

Ancient Egypt

What were the greatest achievements of Ancient Egypt?

Lesson 4: Who were the Egyptian gods?



Historical skills

Key historical skills



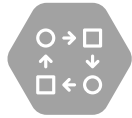
Chronology



Evidence and interpretation



Similarity and difference



Cause and consequence



Change and continuity



Historical significance ✓

Supporting enquiry skills



Understanding timelines



Studying evidence



Sifting arguments



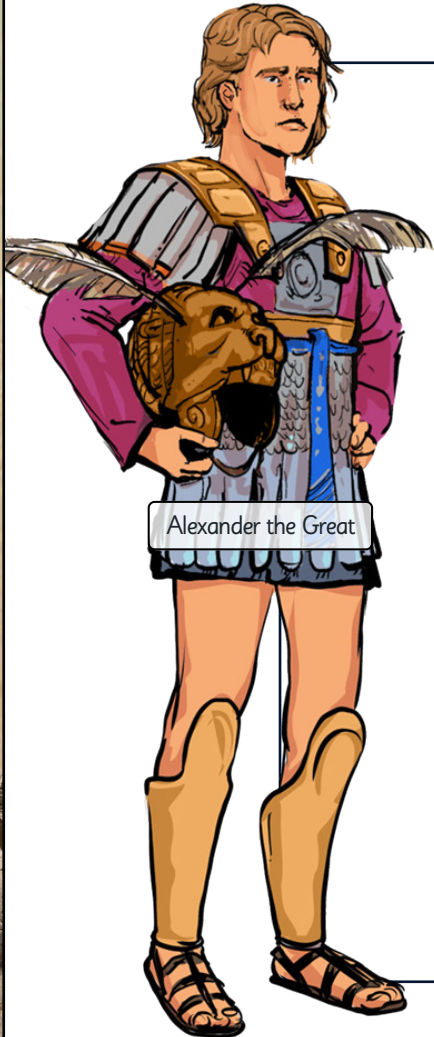
Developing perspective and judgement



Thinking critically



Asking and answering questions ✓



What were the greatest achievements of Ancient Egypt?

How did early Egypt begin, and what was it like?

Lesson 1: When did ancient Egypt exist?

Lesson 2: What was life like in early Egypt?

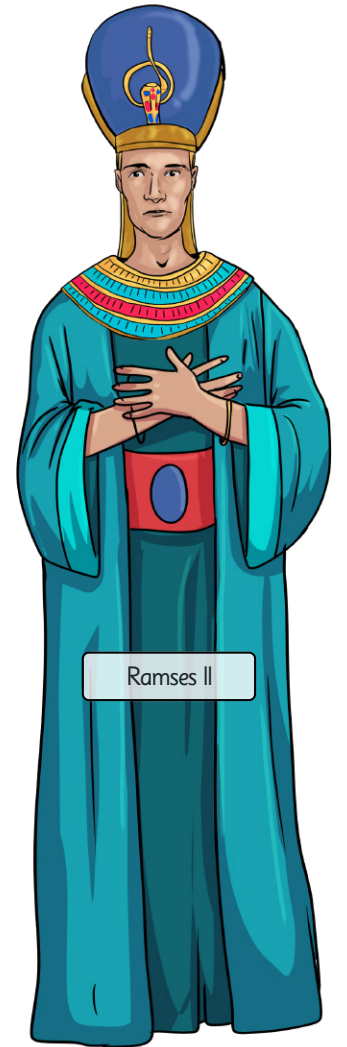
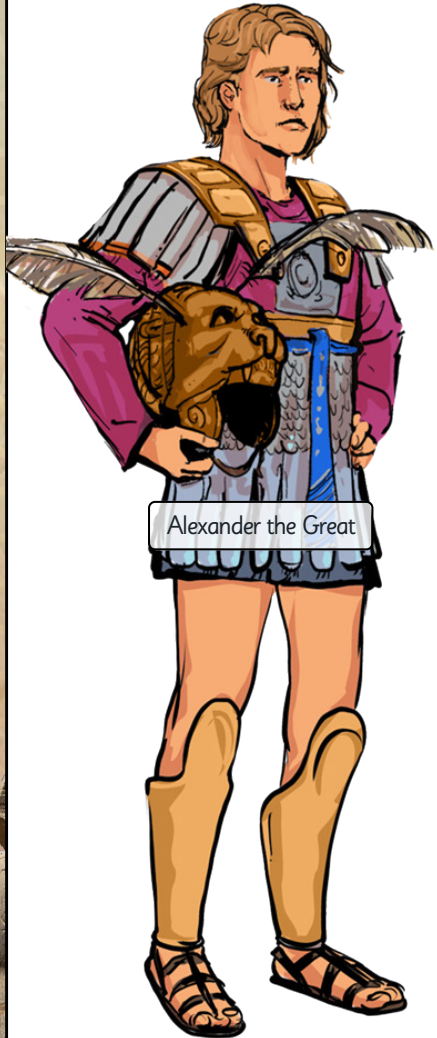
Lesson 3: Did the ancient Egyptians write anything down?

How did Ancient Egypt change during the Old Kingdom?

