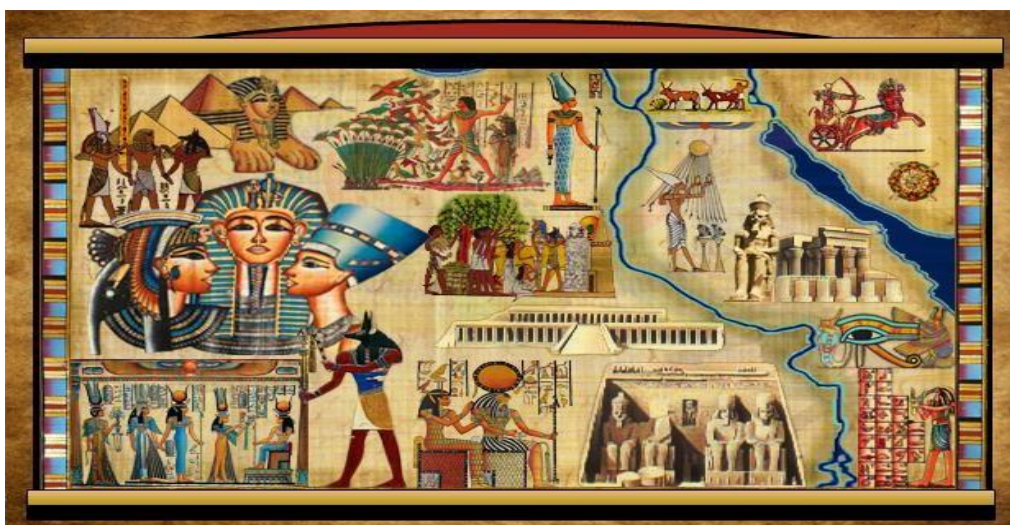


Hornbill- Lesson-3

Discovering Tut- The Saga Continues

Handout for Module - 1

Egypt: the land of variety: This is one of the most interesting prose pieces of the world's intriguing past written by A. R. Williams. It is a sneak peek into one of the world's ancient cultures and the practices of its past- Discovering Tut- The Saga Continues. Egypt has been known to the world for its past affluence and cultural brilliance. It had remained the seat of the world's ancient civilization. It had remained a forerunner to model governance, foreign affairs, art and architecture. Many rulers have reigned over the land and their dynasties enriched and refined the practices of the land. It reached the pinnacle of glory during the New Kingdom between 16th-11th BCE. The 18th, 19th and the 20th dynasties of Pharaohs ruled over the country during this period. Pharaoh was the king of Egypt. It is pronounced as /Pharaoh originally meant, the big house or the divine mansion. It came to be referring to the kings much later. The famous Pharaohs of Egypt include, Ahmose-I, Queen Hatshepsut, Thutmose-III, Amenhotep III, Akhenaten and Tutankhamun.



Egypt - the primeval seat of Civilization

Egypt and Polytheism: Egypt had remained a polytheistic culture. Theism means belief in the existence of deities. Monotheism is believing in the existence of a single God. Ex. Islam. Polytheism is belief in many gods. Indian Culture is a polytheistic one. Like we have many patron gods for education, wealth, valour, fertility and even death, Egyptians too believed in many deities. Like us, they were also worshippers of the Sun. As in Indian culture they too venerated their kings called pharaohs.

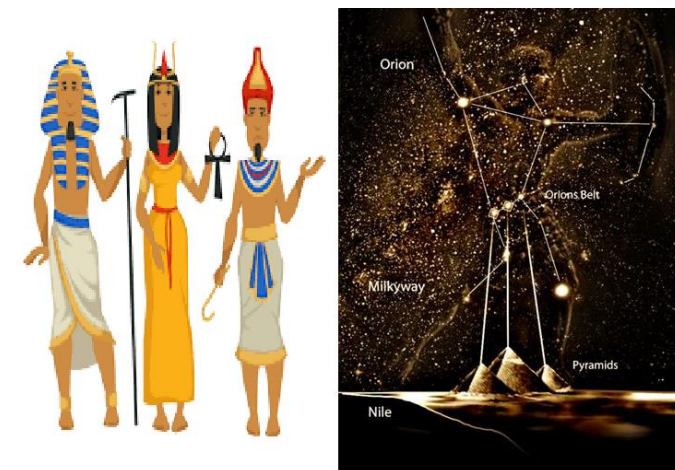
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GODS



Pharaohs: feuh·row

https://www.bing.com/search?q=pharaoh+pronunciation&form=PRASU1&src=IE11TR&pc=EUPP_ASTE

The Pharaohs were considered Gods incarnate and immortal. They lived a powerful life and wielded their influence over the land endlessly. Death was only an intermittent phase between life and eternity. They were believed to be entitled for a brilliant after life, the Egyptians followed elaborate funerary practices. Their bodies were preserved for eternity. The God of underworld and afterlife was Osiris. He was a generous judge of the pharaoh's deeds and granted him an eternal life after a rigorous process of hearing and pleading of the dead soul. Egyptians believed that Orion constellation, symbolic of Osiris himself, is said to be guarding the pharaohs' tombs.



Pharaohs and Osiris Constellation

Funerary Practices:

1. **Mummification:** The deceased pharaohs were mummified in an exclusive 70 -day process. The body of the pharaoh was dried up using a special salt. The high priests acted as embalmers. Drying up is an attempt to preserve the body in its original form. Later on, the body would be wrapped in long strips of linen clothes, interlaid with ritual gum. This process was done in order to solidify and retain the body in its original shape.



