Ancient Egyptian Art



“COLD “

Culture Ancient Egypt One of the world’s first great civilizations

Origin Black & Brown (Arab) A combination of two races living together

Location Northern Africa Along the Nile river in the Sahara desert.

Dates 3000 BC 🡪 300 BC 3000 BC (1st dynasty) 🡪 300 BC (Greek Takeover)

GRAPES”

Government Kingdom with Pharaohs (powerful kings) & Dynasties ( families of kings).



Religion Polytheism = the belief in many gods.

Art Architecture Post & Lintel Temples like Karnak & Luxor. (see below)

Sculpture Realistic/ Stiff/ Frozen/ Frontal like Sphinx & Ramses II

Painting Pharonic Pose = head/ arms/ legs to side; body to front.

Philosophy Afterlife = life is just a “test” for another life after death.

Economy Agriculture = amazing crops due to the rich Nile soil.

Science Surveying = measuring land Beer Make-up

Government

Pharaohs Pharaohs were kings who were worshipped

like “gods” with almost absolute power.





333 There were approximately 333 pharaohs.

Dynasty If one family continued to hold office as

pharaoh then that was a dynasty.

Length Some dynasties lasted hundreds of years,

some only for one pharaoh.

Ramses II The greatest pharaoh is considered to be

Ramses II, who build many temples.

King Tut King Tutankamen is the most “famous” king

only because his tomb was never robbed.



Religion

Polytheism This is the religion that believes in many gods.

Gods There were gods for most “aspects” or parts

of life: sun, death, floods, war, etc.

Depiction Gods were usually shown in art with a human body

and an animal’s head. Sometimes that are shown as

all animal. The animal used has some traits of the god’s

purpose. (Jackals are night hunting dogs)

Major Gods Amon Re = sun god

Isis = guardian god and god of women

Anubus = underworld and embalming god

Horus = god of all kings

Architecture



Temples Stone 2500BC 🡪 300BC Honor gods and pharaohs

Post and lintel, (vertical columns and a cross beam on top). The columns sit directly on the ground and are carved and painted with hieroglyphics. The columns have flared papyrus capitals (tops). Flat roofs.



Amen Re at Karnak Stone 1212 BC Temple to Amon Re

A huge temple to the god Amen Re built by Ramses II at the town of

Karnak. The temple has many rooms, each representing a part of the

world: mountains, lakes, forests, desert, afterlife. Today all the roofs

have fallen in and only the columns remain. It is oe of the world’s

largest temples.



Pyramids Granite 2500 BC Tombs for pharaohs

These three *huge* triangular stone tombs at the city of Giza once held the bodies and treasures of the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre, & Menkaure. The purpose was to guard the treasures for the afterlife. All three have been robbed long ago.

Sculpture



Sphinx Sandstone 2,600 BC Guardian to Pyramids

The 240 foot long solid statue, probably of Khufu, was built to protect

the Pyramids. It has the body of a lion (strength) and the head of a Pharaoh (power, intelligence). It may actually be older than 5,000 BC.



KING Tut’s Death Mask Solid Gold 1325 BC Burial Mask

The solid gold death mask worn by the mummy of King Tutankhamen

in his tomb. It is stiff, frozen, realistic and frontal. A true masterpiece.



Painting & Writing



Painting Pharonic Pose The head, arms, legs, and hands are

to the side; the body is to the front. There is no “perspective”, that is the illusion of space in the art. These are the “rules”.

Hieroglyphics This is “picture” writing. Symbols are used to show actual objects as well as to represent “sounds”. For example an “eye” is the sound “r”, a “feather” the sound “e”, a “cup” is the sound of “k”.

Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY The Egyptian philosophy thought that this life was simply a “test” for the next life to come, a magical kingdom called the “Afterlife”. So, how did it work?



The Egyptian philosophy said that after you die you would go into endless tunnels under the earth where you would be met by the God of Embalming or the Underworld, Anubus. Anubus was in the form of a dog with huge ears called a jackal. Anubus would pull out your heart and weigh it all for the sins of your life. If your sins weighed more than a feather he would let go of you and since it was “pitch black”, (totally dark), you would wander for all eternity in those tunnels under the earth. Lost for all time like the people in those movies of “zombies”, the half living, half dead.



If your sins were light you would be led by Anubus to the “Afterlife”, a magical kingdom for the dead, a life after this life where you would live forever in happiness. You had to bring things with you from this life to use in that Afterlife, so each person was buried with a box of “stuff” for the next world. People put small statues of their loved ones into their death box and when you got to the Afterlife all these things would magically come to life. You would also put other things you might need, maybe one piece of bread, a beer, and a paint brush and paint for art work if that was your hobby. In the Afterworld these things would reproduce themselves so you would never “run out” of them, kind of neat, yes?

My Afterlife Box

 

Temple of Amon Re at Karnak



A sample of an Egyptian sculpture “stiff, frozen, frontal, and realistic”.



The Sphinx

Pyramids at Giza



A view of the temple of Amon Re at Karnak.