Ancient Egypt:
Egyptian Achievements

http://egypt.mrdonn.org/
Writing

• Hieroglyphics – Ancient Egyptian Writing System
  – One of the world’s first writing systems
  – More than 600 symbols
  – Written left to right or top to bottom

• Egyptians first wrote on stone
  – Then they discovered Papyrus
  – Papyrus – A long-lasting paper-like material made from reeds
Egyptian Writing

Egyptian hieroglyphics used picture symbols to represent sounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imn</td>
<td>Amun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tut</td>
<td>Image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankh</td>
<td>Living</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Translation—“Living image of Amun”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heka</th>
<th>Ruler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iunu</td>
<td>Heliopolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resy</td>
<td>Southern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Translation—“Ruler of Southern Heliopolis”

What does the symbol for ruler look like?
Hieroglyphics
Hieroglyphics

Courtesy: Kalyssa Tatroe
Hieroglyphics
The Rosetta Stone

• For a long time, historians could not read hieroglyphics

• 1799 – A French soldier discovers the Rosetta Stone
  – Rosetta Stone – A stone with Greek, Hieroglyphics, and later Egyptian writing
  – Unlocked Hieroglyphics
Book of the Dead

• Many Egyptian texts survive today
  – They did not decay in Egypt’s dry climate
• One of the best preserved documents is the Book of the Dead

The deceased stands at the side, often accompanied by their ba and various forms of fate and destiny. Anubis checks the balance, and Thoth, the ibis headed god of scribes stands ready to write down the result of the weighing. Twelve great gods, seated across the top of the scene, act as witnesses to ensure a fair trial. A strange creature, part crocodile, part hippopotamus, part lion or panther lurks nearby, she is called Ammit, meaning "she who gobbles down", the eater of anyone unworthy to enter the Field of Reeds. The heart of the deceased sits in one of the trays on the balance scales. The heart is weighed against either Ma'at, the goddesses of truth, cosmic order, wisdom, and righteousness, or more usually just her symbol, the ostrich feather. Should the deceased be unfortunate enough to have a heart that was considered to be "heavy with sin" and unable to balance against Ma'at’s feather, then Ammit would be able to gobble it down. Deprived of their heart, the deceased would then be denied an afterlife.

Sphinx

- Sphinx - imaginary creature with the body of a lion and head of a human or other animal
Walk to Karnak

Courtesy: Kalyssa Tatroe
Sphinxes
Sphinxes

Courtesy: Kalyssa Tatroe
Obelisk

- Obelisk - a tall, four sided pillar that is pointed at the top


![Obelisk Image](http://www.pushindaisies.com/candypress/ProdImages/mum_obelisk_stone_lg.jpg)
Obelisk
Unfinished Obelisk
Egyptian Temples

- Along with pyramids and other great architecture, Egyptians built marvelous temples
  - Many of which survive today!
- Temples were believed to be home to the Gods
- Many temples had sphinxes and/or obelisks
Temple Pillars
The Temple of Karnak

The Temple of Karnak was Egypt's largest temple. Built mainly to honor Re, the sun god, Karnak was one of Egypt's major religious centers for centuries. Over the years, pharaohs added to the temple's many buildings. This illustration shows how Karnak's great hall may have looked during an ancient festival.

Karnak's interior columns and walls were painted brilliant colors.

In the annual Opet festival, priests carried statues of the gods and sacred boats from the temple to the Nile River.

Only the pharaoh and priests were allowed inside the temple, which was considered the home of the gods.

Massive columns, some more than 80 feet high, supported the temple's high roof.

High windows let light and air into the temple.
Temples

Abu Simbel (Ramses)

Luxor (Ramses)

Karnak


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxor_Temple
Art

• Egyptians were excellent artists
  – Painted a lot, and they painted just about everything

• Egyptians had a very distinct art style
  – People’s heads and legs are seen from the side
  – Upper body and shoulders are straight on
  – Pharaohs and gods are huge in comparison to others
Artwork
King Tutankhamen

• King Tut Became pharaoh at age 9 (died at 19)
• King Tut’s tomb discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter
• Tut’s tomb was not robbed
  – King Tut’s tomb taught us a lot about how Ancient Egyptians buried their dead

http://www.crystalinks.com/tutstomb.html
King Tutankhamen