

Egyptian Mythology

In what ways were the different Egyptian Deities important to Egyptian society?

MATERIALS



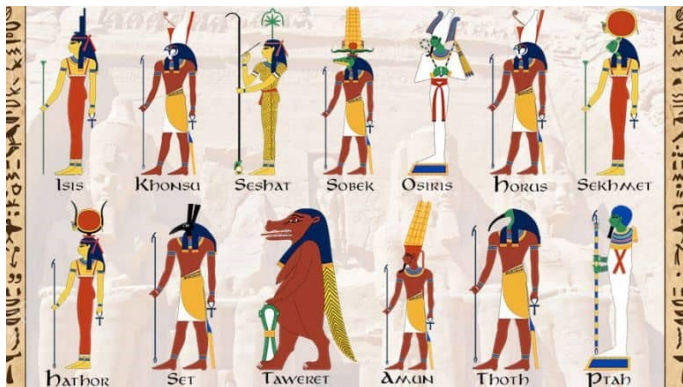
- ❖ Egyptian Deities Match Game
- ❖ 5x7 Index Cards
- ❖ Markers

GET SET UP

1. Print out a set of Egyptian Deities cards.
2. Lay them out on the table with the backside facing up.
3. Flip over one card and read about that deity. Now flip a different and see if you make a match.
4. If you don't make a match try again. If you're playing with someone it is their turn.
5. Once all the matches have been made take turns reading about your deity and their importance. Pay attention to the drawing. What do you notice?
6. Which of the deities do you think best represents your family? Use an index card to draw the one you like most and write a short story on the back as to why they are important to you.

DID YOU KNOW...

As you have learned, anthropologists are scientists who study the evolution of a society over time. One of the more important facets of society is religion. Religion influences many aspects of society including political structures, agricultural timetables, the days in which people work and rest, rites of passage and when festivals and holidays take place. Anthropologists can learn a lot about a particular society by tracking the periodical changes of their religion. Why in ancient Egypt were some **deities** (a person of divine status) in favor at a particular time during their cultural evolution and why did different, but similar deities replace them at different times? When you were playing the matching game, you probably noticed there were quite a few deities associated with Sun. These Sun deities evolved over time due to the Pharaoh who associated with them, multiple deities being combined into one deity and because of influence from other cultures. These changes and why they changed are the riddles an anthropologist wants to solve. You learning a little about each of these deities puts you one step closer to being an anthropologist. Often when a religion is no longer practiced it is looked at as Mythology. Many of the mythologies of ancient cultures are still taught in High School and colleges today. More often than not these stories were created to connect and help people understand the world around them. Science was created to use observable evidence and experimentation to explain our natural world. Many of the ancient scientists used mythological teachings to help their pursuit of science.



(Optional) For young scientists ages 4-6

Pair up your young scientists with an older scientist. As the older scientist matches up the different deities have them explain to the younger scientist why they are important. They can also explain that in the Egyptian religion deities came and went as the religion evolved and sophisticated.



CHALLENGE

1. Why is religion important to an anthropologist?
2. Why do you think religion changes over the centuries? Do you think the deities of the past have any influence on modern religion?
3. Do you see any connection between science and religion? Share your thoughts.

STEAM Challenge: Much of the religion of ancient Egypt centered around the Nile River. The Nile river is the second longest river in the world behind the Amazon and travels across 11 countries. It is 4, 130 miles long. If one mile is 5,280 feet, how many feet is the Nile River. The longest river in the world is the Amazon River in South America. It is 4, 300 miles long. How many feet long is the Amazon?