

Egyptian Mythology

- I. Explained what they observed in the world (natural phenomena)
 - A. annual cycle of the Nile's flooding
 - B. harshness of the desert
 - C. daily cycle of the sun

- II. Creation Myths
 - A. Several different recorded versions
 1. Dark chaos of a great watery abyss. (Nun)
 - a. an earthen mound arose from the water
 - the sun god, Ra, rose from the mound
 - b. a lotus flower arose from the water
 - inside was the sun god

 - B. The sun god created air (Shu) and moisture (Tefnut) they created earth (Geb) and the sky (Nut).
 1. They were locked together and their father, Shu, pushed them apart.
 - a. Nut was pushed upward to form the great arch of the sky.
 - she swallowed and gave birth to the sun everyday.
 - b. Geb was forced downward, creating the flat earth.

- III. Egyptian Gods
 - A. How they were represented
 1. Sometimes drawn as humans
 2. Drawn with special headdress or symbols
 3. Sometimes drawn as part animal
 - symbolic of a power or refers to a story

 - B. Foundation Gods
 1. Nun – chaos, watery abyss
 2. Ra – sun god
 3. Shu – god of air
 4. Tefnut – goddess of moisture
 5. Geb – earth god
 6. Nut – goddess of the sky

 - C. Important Gods
 1. Osiris (nature)
 - **ruler of the underworld**
 - **set up civilization**
 - mummified man, wearing a white headdress with feathers, carries a crook and flail
 2. Isis (nourishing water)
 - **sister-wife to Osiris**
 - **protect and nurtures people in need**
 - mourning
 - woman with a headdress of cow horns and a sun disk

3. Nephthys
 - sister to Isis & Osiris
 - **sister-wife to Seth**
 - **protector of the dead**
 - mourning
4. Seth
 - **jealous brother of Osiris**
 - **darkness and destruction**
 - “seth animal”
5. Anubis
 - **god of mummification and dead**
 - **jackal**
6. Horus
 - son of Isis and Osiris
 - god of the sky
 - **protector of the pharaohs**
 - hawk
7. Thoth
 - **god of writing and all knowledge**
 - moon
 - scribe to the gods
 - Ibis with a writing tablet
8. Ma'at
 - **goddess of truth, justice and harmony**
 - headdress: feather
9. Ptah
 - **god of craftsmen**
 - blue man in white

D. Other Gods

1. Hathor
 - goddess of love and joy
 - wife to Horus
 - headdress: sun disk and cow horns
2. Sekhmet
 - goddess of war
 - lioness head
3. Bes
 - protector of women, children and family
 - human/lion dwarf
 - protector against snake and scorpion
4. Bastet
 - protector of women and the pharaoh in battle
 - cat head
5. Khepri
 - rising sun god
 - scarab beetle
6. Khnum
 - molded creation (life) on a potter's wheel
 - curly horned ram