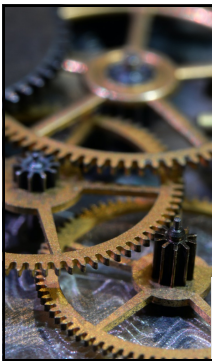




Female Pharaohs of Egypt

Women in Antiquity | Meeting #9

1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, December 8
Position Paper Due
- Tuesday, December 16
Final Exam
- Sunday, November 9
Responses for Week 9 Due

2

Five things today

- Egyptian culture
- Gender in Egypt
- Hatshepsut
- Nefertiti
- Hellenistic Egypt

3



4

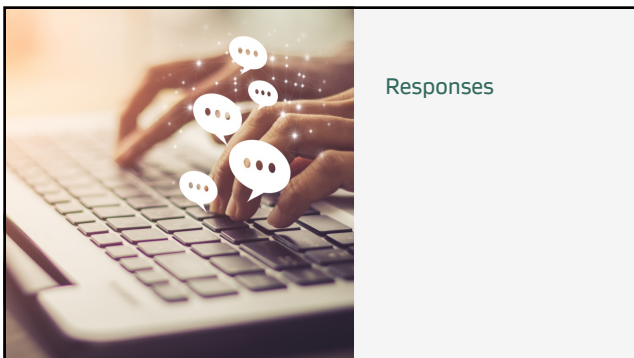
Quiz #6 | Female Pharaohs of Egypt

- All of the following are true of Hatshepsut [\[1/1/17\]](#) becoming queen [\[1/1/17\]](#).
 - The only records we have of her childhood and time as a princess are those she left herself.
 - ☒ She derived all rumors she was descended from the god Amun-Ra, claiming to be utterly human.
 - When her brother became king, she gained the titles of King's Wife and God's Wife of Amun.
 - Though she was married to her brother, Thutmose II, his son Thutmose III was not hers.
- By the seventh regnal year of herself and Thutmose III, Hatshepsut was [\[1/1/17\]](#).
 - ☒ representing herself as a male pharaoh on monuments
 - hosting wild parties in the temple of Karnak
 - dead, killed by a crocodile
 - building pyramids like the old days
- All of the following are true of Hatshepsut and her young co-ruler Thutmose III [\[1/1/17\]](#).
 - They sponsored an expedition to Punt to obtain exotic materials.
 - They ruled jointly together for about 15 years.
 - On some monuments they are depicted as twin male rulers.
 - ☒ They were half-siblings with the same mother.
- All of the following are true of Thutmose III's destruction of Hatshepsut's memory after her death [\[1/1/17\]](#).
 - Her name was removed from monuments and her statues thrown in a pit.
 - Scholars now say the erasure occurred 20 years or more after her death, casting doubt on the theory that Thutmose was motivated by wrath and revenge.
 - ☒ Some of her images were defaced by carving fake mustaches on them, ironically.
 - Her representations as queen were left untouched, only her kingship was erased.
- According to her epitaph, Khnedankh, daughter of Shepseskaf:
 - was trusted by each person who saw her, both male and female.
 - was loved by her brother, who did not let her separate from him in the beer house.
 - asked a libation of water from the visitor, because she was one who "loved to drink."
 - ☒ all of the above

Extra Credit

EC: Why do you think Hatshepsut was accepted as a "female king" and was able to rule for so long?

5



Responses

6

Questions about whatever



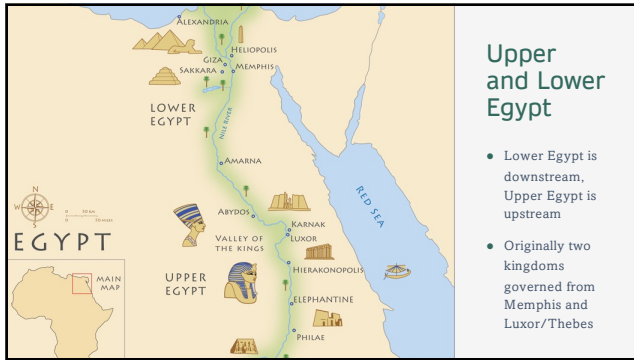
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Egypt

