

Daily Life of Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt is a land of fascinating things. Pyramids and mummification continue to mystify the world 5,000 years later. The Nile River continues to provide the life-blood to the people of Egypt. Some basic things you need to remember about Egypt right now is that the pyramids were used as tombs; mummification was necessary to get the pharaoh into the afterlife and without the Nile River, Egypt would not exist. The Nile River provided the people of ancient Egypt with fertile land for farming and growing crops. This land was the Black land, which allowed Egypt to grow and prosper. The Nile was indeed a Giver of life. Though no longer used by most Egyptians, their religious belief system of the ancient world provided the people with answers to questions and was tied to pyramids and mummification. Pyramids, Mummification, Nile River, and gods/goddesses are four very important topics of ancient Egypt. There is a fifth topic, though, and it is this topic that will give us a good glimpse into what ancient Egyptians were like as a people and culture.

To begin with, life in ancient Egypt centered around three main things. First, life centered around religion. This dealt with the gods and goddesses like Ra who is the Sun God and most important god. Second, life centered around the pharaoh. This was the supreme ruler of the Egyptians. The pharaoh was more than a king; he was a god-king who had ultimate power. Third, life in ancient Egypt centered around family. The Egyptians took their family very seriously and made sure they stayed together and helped each other out. In the family, children were considered to be very important. Unlike a lot of cultures in the ancient world who viewed children as a nuisance, the Egyptians took care of the children and made sure they were alright. The women's duties in the home were to cook, clean, and raise children. Not that unlike today's world, though now, many, many women are working their own jobs. The men of the family, in ancient Egypt, would work.

A peasant is a farmer-type person of ancient Egypt. These peasants would farm wheat. So, their diet was predominantly wheat and vegetables. Peasants had a hard time making money and prospering because heavy taxes were imposed on their crops. The effect of this was it was hard for the peasants to make money because they were taxed so heavily, which meant they had to give most of their crop to the Pharaoh.

Homes of Ancient Egypt were made with Sun-Dried bricks. The materials used to make these sun-dried bricks were straw and mud. Two things the people of ancient Egypt had plenty of. The size of homes was huge and the roofs were flat. The unique feature of the doors was that they were built four feet off the ground. The reason for this was to reduce the amount of sand and water from coming in when the Nile would flood. Homes of the nobles would be enormous with 25-30 rooms. Homes of the peasants would be small but nice. The Egyptians had a unique sleeping system: they would sleep on the roof. Why you ask? To keep cool in the scorching heat of the desert. Now, remember, these homes were pretty much as big as they wanted and that was made possible because materials to make bricks were very easy to get and cheap.

The Egyptians, for the most part, had a very distinct look when it came to clothing. The main piece of clothing for the Egyptians was a Tunic with it usually being white. A tunic is basically a long t-shirt. Men wore their tunic down to the knees and women wore it down to the ankles, giving it almost a dress-like appearance. As far as the footwear of the Egyptians, they would usually go barefoot or wear sandals. Since it was a very warm climate, the people did not have to wear warm clothes or boots. Men working outside would typically wear short

skirts. The main jewelry for the Egyptians, for the most part, would be rings, necklaces, and earrings, which is very similar to today's world. In ancient Egypt, both men and women would wear lots of jewelry. Both male and female would also wear wigs as well. Workers clothing would consist of loincloths. Wealthy people would wear long robes. Men and women would also both wear a lot of make-up. Don't laugh, boys, for if you would have lived in ancient Egypt, you would have worn lots of make-up. The look of the Egyptians was very distinct: green eyeshadow and black eye liner. Gold jewelry was also worn by both men and women. Men would have no facial hair and women would wear their hair down to the shoulders. If going to a party of some sort of social event, the women would wear perfume but it's not exactly what it's like in today's world. The ancient Egyptian perfume was a cone of scented fat which would be worn on their head. The cone of scented fat would slowly melt, giving off a good scent. So the purpose of this was to smell good.