


Religion and the Afterlife

Many Gods

The ancient Egyptians were polytheistic, meaning they worshiped more than one god. Some of the gods they believed included:



	Horus	Osiris	Thoth	Ra	Bastet	Seth	Anubis
Job	Sky	Underworld	wisdom writing	Creation	Cats	Chaos	Death

Life After Death

Pharaohs believed they could rule in the afterlife through their eternal spirit called their Ka. In order to rule in the afterlife their Ka still required a body, so they body would need to be preserved and a tomb constructed to house the Pharaoh forever. To preserve the body a process called mummification must take place. We know about the step-by-step process of preparing bodies for the after life because the ancient Egyptians wrote it down in a manuscript called the Book of the Dead.

Pyramids and Mummies

Pyramids were massive structure built from heavy stone blocks that towered hundreds of feet into the sky. The largest is the Great Pyramid of Giza which is 481 feet tall and consists of 6 million tons of stone. Pyramids were basically gigantic tombs constructed during a pharaoh's lifetime. Once he/she died their body would be placed inside the pyramid with many of their belongings they might need in the afterlife. Unfortunately many of the pyramids were broken into and cleared out by tomb raiders. Eventually, tombs were moved underground because of the time, costs, and security risks of pyramids.

Mummification

Mummification is the process ancient Egyptians used to preserve human bodies. Mummification was a complicated and lengthy process which took up to 70 days to complete. A mummy is the body of a person that has been preserved after death. It was not only a physical procedure but also involved specific rituals and ceremonies. One of the steps required body parts to be removed and stored in decorative canopic jars.

Steps of Mummification

Step 1	pull out brain with hook
Step 2	Make a cut on left side of body
Step 3	Remove all internal organs
Step 4	let organs dry
Step 5	Place lungs, intestine, stomach, and liver in jar
Step 6	Place heart back inside body
Step 7	line insides with wine and spices
Step 8	Cover body with natron for 70 days
Step 9	stuff body with linen or sand
Step 10	wrap body in bandages
Step 11	Place in sarcophagus
Step 12	Put in burial chamber

Famous Tomb Discovered

The most famous mummy ever found was discovered in 1922 by a British archeologists named Howard Carter. It was a remarkable discovery because somehow the 3300 ^{tomb} remained undisturbed for nearly 3,300 years. This was likely due to the fact that this tomb was buried beneath the ground rather than sealed inside of a pyramid. The tomb belonged to a young pharaoh named Tutankhamen. When Carter entered the burial chamber he found rooms filled with treasures, such as statues, gold jewelry, cheriets, model boats, canopic jars, paintings and most importantly the sarcophagus and mummy of Tutankhamen himself. Still to this day, Carter's discovery is the most impressive of any ancient Egyptian tomb.