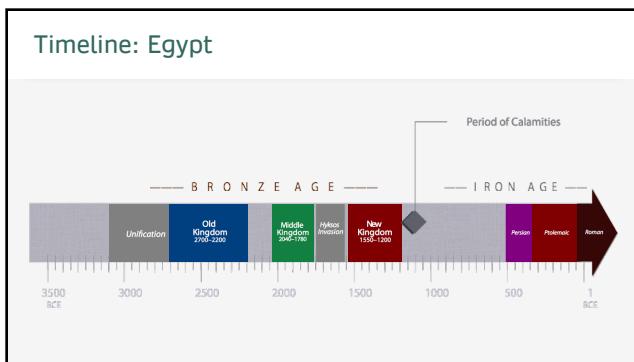
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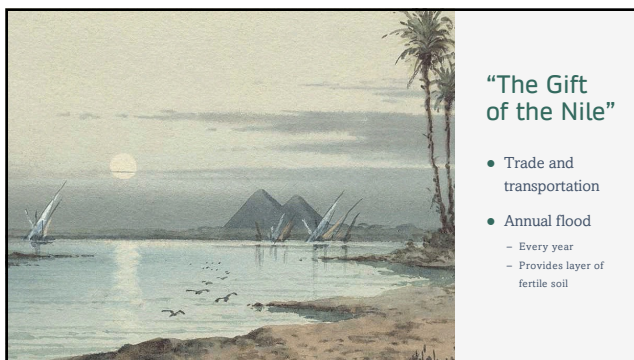
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10



11



12



The pharaoh

- Unifying presence
- Manifestation of the gods
- All-powerful

13



The pharaoh's death

- Elaborate tombs
 - Pyramids in the earlier dynasties (Old Kingdom)
 - Valley of the Kings in New Kingdom
- Records of accomplishments
- Mummification
- Seen as a cycle mimicking Horis and Osiris

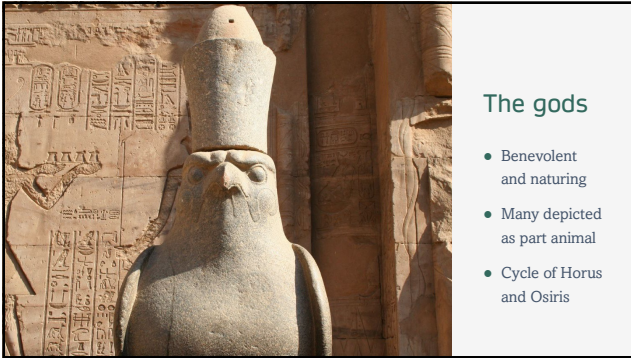
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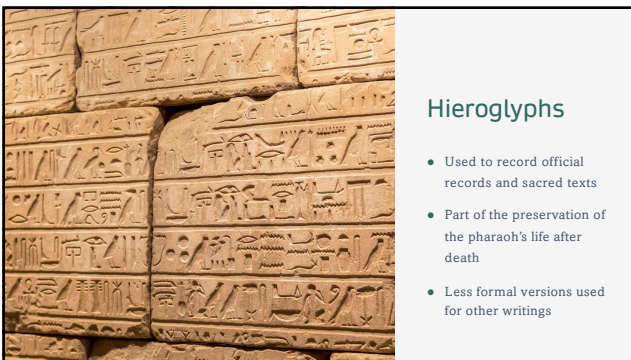
Ma'at

- Harmony, balance, justice
- Gods are benevolent; pharaohs must be benevolent and provide ma'at

15



16



17



18

Secondary Source Reading

Barbara S. Lesko
"Women's Monumental Mark on Ancient Egypt"

- Accustomed to seeing monuments in terms of ruling family
- In Egypt, there are many appearances of ordinary women and men
 - Monuments featuring pharaohs will show ordinary people as smaller in the conduct of their daily lives (tribute, needs of state)
 - Male and female forms being idealized
- Preservation of the material form being elemental to the continuation of the spirit in eternity
 - Even if you don't have a mummy (only the elite), can still have an image commemorating person as a physical manifestation
 - Connects departed spirit to this life and ensure its continuance



19



20

Secondary Source Reading

Annette Depla
"Women in Ancient Egyptian Wisdom Literature"

