

PHARAOHS

Overview

Pharaohs were the rulers of Egypt and were considered both kings and gods. They were responsible for protecting the land, leading the army, overseeing laws, and performing religious rituals. Their authority was absolute.

Role and Responsibilities

Pharaohs led armies to defend Egypt and conquer new territories, collected taxes and organized labor for building projects, and performed ceremonies to honor gods and ensure the Nile would flood

Famous Pharaohs

- Narmer: unified Upper and Lower Egypt
- Hatshepsut: powerful female pharaoh who expanded trade
- Ramses II: built massive temples and monuments

Religion and Authority

Pharaohs were believed to be the living embodiment of gods like Horus and later Osiris after death. Their divine status gave them ultimate authority over the people.

Timeline

- c. 3100 BCE – Narmer unifies Egypt
- c. 1473–1458 BCE – Hatshepsut reigns
- c. 1279–1213 BCE – Ramses II reigns

Key Vocabulary

Pharaoh, divine, authority, Horus, Osiris, labor

Overall Idea

Pharaohs were central to Egyptian society. Their divine status and leadership ensured political stability, religious devotion, and the construction of monuments that lasted thousands of years.

Comprehension Questions

1. Why were pharaohs considered gods?
2. How did pharaohs maintain control over Egypt?
3. Name two famous pharaohs and their achievements.