

The Life of an Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh

- No one in ancient Egypt was as important as the pharaoh. The word pharaoh means "great house."
- The pharaoh was considered a god on earth, a personification of the god Horus. When he died he would be united with the sun god, and the next pharaoh would become the new god of the earth.
- It was believed that it was only the pharaoh who could unite the country and maintain its order. The pharaoh was all powerful and all knowing, and therefore he/she ruled everyone's fate.
- The pharaoh's power included ruling the government and law courts, he was the chief god of the temples, and he headed the army. He even controlled trade, irrigation, granaries, and the mines.
- The pharaoh's subjects obediently built him temples and a majestic tomb so that he could live forever. The Egyptians believed that it was the pharaoh who made the gods favour Egypt.
- The pharaoh had many helpers throughout Egypt. His officials would ensure that the pharaoh's commands were carried out. For example, they collected taxes, collected food, and ensured that law was maintained throughout the country.
- If the pharaoh ruled Upper Egypt he would wear a white crown. If he ruled only Lower Egypt he would wear a red crown. If he ruled all of Egypt, he would wear the double crown.
- The position of pharaoh was hereditary. It was passed on through the female side. However, in order to keep bloodlines pure, the pharaoh's daughter would often marry her brother.