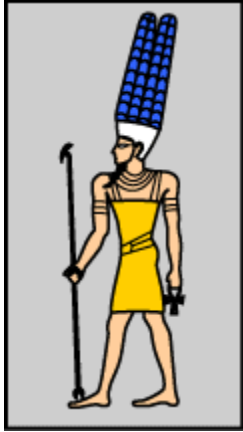


Picture List
The British Museum

Amun



Appearance:

- Man with a ram-head
- A ram
- Man wearing an ostrich plumed hat

Amun was one of the most powerful gods in ancient Egypt.

At the height of Egyptian civilisation he was called the 'King of the Gods'.



Amun

Source URL: <http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/gods/explore/main.html>
Saylor URL: <http://www.saylor.org/courses/arth201>

Amun was important throughout the history of ancient Egypt. However, when Amun was combined with the sun god Ra he was even more powerful. He was then called Amun-Ra.

A large and important temple was built at Thebes to honour Amun.

Anubis



Appearance:

- Man with a jackal head
- A jackal

Anubis was the god of embalming and the dead.

Since jackals were often seen in cemeteries, the ancient Egyptians believed that Anubis watched over the dead.



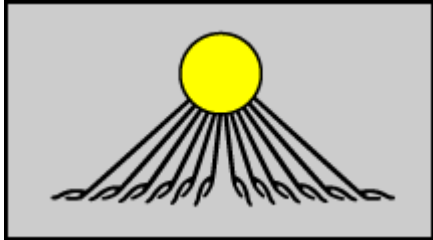
Anubis

Anubis was the god who helped to embalm Osiris after he was killed by Seth. Thus, Anubis was the god who watched over the process of mummifying people when they died.

Priests often wore a mask of Anubis during mummification ceremonies.

Source URL: <http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/gods/explore/main.html>
Saylor URL: <http://www.saylor.org/courses/arth201>

Aten



Appearance:

- A sun disk with rays which end in hands

Aten was a form of the sun god Ra.

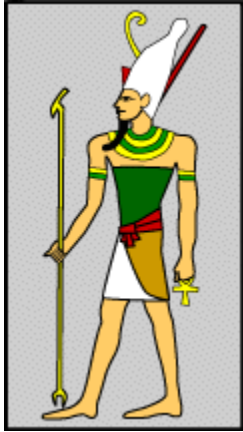
During the reign of Akhenaten, the Aten was made the 'king' of the gods.



Rays of Aten

Atum

'The All' or 'Perfection'



Appearance:

- Man with the double crown

Atum was a creator god.

The ancient Egyptians believed that Atum was the first god to exist on earth.



Atum

The ancient Egyptians believed that Atum rose from the waters of chaos (Nun) and created all the gods.

Source URL: <http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/gods/explore/main.html>

Saylor URL: <http://www.saylor.org/courses/arth201>

Bastet



Appearance:

- Woman with the head of a cat

Bastet was a protective goddess.



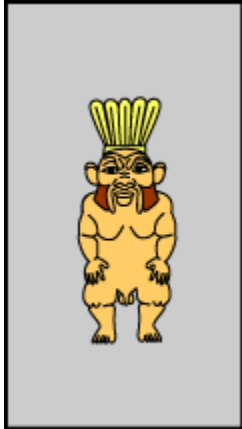
Bastet

Bastet was usually seen as a gentle protective goddess. However, she sometimes appeared with the head of a lioness to protect the king in battle.

The cat was a symbol of Bastet. The ancient Egyptians made many statues of cats like this one to honour Bastet.

Bastet was one of the daughters of the sun god, Ra. A great temple was built in her honour at Bubastis in the Delta.

Bes



Appearance:

- Dwarf with lion and human features
- Dwarf wearing the skin of a lion

Bes was the protector of pregnant women, newborn babies and the family.



Bes

The ancient Egyptians also believed that Bes protected against snake and scorpion bites.

Amulets of Bes were popular at all levels of Egyptian society.