Mummification- Stages

2. Rituals:

As Egyptians believed that the body of the pharaoh was meant to rise to heaven in due course of time, they prepared elaborate grave chambers and painted pictographic spells on the walls of the chambers. These were spells meant to propel the pharaohs to the after world. They believed that the soul would return to the body after giving it a ritualistic life through spells both oral and written. An extravagant list of things that the person was using such as scores of ornaments, household articles, dresses, food, drink and everything needed for them in the afterlife were buried along with the mortal remains of the pharaohs to be used in afterlife. The preserved bodies were contained in sarcophagus or anthropoids resembling pharaohs and sealed inside sacred chambers.



Funerary Practices

The Valley of Kings:

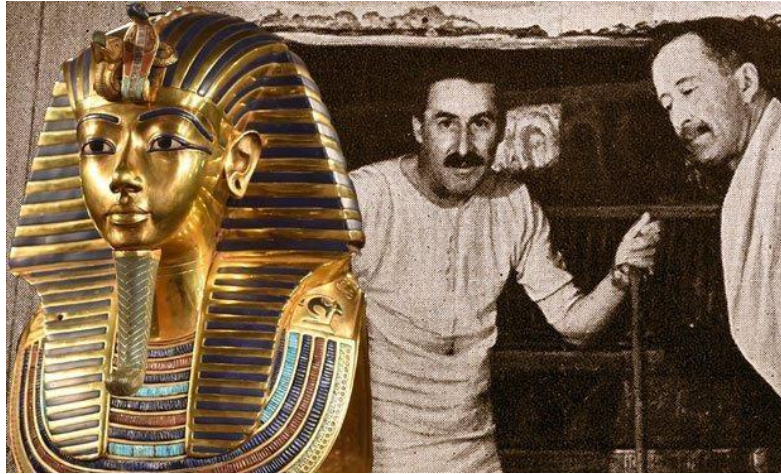
After the process, the bodies were buried in a place called the Valley of Kings. The Valley of Kings is a valley at the western banks of River Nile. It contains the rock cut tombs of pharaohs and nobles of the 18-20 dynasties of Ancient Egypt. Almost 600 mummies have been discovered until 2003 and the research continues. This site has been a source of perennial interest of archaeologists and Egyptologists who excavate the evidences of the past ever since the late 18 Century. With the discovery of King Tut's tomb in 1922-23, the valley gained utmost significance and interest. The discovered mummies are numbered with a KV tag signifying their finding in the King's Valley. The Valley of Kings is a World Heritage Site protected by the UNESCO. The burial sites are situated all along Nile's bed. Such cemeteries are called Necropolises.



Valley of Kings

Discovering Tut:

King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered **in the Valley of Kings** was discovered by **Howard Carter** on **November 4, 1922**. Tutankhamun was also known as King Tut (**Pronunciation:** (/ˌtuːtʌŋkɑːˈmuːn/)). King Tut was the 13th and the last pharaoh of the 18th dynasty of the New Kingdom of Egypt. He ascended the throne between 8 - 11 years of age. He was known to be the "Living Image of Amun" as he restored the worship of Amun replacing Aten. So, he changed his given name, Tutankhetan to Tutankhamun. He passed away at a very young age of 19. Tutankhetan becoming Tutankhamun was of utmost significance because his father Akhenaten also known by his given name. Amenhotep IV. He was the son of Amenhotep III, a famous and a long-reigning monarch of Egypt's 18th dynasty.



Howard Carter (Left)

Akhenaten- the whacky predecessor of King Tut:

Akhenaten was the second son of the mighty Amenhotep III, the 9th ruler of the 18th dynasty of the New Kingdom. He was born Amenhotep – IV, he changed his name to Akhenaten or the servant of the Aten. He moved his religious capital from the old city of Thebes to new city of Akhenaten, presently known as Amarna. He committed heretic acts like smashing the idols of Amun, the ruling God of Egypt and his temples.



Akhenatan

Aten and Amun:

The Aten was the principal God of Ancient Egypt. Worshipping Aten or the Sun Disc was a prevalent practice in the Old Kingdom of Egypt. From the beginning of the 17th Dynasty, the pharaohs placed themselves under the patronage of the God Amun of Karnak. He was promoted as the dynastic god. The 18th Dynasty revived the older practices of the Ancient Kingdom by reviving the worship of Aten. Akhenaten IV promoted the worship so vigorously promoting all and only Aten, the Sun Disk.



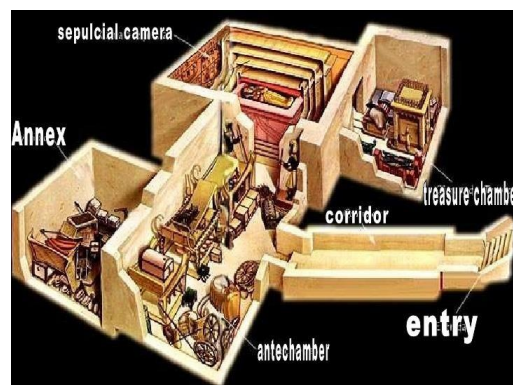
Aten and Amun

Tutankhamun and Amun: Tutankhamun made sure that the older practices of worship, especially of Amun, restored. His change in name was to show his allegiance to Amun, the ram-headed God.



Statue of Tutankhamun with Amun

The Discovery and Findings: With the discovery of Tut's tomb, the world woke up to its rich past in general and Egypt in particular. It was actually discovered accidentally and it was surprisingly intact when compared to similar tombs discovered in the past. The discovery gave deep insights into how the kings lived. We would be learning more of the discoverer, findings and the growth and evolution of archaeology over a period of time.



Tutankhamun's Burial Chamber- Layout