GODS AND GODDESSES
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION

There were more than 2000 gods in ancient Egypt. Most took human form but some had the heads of animals. Here is a selection of the more important gods that Egyptians would have worshipped.

1. **Ra:** Ra was god of the Sun and the lord of the gods. He is shown to have the body of a human and the head of a falcon. Above his head sits a sun disc with a sacred cobra twisted round it. It is said that Ra sailed the heavens in a boat called 'Barque of Millions of Years'. At the end of every day many thought Ra had died as he sailed through the night in the Underworld leaving the Moon to light the night sky until he was born again at dawn.

2. **Amun:** Amun was an important god because it is said that he created all things. However, there are not many stories or pictures of him as he was invisible. Many of the pictures of him come from when he mixes with another god like Ra, when he becomes Amun-Ra. Amun is usually in human form but sometimes has a ram's head.

3. **Horus:** Horus has the head a hawk which makes him look similar to Ra but Horus has a crown made to look like the two parts of Egypt, the red and the white to show that he ruled all of the land. Horus was the god of the sky and it was believed that the pharaohs were a living version of Horus making them godlike.

4. **Thoth:** Thoth was the god of wisdom, writing, time and the moon. The ancient Egyptians believed that Thoth created hieroglyphics and kept a record of all knowledge. He has the head of an ibis bird, a long beaked bird common in Egypt.

5. **Ma'at:** Ma'at was the goddess of truth, justice and harmony and the wife of Thoth. A pharaoh had to promise to follow Ma'at and be a fair and honest leader.

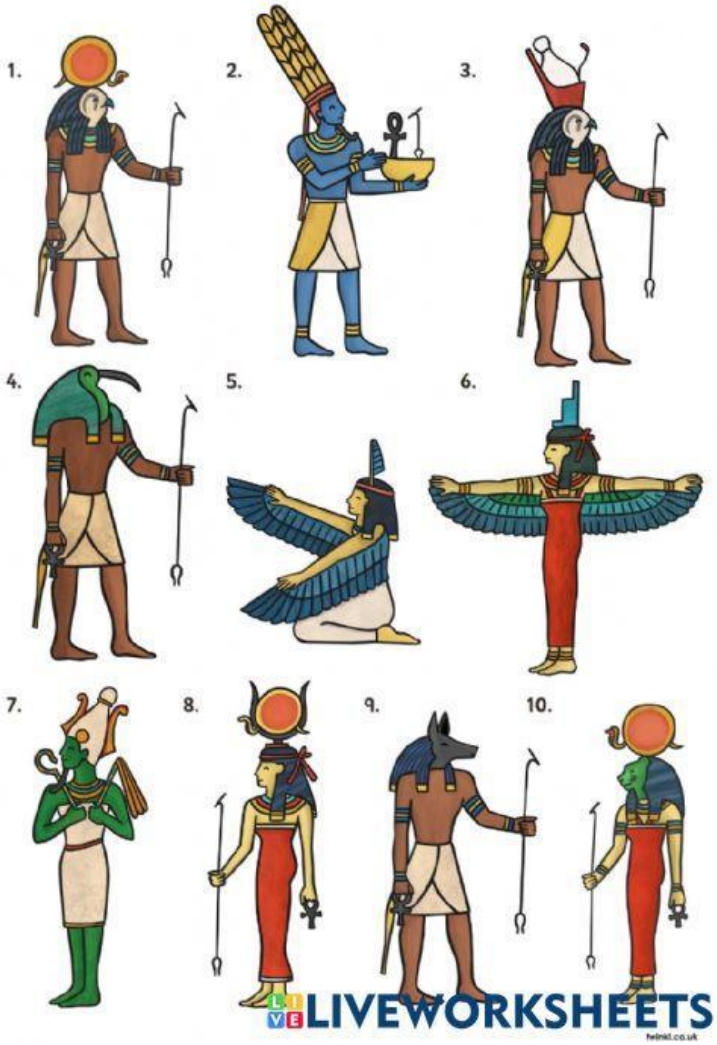
6. **Isis:** Isis is the mother of Horus and the queen of the goddesses. Sometimes she is shown to have a throne on her head and other times she has a sun disk similar to Hathor.

7. **Osiris:** Osiris is the god of the dead and husband of Isis. He is shown wearing the white linen wrapping from a mummy. He wears a white crown with large feathers. Although he was the god of the Underworld, Egyptians still liked him for helping people pass on to the next life.

8. **Hathor:** Hathor was the goddess of love, music and dance. She looked after all women in life and death. Hathor sometimes took the form of a cow with a sun disk above her head.

9. **Anubis:** Anubis was the god of embalming, the mummification ritual. It is believed he made the first mummy, Osiris. Anubis was the guide of the dead, he helped them pass to the next life. It was said that Anubis would wait for you in the hall of the dead to weigh your heart. If your heart was lighter than Ma'at's feather, you would live forever. If it was heavier, your heart would be eaten by the demon Ammit. Anubis had the head of a jackal.

10. **Sekhmet:** Sekhmet was goddess of war, fire and medicine. She has a head of a lion, the best hunter known to the Egyptians and her breath is said to have created the desert.



1. How many gods were there in ancient Egypt?

   a. More than 2000
   b. Less than 5000
   c. About 150
   d. 790

2. What kind of snake sat on Ra's head?

   a. Rattle snake
   b. Cobra
   c. Anaconda
   d. Coral

3. Who is Isis?
   a. Was goddess of war,fire and medicine.
   b. The god of the dead.
   c. The mother of Horus and the queen of the goddesses.
   d. Was the god of embalming, the mummification ritual.

4. What was the name of the first mummy?

   a. Osiris

   b. **Sekhmet**

   c. **Tut ank Amun**

   d. **Cleopatra**

5. Who created hieroglyphics?

   a. Ra

   b. The Mayans

   c. Thoth

   d. Amun

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Match each God's image with its name.

Ra

Anubis

Ma'at

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