- Unlike other ancient societies, choice of husband is in hands of the mother, in collaboration with daughter
- Discussion of adultery - men and women have an equal responsibility to marriage and an equal temptation
- Gender stigma associated with adultery not present in ancient Egypt as far as we can tell from wisdom lit
- Some aspects of Egyptian life in which men have priority, and other aspects in which men and women have some parity
 - Different across time and across class
 - Any culture's understanding of gender is conditioned by their philosophy and their understanding of how the world works



21



Egypt during the New Kingdom

- No longer isolated
- Must become a bronze power to compete
- Pharaoh is no longer all-powerful

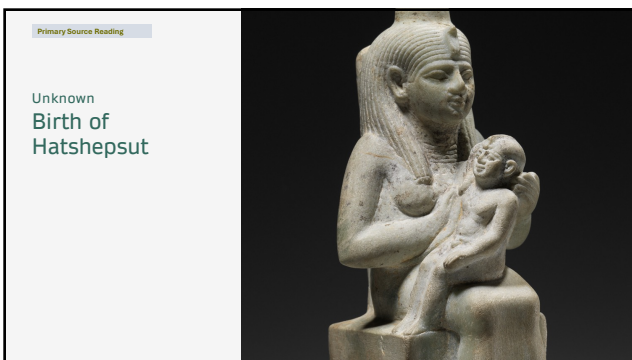
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Hatshepsut

- Pharaohs had always been male
- Hatshepsut had a better claim to the throne
- Long, successful reign

23



Primary Source Reading

Unknown
Birth of
Hatshepsut

24



Hatshepsut's success

- What stands in the way of a woman being pharaoh?
- How is Hatshepsut a better choice than Thutmose III?
- What actions does Hatshepsut take to help ensure she is seen as a successful pharaoh?

25

Secondary Source Reading

Gay Robins "The God's Wife of Amun in the 18th Dynasty in Egypt"

- Article is historiographic—the way historians have talked about this subject
- Most Egyptian priests are men, but there are exceptions to this, including God's wife of Amun
- Always knew this person existed, but there's been debate over what it means that this person exists
 - Previously: Indicative of the power of the pharaoh passing on via women
 - Representative of pharaoh deriving power through women
- What we can say about the role of aristocratic women in the religious life of women
 - Institutional
 - Private



26



Damnatio memoriae

- Thutmose III's removal of Hatshepsut's inscriptions and statues
- Different theories for his actions

27



Akhenaten

- Took the throne as Amenhotep IV
- Changed his throne name to Akhenaten
- Religious reforms in favor of one dominant god, Aten

28



Nefertiti

- Queen alongside Akhenaten
- Worked side by side with Akhenaten to build the new religion
 - Kept going after his passing until her own death
- Active role of women in New Kingdom Egypt

29



Nubia

- Exploited by Egypt for resources
- Heavily influenced culturally
- Maintained a distinctive identity in defiance of Egypt

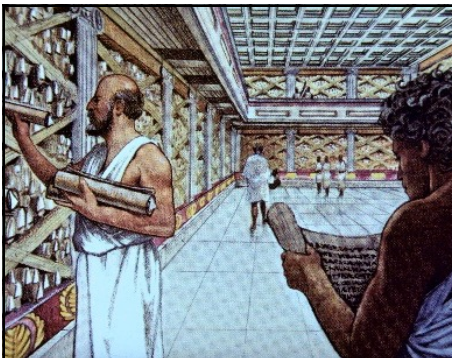
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Iron Age Egypt

- Bronze Age glory and power
- Divided or subjugated during the Iron Age
 - Neo-Assyrian Empire
 - Persian Empire
 - Alexander the Great

31



Ptolemaic Egypt

- Alexander conquers Egypt and found Alexandria
- Alexandria becomes a world cultural center
- After Alexander's death, his general Ptolemy makes himself pharaoh
 - Ptolemies rule for 300 years
 - Ptolemies honor both Egyptian and Greek cultural heritage

32

Primary Source Reading

Unknown
Epitaph of
Kheredankh,
Daughter of
Shepmin



33



Cleopatra VII

- Installed on the throne as a teenager
- Forced to marry / outmaneuver brothers
 - Ptolemy XIII Theos Philopator
 - Ptolemy XIV

34



Cleopatra's image

- Now seen mostly through Roman eyes
- Complex image
 - Beauty
 - Cunning
 - Wisdom
 - Strength
 - Love of country

35



36



Final
thoughts
about
Egypt

37



38