Geb



Appearance:

- Man lying down below the arch of the sky goddess Nut
- Man with a goose on his head

Geb was the god of the earth.

Geb was the husband and brother of the sky goddess Nut. He was also the father of Osiris, Isis, Nephthys and Seth.

When Seth and Horus fought for the throne of Egypt, Geb made Horus the ruler of the living.

The ancient Egyptians believed that earthquakes were Geb's laughter.

Hapy



Appearance:

- Man with a pot belly, shown with water plants

Hapy was the god of the inundation.



Hapy

Hapy was especially important to the ancient Egyptians because he brought the flood every year.

The flood deposited rich silt on the banks of the Nile, allowing the Egyptians to grow crops.

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Saylor URL: <http://www.saylor.org/courses/arth201>

Hathor



'House of Horus'

Appearance:

- Woman with the ears of a cow
- A cow
- Woman with a headdress of horns and a sun disk

Hathor was a protective goddess. She was also the goddess of love and joy.

Hathor was the wife of Horus, and was sometimes thought of as the mother of the pharaoh.



Hathor sistrum

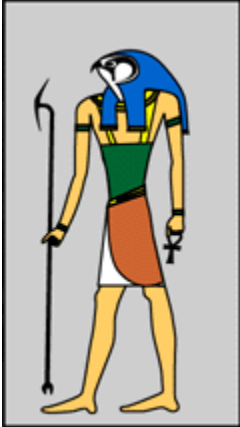
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Hathor was connected with foreign places and materials. For instance, Hathor was the goddess of the desert and the turquoise mines in the Sinai.

A large temple was built to honour Hathor at Dendera.

Horus



'The One Far Above'

Appearance:

- Man with the head of a hawk
- A hawk

Horus was a god of the sky.

He is probably most well-known as the protector of the ruler of Egypt.

The Egyptians believed that the pharaoh was the 'living Horus'.



Horus standard

Source URL: <http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/gods/explore/main.html>
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The ancient Egyptians had many different beliefs about the god Horus. One of the most common beliefs was that Horus was the son of Isis and Osiris.

After Osiris was murdered by his brother Seth, Horus fought with Seth for the throne of Egypt.

In this battle, Horus lost one of his eyes. The eye was restored to him and it became a symbol of protection for the ancient Egyptians. After this battle, Horus was chosen to be the ruler of the world of the living.



Eye of Horus

One of the best-preserved temples in Egypt today was dedicated to Horus. It is located in Upper Egypt at a town called Edfu.

Isis



Appearance:

- Woman with headdress in the shape of a throne
- A pair of cow horns with a sun disk

Isis was a protective goddess. She used powerful magic spells to help people in need.

Isis was the wife of Osiris and the mother of Horus.

Since each pharaoh was considered the 'living Horus', Isis was very important.



Isis with Horus

Isis is often shown holding Horus on her lap. Isis is associated with thrones because her lap was the first 'throne' that Horus sat upon.

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This amulet is called the 'Isis knot' and is a symbol of protection.

A temple was built to honour Isis at Philae. It is still standing today.

Khepri

'He Who is Coming into Being'



Appearance:

- Man with the head of a scarab
- A scarab beetle

Khepri was a god of creation, the movement of the sun, and rebirth.

The scarab beetle lays its eggs in a ball of dung. Then, it rolls the ball along the ground until the young beetles are ready to hatch.

When the young beetles are ready, they crawl out of the ball.



Khepri scarab

The ancient Egyptians believed that the beetles just appeared from nowhere- as they believed that their creator god had appeared from nowhere. Thus, they thought that the scarab beetle was special.

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In certain creation stories, Khepri is connected with the god Atum. He is also connected with the sun god Ra who pushed the sun through the sky every day.

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Khnum



Appearance:

- Man with the head of a curly-horned ram

Khnum was a creator god, and a god of the inundation.



Khnum

Khnum was a creator-god, moulding people on a potter's wheel. Since potters used Nile mud, Khnum was also connected with the inundation.

