

Name: _____

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Date: _____

Prominent Pharaohs

There were many great Pharaohs throughout the history of Ancient Egypt. Here are some of the more famous ones:

Akhenaten - Akhenaten was pharaoh of Egypt during the eighteenth dynasty. He first reigned under the name of Amenhotep IV, inheriting the throne from his father when he was just twelve years old. After six years as pharaoh, he changed his name to Akhenaten to honor the sun god Aton. Akhenaten is Egyptian for "Aton is satisfied." When Akhenaten's reign began, Egypt was still practicing polytheism, or the worship of more than one god. Akhenaten believed in monotheism, the worship of just one god, and he wanted all of Egypt to be a monotheistic society. The god he worshiped was Aton, the sun god. Akhenaten believed that he was actually Aton's son. He believed that Aton was all-powerful and absolute, so there could be no other gods. Akhenaten moved the capital of Egypt from Thebes. He built a new capital city, which he named Akhetaten, and dedicated it to his monotheistic religion. Akhenaten was married to Nefertiti, and the couple had six daughters. He was also the father of the famous King Tut.

Tutankhamun - Often called King Tut today, Tutankhamun is largely famous today because much of his tomb remained intact and we have one of the greatest Egyptian treasures from his rule. He became Pharaoh at the age of 9. He tried to bring back the gods that his father, King Akhenaten, had banished. Although Tut was technically the king, he probably didn't make all of the decisions. He probably had elders giving him advice and guidance. Historians think two men in particular helped Tut: a general named Horemheb and a vizier named Ay. With their help, Tut undid much of the work his father had done. For example, Tut restored the original capital city of Egypt. His father had tried to move it. Tut also changed his name from Tutankhamun to Tutankhaten. His new name meant "the living image of Amun."

Hatshepsut - A female Pharaoh, Hatshepsut was originally *regent* (a person appointed to run a country because the monarch is too young) for her son, but she took on the power of Pharaoh. She also dressed like a male Pharaoh to reinforce her power, including the crown and ceremonial beard. Many consider her to be not only the greatest woman Pharaoh, but one of the greatest Pharaohs in the history of Egypt.

Hatshepsut was born the daughter of King Thutmose I and his queen Ahmes. Her father was a well-known ruler with fierce military skills. When her father died, twelve-year-old Hatshepsut married her half-brother Thutmose II and inherited the throne in 1479 BC. Together, Queen Hatshepsut and King Thutmose II ruled until Thutmose II died in 1425 BC. After Thutmose II's death, his baby son, Thutmose III, inherited the throne (Hatshepsut was not this baby's mother). Although her stepson inherited the throne, it was custom, or the tradition, for Hatshepsut to act on Thutmose III's behalf until he was old enough to rule himself. However, when Thutmose III was still very young, Hatshepsut took over. She named herself pharaoh. Queen Hatshepsut became the sixth pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty and worked to increase Egyptian trade. She sent traders south to trade with the kingdom of Punt on the Red Sea and north to trade with people from Asia Minor and Greece used the money they gained from trade to support the arts and architecture. Many impressive temples and monuments were built. Architecture was one of Queen Hatshepsut's strengths as a leader.

Amenhotep III - Amenhotep III ruled for 39 years of great prosperity. He brought Egypt to its peak of power. During his rule, the country was at peace, and he was able to enlarge many cities and construct temples.

Ramses II - Often called Ramses the Great, he ruled Egypt for 67 years. He is famous today because he built more statues and monuments than any other Pharaoh. He was the second longest ruling pharaoh in Egyptian history. He ruled during the height of the Egyptian Empire, a time period that is now known as the New Kingdom or the Golden Age. He was a strong and wise military leader, a political and religious figure, and a great builder. Future Egyptian leaders were measured against the greatness of Ramses.

Unlike many pharaohs who came from a long line of royalty, Ramses was the son of a strong and fierce military leader. Ramses' father Seti I fought hard to restore Egypt after its decline under the reign of Akhenaton and Tutankhamen. Ramses inherited the throne upon the death of his father in 1279 BC when he was just twenty-five years old. Ramses' military prowess (skill or expertise) was one of his greatest strengths as pharaoh. He led the Egyptian Army against several enemy groups and expanded the Egyptian Empire during his reign. In addition to being a war hero, Ramses was known for the many great structures that he ordered to be built.

Cleopatra VII - Cleopatra VII is often considered the last Pharaoh of Egypt. She maintained power by making alliances with famous Romans such as Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. Queen Cleopatra VII of Egypt is one of the most famous female rulers of all time. Cleopatra was a loyal and patriotic leader who was dedicated to fortifying and prospering her country.

Cleopatra is best remembered for her beauty, power, intelligence, and tragic life story. Cleopatra was born into the Macedonian dynasty around 69 BC. (Although) Cleopatra wasn't actually Egyptian, her family dynasty was a long line of Greek rulers in Egypt. Her father, King Ptolemy II, died in 51 BC, leaving his eighteen year old daughter and her ten year old brother behind to inherit the throne. Cleopatra's brother eventually ran Cleopatra out of Egypt. She found refuge in Syria, where she patiently assembled an army to avenge her brother and stake her claim on the throne.

At the same time that Cleopatra and her military returned to Egypt, Roman leader and warrior Julius Caesar also ascended upon Egypt looking to fight. By chance, Cleopatra and Caesar met, and the two quickly fell in love. Cleopatra's army, with the help of Caesar's Roman army, was able to overtake Ptolemy XIII to take control of Egypt. Caesar restored Cleopatra to the throne in Egypt and used his influence to protect Egypt from Roman takeover. Shortly afterward, Cleopatra gave birth to Caesarion, Caesar's son. The family of three returned to Rome. Certain Roman leaders became concerned about the amount of power Caesar was accumulating, so they ordered his assassination in 44 BC.

Sources:

https://www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_egyptian_pharaohs.php

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xrkgvOT8f4c8U9uSdKYTnX1PE0_4E2fW (passages from "The Sweetest Thing" website)

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Prominent Pharaohs ORGANIZER

Directions: Complete the organizer based on information from the “Prominent Pharaohs” article.

Name of Pharaoh	Achievements (things he/she is best known for):	Other information that was new or interesting to you:

Select ONE of the pharaohs listed above. Explain in detail the IMPACT that pharaoh had on ancient Egypt.

