

Notes and Sketches About Ancient Egyptian Daily Life

Directions: At each station, carefully examine the picture, read the written information, and discuss the "Discussion Questions" about one aspect of daily life. Then, use the picture at the station to complete the corresponding illustration on this handout. Finally, in the corresponding box, list two or three main ideas from the written information that answer the discussion questions.

Adorning the Body



Notes About Adorning the Body

- Ancient Egyptians wore light and simple clothing, usually made from linen.
- Both rich and poor men and women wore jewelry, such as rings, earrings, bracelets, and armbands.
- Men and women dyed their hair or wore wigs and adorned themselves with cosmetics.

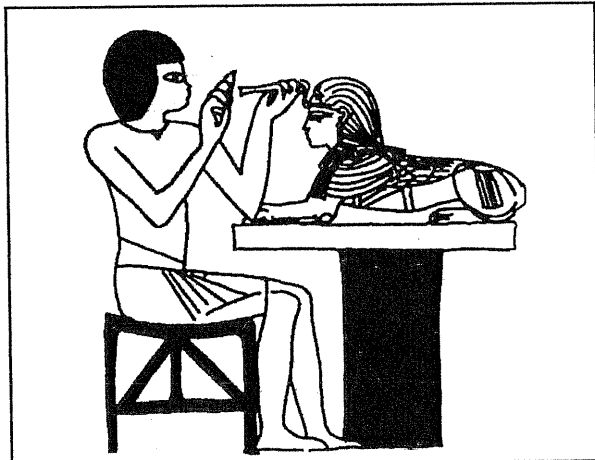
Burial Practices



Notes About Burial Practices

- Ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife, so they preserved the body of a dead person through embalming.
- Poor people were wrapped in discarded clothing and buried directly in the ground.
- Wealthier Egyptians were mummified, placed in boxes, and buried in caves or tombs with everyday items to be used in the afterlife.
- Pharaohs had elaborate funerals and were buried with treasures and artifacts.

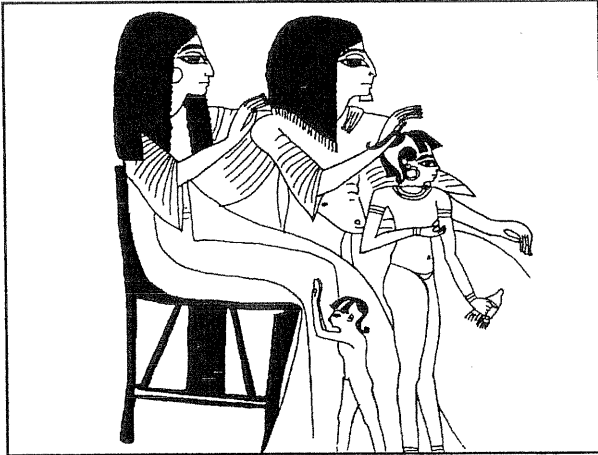
Crafts and Trade



Notes About Crafts and Trade

- Ancient Egyptian artists and craftspeople were highly skilled and created objects such as furniture, jewelry, and pottery.
- Many craftspeople were taught their craft at a young age and went to school at the pharaoh's palace.
- Egypt traded grain, gold, copper, linen, gemstones, and minerals for timber, iron, silver, tin, and lead.

Domestic Life



Notes About Domestic Life

- Most ancient Egyptians married someone within their own social class or extended family at a young age.
- Upper-class women oversaw their households, while women in the lower classes also cooked, cleaned, and helped in the fields.
- Women had certain individual rights and were equal to men in the eyes of the law.
- Most children were allowed to play and take part in family activities.

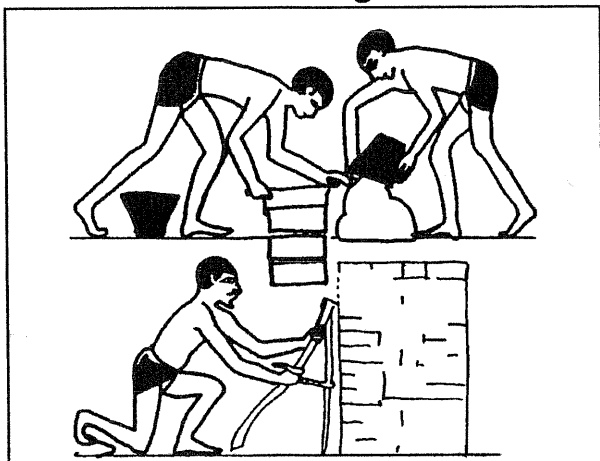
Food and Drink



Notes About Food and Drink

- Most ancient Egyptians spent a lot of time farming to grow vegetables, wheat, and barley, which they made into bread and beer.
- Ancient Egyptians ate meat and fowl such as beef, pork, geese, and ducks, and vegetables such as peas, beans, cucumbers, and lettuce.
- Ancient Egyptians drank beer and wine.
- Lower-class people ate simple meals, while members of the upper class ate a wide selection of foods.