Ma'at



Appearance:

- Woman with a feather on her head
- A feather

Ma'at was the goddess of truth, justice and harmony. She was associated with the balance of things on earth.



Ma'at pendant

Ma'at was the daughter of the sun god Ra.

Pharaohs are frequently shown in wall reliefs making an offering of Ma'at to the gods- showing that they are preserving harmony and justice on earth.

The vizier who was in charge of the law courts was known as the 'priest of Ma'at'.

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Nephthys

'Lady of the Mansion'



Appearance:

- Woman with headdress showing her name in hieroglyphs

Nephthys was a protective goddess of the dead.



Nephthys

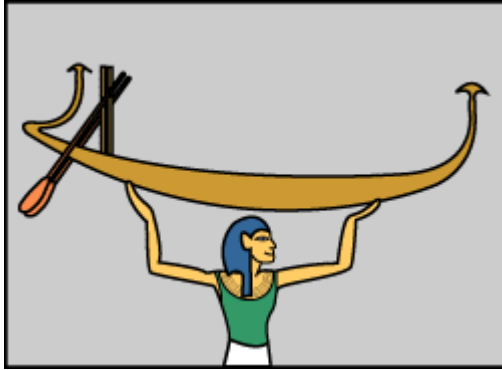
Nephthys was the sister of Isis and Osiris, and the sister/wife of Seth. Nephthys was also the mother of Anubis.

She is often shown on coffins, or in funerary scenes.

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Nun



Appearance:

- Man carrying a bark

According to an ancient Egyptian creation myth, Nun was the waters of chaos.

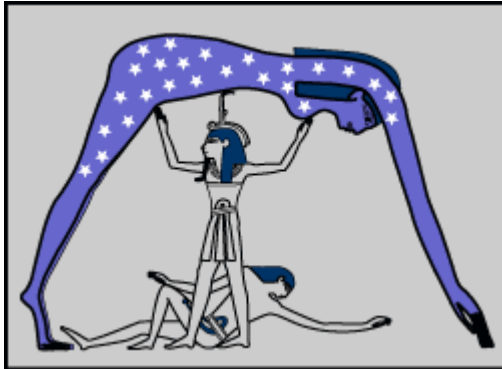


Nun

Nun was the only thing that existed on Earth before there was land. Then, the first land (in the form of a mound) rose out of Nun.

Nun was also associated with the chaos that existed at the edges of the universe.

Nut



Appearance:

- Woman whose body arches across the sky, wearing a dress decorated with stars.

Nut was the sky-goddess, whose body created a vault or canopy over the earth.

Nut was the sister/wife of Geb, the god of the earth. She was also the mother of Isis, Osiris, Nephthys and Seth.

The ancient Egyptians believed that at the end of the day, Nut swallowed the sun-god, Ra, and gave birth to him again the next morning.

Osiris



Appearance:

- A mummified man wearing a white cone-like headdress with feathers

Osiris was the god of the dead, and ruler of the underworld.

Osiris was the brother/husband of Isis, and the brother of Nephthys and Seth. He was also the father of Horus.



Osiris

As well as being a god of the dead, Osiris was a god of resurrection and fertility. In fact, the ancient Egyptians believed that Osiris gave them the gift of barley, one of their most important crops.

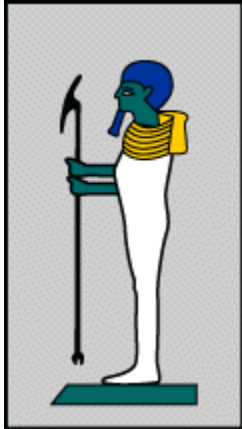
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A large temple was built to honour Osiris at Abydos.

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Ptah



Appearance:

- Man wrapped in a tight white cloak carrying a staff

Ptah was the god of craftsmen.



Ptah

In one creation myth Ptah was a creator god. He spoke the words and the world came into being.

Ra
'Sun'



Appearance:

- Man with hawk head and headdress with a sun disk

Ra was the sun god. He was the most important god of the ancient Egyptians.

