

World of the Pharaohs

Terms to Know

Amulet - charms in the shapes of gods and goddesses which Egyptians wore for good luck or protection. They were also placed on mummies to help protect spirits of the dead in the afterlife.

Ankh - the Egyptian hieroglyph sign meaning "life" and "to live".

Archaeology - The science of recovering material evidence remaining from past cultures and the detailed study of these artifacts.

Artifacts - objects which were made and left behind by ancient civilizations.

Book of the Dead - A papyrus scroll that contained magical spells and directions to help a spirit in the afterlife.

Canopic jar - containers that held the preserved internal organs of a mummy. There were four jars, each held either the lungs, liver, stomach, or intestines.

Cartouche - An oval figure enclosing the name of the King.

Crook and flail - two symbols of kingship. The shepherd's crook conveys the idea of governing. The flail, a tool used for beating grain, represents authority.

Deity - A god or goddess with special powers, worshiped by the people.

Dynasty - Rulers from the same family over a long period of time.

Faience - A substance made of a paste of pulverized quartz and glazed with a silica glass. Blue and green colors used for many items including amulets and vessels.

False door - a solid piece of stone shaped like a door and placed in a tomb. Egyptians believed it allowed the spirit of the dead to leave the burial chamber.

Hieroglyphs - A Greek word meaning "sacred symbols"; over 700 signs used in writing; Egyptian writing is referred to as "hieroglyphic script".

Ka - The life force or spirit of a person that endured beyond death.

Lower Egypt - The northern region of Egypt, the Nile River delta, symbol was the papyrus plant.

Mummy - A dead body that has been preserved. Mummification is the process of preserving the body.

Papyrus - A tall reed plant growing in the Nile River marshes. It had many uses including making it into paper-like sheets for writing.

Pharaoh - A king or ruler.

Pyramid - In Egypt, a massive tomb having a rectangular base and four triangular side meeting at a single point.

Sarcophagus - A stone coffin.

Scarab beetle - A charm believed to bring good luck and new life. Also, believed to protect the spirit in the afterlife.

Scribe – A person who learns to write, in Egypt, a young boy.

Shawabty - A funerary figure, usually shaped like a mummy. The purpose of the statuettes was to spare their owner from labor in the afterlife.

Shroud - A clothe used to cover the body for burial.

Sphinx - In Egypt, a figure having the body of a lion and the head of a man.

Upper Egypt - The southern region of ancient Egypt, the river valley, symbolize was a lily plant.

Wedjet Eye - Called “the eye of Horis.” It symbolizes the process of “healing” or “making whole”.