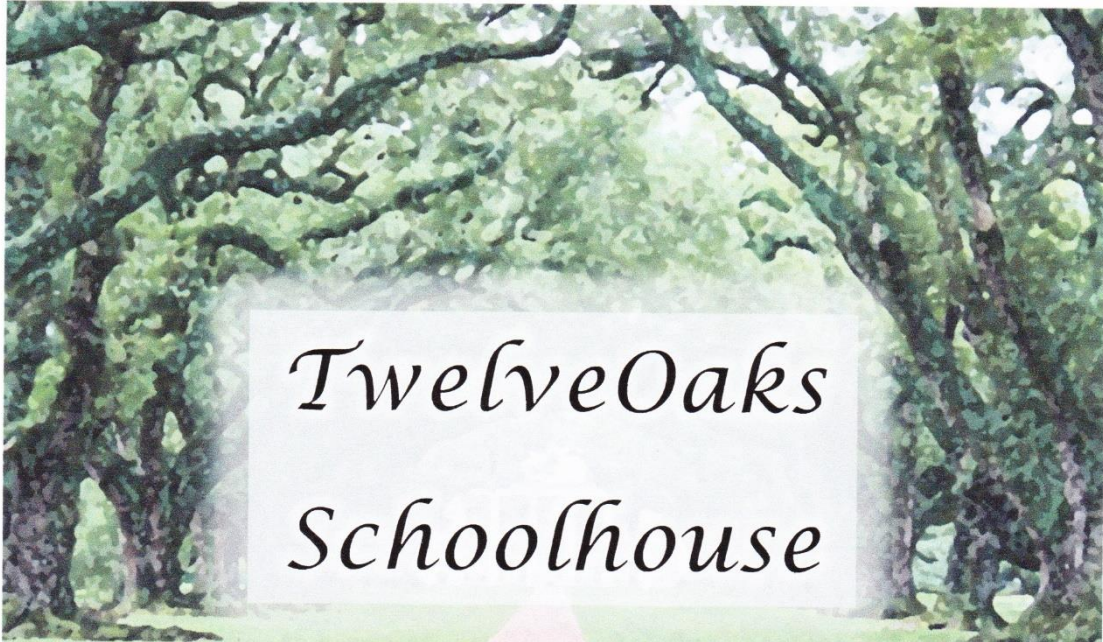
Discussion/ Essay Questions

1. Why were the pyramids built?
2. What is an obelisk?
3. What two cultures had myths about the Sphinx?
4. What was the Rosetta Stone?

Activities

1. Build a pyramid with toothpicks, cardboard, legos...
2. Take a virtual tour of the Valley of the Kings - <https://sites.google.com/site/ancientegyptiantour/virtual-tour-of-the-valley-of-the-kings>
3. Write a story involving a sphinx
4. Research the ancient temples. Write a report.
5. Write your name in hieroglyphs. Write a coded message of your own.





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