The ancient Egyptians believed that Ra was swallowed every night by the sky goddess Nut, and was reborn every morning.



Ra

The ancient Egyptians also believed that he travelled through the underworld at night. In the underworld, Ra appeared as a man with the head of a ram.

Ra-Horakhty

'Horus in the Horizon'



Appearance:

- Man with the head of a hawk, with a sun disk headdress

Ra-Horakhty was a combination of the gods Horus and Ra.

Horus was a god of the sky, and Ra was the god of the sun. Thus, Ra-Horakhty was thought of as the god of the rising sun.



Ra-Horakhty

Sekhmet

'The Powerful One'



Appearance:

- Woman with the head of a lioness

Sekhmet was the goddess of war.



Statue of Sekhmet

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Saylor URL: <http://www.saylor.org/courses/arth201>

Seshat

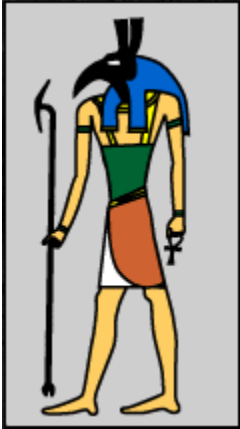


Appearance:

- Woman wearing a panther skin dress and a star headdress

Seshat was the goddess of writing and measurement.

Seth



Appearance:

- Man with the head of a 'Seth animal' (unidentifiable)

Seth was the god of chaos.

Seth represented everything that threatened harmony in Egypt.



Statue of Seth

He was the brother of Osiris and Isis, as well as the brother/husband of Nephthys. He murdered his brother Osiris, then battled with his nephew Horus to be the ruler of the living.

At certain times in the history of ancient Egypt, Seth was associated with royalty.

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Saylor URL: <http://www.saylor.org/courses/arth201>

Shu

'He Who Rises Up'



Appearance:

- Man wearing a headdress with feathers
- A lion

Shu was the god of the air.

Shu held up the figure of Nut so that the earth and the sky were separated.

Sobek



Appearance:

- Man with the head of a crocodile and a headdress of feathers and a sun-disk

Sobek was a Nile god.



Sobek in crocodile form

Sobek was connected with the Nile, and protected the king. Live crocodiles were kept in pools at temples built to honour Sobek.

Tawaret

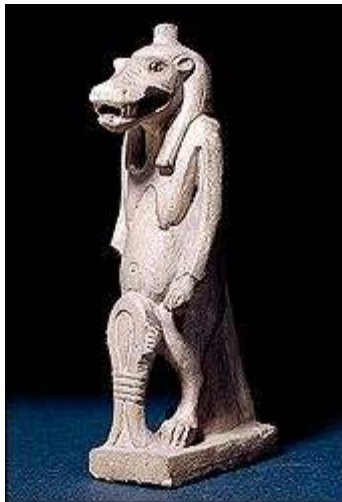
'The Great One'



Appearance:

- Head of a hippopotamus with the arms and legs of a lion, the back and tail of a crocodile, and the breasts and stomach of a pregnant woman.

Tawaret was a goddess who protected women during pregnancy and childbirth.



Many of the gods and goddesses in ancient Egypt had temples built to honour them. Other gods and goddesses like Tawaret and Bes were worshipped by people in their own homes.

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This is an amulet of the goddess Tawaret. People often wore amulets like this, or kept them in their homes.

Source URL: <http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/gods/explore/main.html>
Saylor URL: <http://www.saylor.org/courses/arth201>

Tefnut



Appearance:

- Woman with the head of a lioness

Tefnut was the goddess of moisture.

She was the wife of Shu and the mother of Nut (the sky) and Geb (the earth).

Thoth



Appearance:

- A man with the head of an ibis holding a writing palette
- An ibis
- A baboon

Thoth was the god of writing and knowledge.

The ancient Egyptians believed that Thoth gave them the gift of hieroglyphic writing. Thoth was also connected with the moon.



Thoth amulet