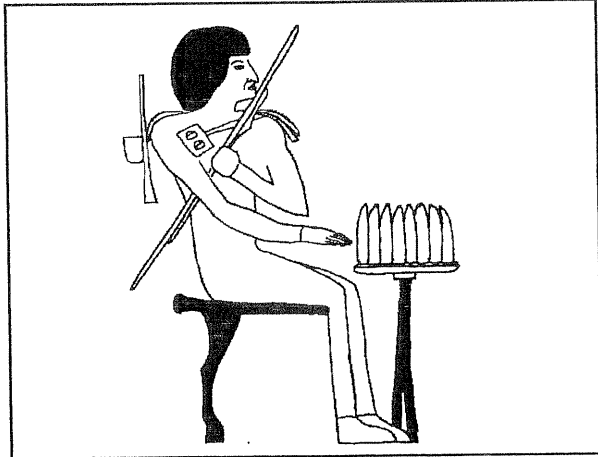
Housing



Notes About Housing

- Ancient Egyptians lived in small houses built close together in towns, villages, and cities.
- Houses for both rich and poor were made of mud bricks.
- Lower-class Egyptians lived in simple houses, with a few small rooms, narrow high windows, and little furniture.
- Wealthy people had larger houses; some houses were two stories high and contained many rooms, including bathrooms.

Medicine



Notes About Medicine

- Doctors often used parts of plants, and herbs such as garlic, in their treatments.
- Doctors treated injuries and wounds with bandages and stitches, but did not perform surgery.
- Egyptians also relied on magicians to treat illness and to help women during pregnancy and childbirth.

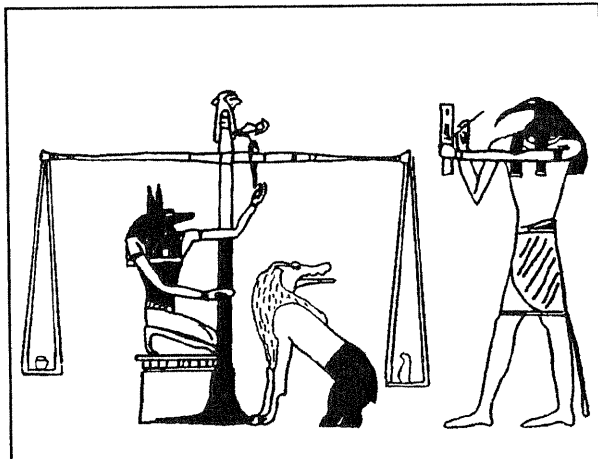
Music and Dance



Notes About Music and Dance

- Music and dance were performed at public and religious festivals, holidays for royal occasions, and feasts at the homes of wealthy people.
- Musicians and dancers were usually women, and many were supported by the royal court and nobles.
- Musicians played a variety of instruments, including the harp, lyre, flute, oboe, tambourine, and drums.

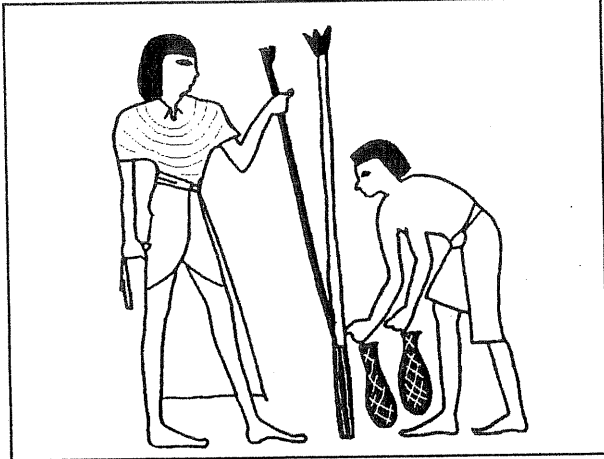
Religious Beliefs



Notes About Religious Beliefs

- Two of the most important ancient Egyptian Gods were Osiris and Anubis.
- Osiris sat in a hall and helped pass judgment on the souls of the dead, and Anubis helped prepare the bodies of the dead for the afterlife.
- Priests and priestesses carried out rituals in temples to honor Gods and Goddesses.
- Commoners made offerings to Gods and Goddesses in their homes.

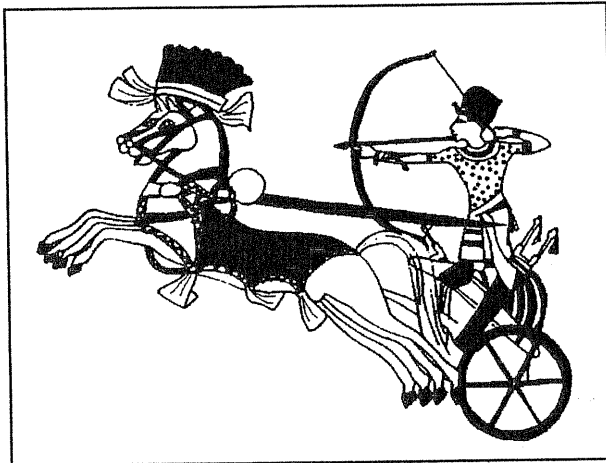
Social Classes



Notes About Social Classes

- The pharaoh was at the top of the ancient Egyptian social pyramid, followed by the royal family, nobles, and government officials.
- Below the government officials were the priests and priestesses, scribes, artists, and skilled workers.
- Laborers and farmers, who made up the largest class, were at the bottom of the pyramid.

Warfare



Notes About Warfare

- Ancient Egypt had a standing army of full-time soldiers stationed throughout the empire.
- Egyptian soldiers used weapons such as javelins and swords, protected themselves with shields and padded caps, and fought in chariots.
- In peacetime, soldiers dug canals or built pharaohs' tombs.

Writing and Education



Notes About Writing and Education

- Scribes were the official record keepers who helped administer laws, collect taxes, record the grain and food supply, and keep the census.
- Scribes attended school to learn to read and write both the hieratic and hieroglyphic writing systems.
- School life was hard, with long days of copying hieroglyphs and harsh discipline.