

What were the beliefs of the Ancient Egyptians and how are these different to what different religions believe today?

Very Important Vocabulary

Pharaoh: The king or queen of Ancient Egypt, considered a god on Earth.

Gods and Goddesses: Powerful beings worshiped in Ancient Egypt, like Ra (the sun god) and Isis (goddess of magic).

Afterlife: The life that Egyptians believed people went to after they died.

Book of the Dead: A special book with spells to help the soul on its journey to the afterlife.

Field of Reeds: The perfect place where Egyptians believed souls went after a successful journey.

Ma'at: The goddess of truth, balance, and order, important for living a good life.

Tomb: A special place where Egyptians buried their dead, often with treasures.

Belief: something that you think is true or real, even if you can't always prove it.

Pyramid: a large, tall building with a square base and four triangular sides that come to a point at the top.

Monotheism: The belief in only one god. For example, in Christianity and Islam.

Polytheism: The belief in many gods and goddesses. For example, the Ancient Egyptians practiced polytheism

Key Beliefs

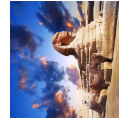
The Ancient Egyptians believed in many gods and goddesses, they had a complex belief system centred around a pantheon of Gods and Goddesses, each with specific roles and attributes.

The key beliefs revolved around these deities, their interactions and their influence on the natural world and the afterlife.

The Ancient Egyptians believed that these Gods and Goddesses were deeply involved in every aspect of life, from the rising of the sun to the flooding of the Nile and the journey to the afterlife. They believed that the gods needed to be appeased through rituals, offerings, and prayers to ensure the stability and prosperity of both the kingdom and the natural world.

The Book of the Dead

The Book of the Dead helped the Egyptians make sure they would have a safe journey to the afterlife. They believed that getting to the afterlife wasn't easy and they would face challenges along the way, so they needed the spells in the book to protect and guide them. The book had spells that could help the person avoid danger, solve problems and pass tests. The most famous spell is number 125 and called 'The Weighing of the Heart'.



The Afterlife

The Egyptians thought the afterlife was a beautiful place called the 'Field of Reeds'. It was thought to be the perfect version of Egypt, with green fields, rivers and lots of food. In the afterlife, people believed they could do all of the things that they loved. When someone died, they believed that the soul went on a journey. First, it left the body. Next, the soul encounters tricky creatures and challenges. After that, the soul reaches the Hall of Judgement, where it meets Osiris, the God of the Afterlife. Here, their heart got weighed. If it was as light as a feather, the person lived a good life and could enter the afterlife. Finally, if the heart passed the test, they would enter the Field of Reeds.

Pharaoh

The Egyptians thought that the pharaoh could talk to the Gods to help protect Egypt. They were responsible for building huge pyramids and temples. These pyramids were built as tombs for the pharaohs, where they were buried with treasures to take with them to the afterlife. Three well known pharaohs were Tutankhamun, Ramses II and Cleopatra.

Ancient Egyptians believed that the pharaoh was chosen by the gods to be their representative on Earth. The pharaoh's job was to make sure that gods were happy. If they were, they would protect Egypt and make sure there was enough rain, good harvests and peace. The pharaoh did this by leading religious ceremonies, offering prayers and building temples to honour the gods.

Pharaoh's made laws and rules that everyone had to follow, as well as performing special rituals and ceremonies and protecting the people by leading the army in battles.

The Bible and the Book of the Dead

Similarities: important teachings, afterlife, guidance

Differences: Where they come from, types of stories, beliefs about God.

The Quran and the Book of the Dead

Similarities: teaching about the afterlife, important to their religions, offer guidance

Differences: where they come from, different focuses, belief in God(s), content

