

MAGICAL MUSEUM

ANCIENT EGYPT

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that magical
scarab!

Albatros



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The **ANCIENT EGYPTIANS** had a strong faith in the afterlife. Preserving the body of the dead was necessary for a safe journey to eternity, they believed.

Over time, they developed the art of mummification to ensure the body stayed intact. Early on in Ancient Egypt, the dead were placed in graves in the desert, where the hot and dry environment preserved them. This may have inspired mummification. The earliest attempts at artificial embalming occurred around 2000 BCE, during the reign of the 3rd Dynasty. The art of mummification peaked during the 21st Dynasty, when embalmers created mummies with the deceased person's original facial features.



In the ancient Old Kingdom of Egypt, **MUMMIFICATION** was carried out in special tents. These were later replaced by brick buildings called “pure places” or “good houses,” where the embalmers worked. The chief embalmer was a priest who supervised the mummification ritual, which lasted 70 days.



Wow, I know this place! This is where they mummified me.

The wealthier a person was, the more extravagant their **DEATH MASK** was. Dead noblemen and noblewomen were adorned with masks made from gold and precious materials, while poor people had to make do with plaster masks painted in glittering colors.

The **PRIESTS** in charge of the mummification provided tombs for poorer people, which they exchanged for money or material possessions. They also collected fees from the dead person’s relatives for the upkeep of the mummy and the tomb, as well as all the spiritual services for 70 days. The journey into the afterlife didn’t come cheap.



1: Hatshepsut — A queen of the 18th Dynasty and one of the most important female Egyptian rulers. Ruling in place of her underage son Thutmose III from 1479–1458 BCE, she helped start new trade routes and grand construction projects.

2: Thutmose II — A pharaoh from the 18th Dynasty who ruled from 1493–1479 BCE. The wife of Thutmose II was the famous queen Hatshepsut.

3: Seti I — A pharaoh from the 19th Dynasty of the New Kingdom. He fortified the borders

of Egypt, opened mines and quarries, and made the magnificent temple in Karnak. He reigned from 1290–1279 BCE.

4: Ramesses II — A pharaoh from the 19th Dynasty who reigned from 1279–1213 BCE. He brought prosperity to the empire during his long reign. He had a temple built in Abusir, a testament to his power and influence.

5: Ahmose-Nefertari — The first queen of the 18th Dynasty and wife of Pharaoh Ahmose I. She reigned from 1562–1495 BCE.

6: Tutankhamun — A minor 18th Dynasty sovereign who ruled from 1333–1323 BCE.

7: Thutmose IV — A pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty and the son of Amenhotep II. He reigned from 1397–1388 BCE.

8: Thutmose III — A pharaoh from the 18th Dynasty who ruled from 1479–1425 BCE. As one of the most illustrious Egyptian pharaohs, he made the Egyptian empire bigger through wars and battles and took power away from priests.

9: Ramesses III — A pharaoh from the 20th

Dynasty who reigned from 1187–1157 BCE. Throughout his reign, he sought peace in troubled times.

10: Meritamen — A daughter of Ramesses II. Also, one of his wives.

11: Dog mummy.

12: Fish mummy.

13: Monkey mummy.

14: Cat mummy.

15: Bird mummy.



AMUN

Originally the god of the air, later the god of the sun and the sun itself. In the period of the New Kingdom, he was the highest of all deities.



ANUBIS

Protector of the dead and of their final resting place, he welcomed the dead into the underworld.



HATHOR

The goddess of dance, music, love, and motherhood, she was also the protector of the dead.



PTAH

Creator of the world and the whole universe, he was the god of rebirth and the inventor of arts and crafts.



THOTH

As the god of wisdom, speech, learning, writing, and medicine, he was also the patron of scribes depicted in the form of an ibis. He gave hieroglyphics to the Egyptians.



OSIRIS

The souls of deceased pharaohs would unite with the soul of Osiris.



HORUS

God of the sky and son of the deities Isis and Osiris.



The **WEIGHING OF THE HEART** — This was done by the god Anubis and noted by the god Thoth. If the sinner's heart was heavier than a feather, the devourer of the dead Ammit would eat it. On the other hand, if the heart was lighter, it would pass through the gates of heaven and could begin to live in the afterlife.

» EGYPTIAN GODS AND RELIGION «

Religion played an important role in Ancient Egypt. The Egyptians were polytheistic, meaning they believed in and worshipped many gods and goddesses. These took on many forms, most often animals. Over time, the same animal could represent different gods in different eras or in different temples. During the 14th century BCE, Pharaoh Amenhotep IV of the Eighteenth Dynasty attempted to introduce monotheism, the belief in one single god — this case, the sun god Aten.



SENET was one of the most popular Ancient Egyptian board games. The game represented the journey to the afterlife.

You have climbed the House of Water! Now you have to wait until you roll a 4 . . .

MEHEN — Another popular Ancient Egyptian board game, this one took the form of a coiled snake.

Don't mind me, sir . . .

DOLLS ① — made from cloth, clay, and ceramics.

BALLS ② — made from old cloth or dried palm leaves wrapped in strips of animal hide.

HORSE ON WHEELS ③ — a toy that is popular even today.

MILL FOR GRINDING GRAIN ④.

CERAMIC MOUSE ⑤.


BANQUETS — The Ancient Egyptians enjoyed banquets, where they ate, drank, played music, and danced. Professional dancers provided entertainment for all the guests, with men dancing with men and women dancing with women.





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Some people like museums, while others find them boring. But a museum ruled by magic and sorcery is a totally different story. Don't believe it? Well, open this book and see for yourself what strange happenings are afoot. By cracking open these mysterious pages, you will trigger the spell of the sacred scarab and the museum exhibits of Ancient Egypt will come to life, including a cat who remembers the famous Cleopatra. The mission of this feline is to put things right, to catch the scarab and undo its curse. But that is no easy task. Together with the cat and its gray mouse helpers, you will dash through the museum in pursuit of the scarab. Along the way, without even realizing it, you'll learn plenty of interesting historical facts about the amazing civilization that was Ancient Egypt.

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