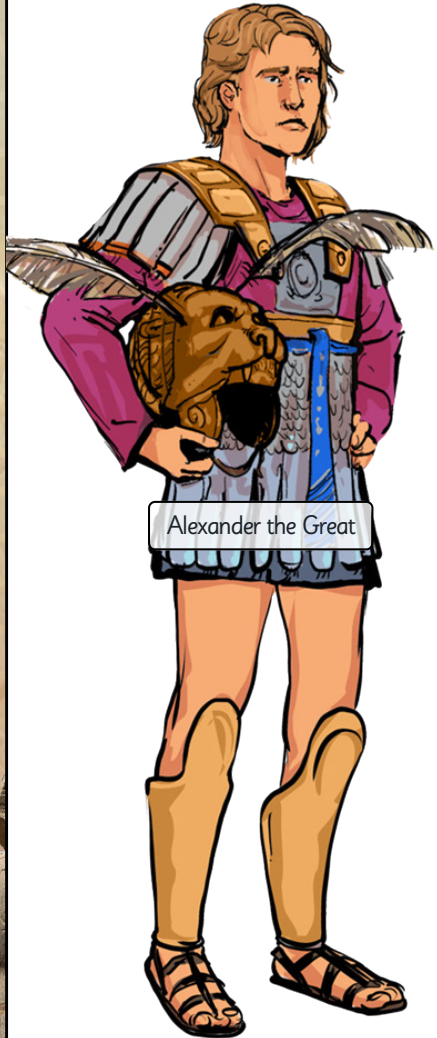
Lesson 4: Who were the Egyptian gods?

Lesson 5: What did ancient Egyptians believe about the afterlife?

Lesson 6: How were the pyramids built?



What were the greatest achievements of Ancient Egypt?



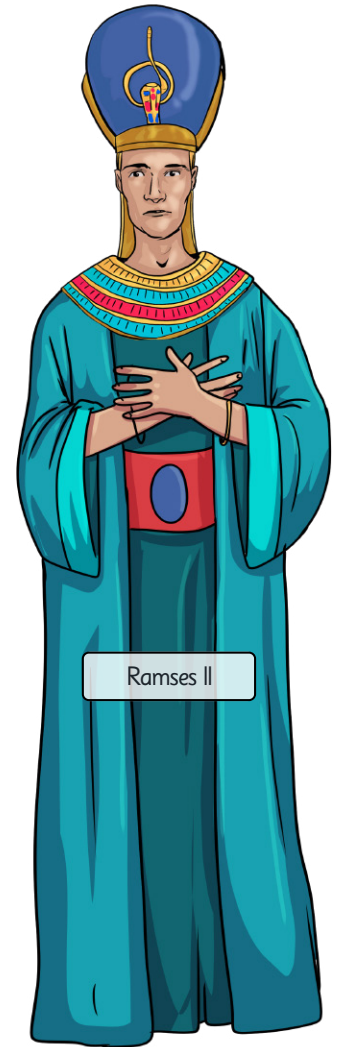
What happened to ancient Egypt from the Old Kingdom to the end of the empire?

Lesson 7: What happened when ancient Egypt was invaded?

Lesson 8: Why was the New Kingdom a successful time for ancient Egypt?

Lesson 9: Who was Ramses II?

Lesson 10: How did the Egyptian Empire end?



Key vocabulary for this lesson



crops

– plants grown on a farm



temple

– a place of worship



Historical significance

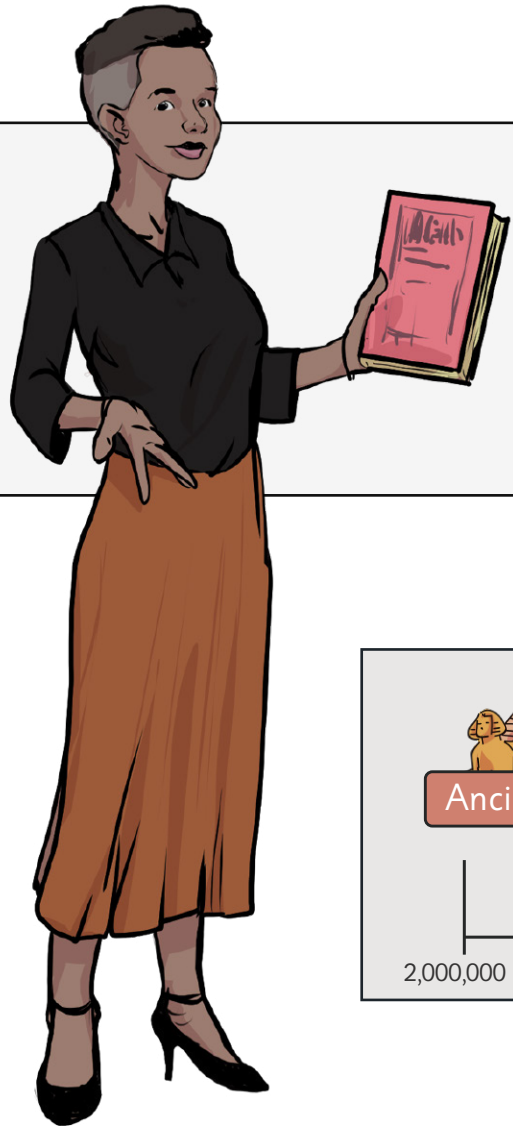


Hello again! Its **Brianna**, the **historian**. I use the skill of '**historical significance**' to identify important people or events that brought about changes or are still important today.

Ancient Egyptians' beliefs were historically significant because they shaped how people **lived**, what they **believed**, and how they **worshipped** their gods.



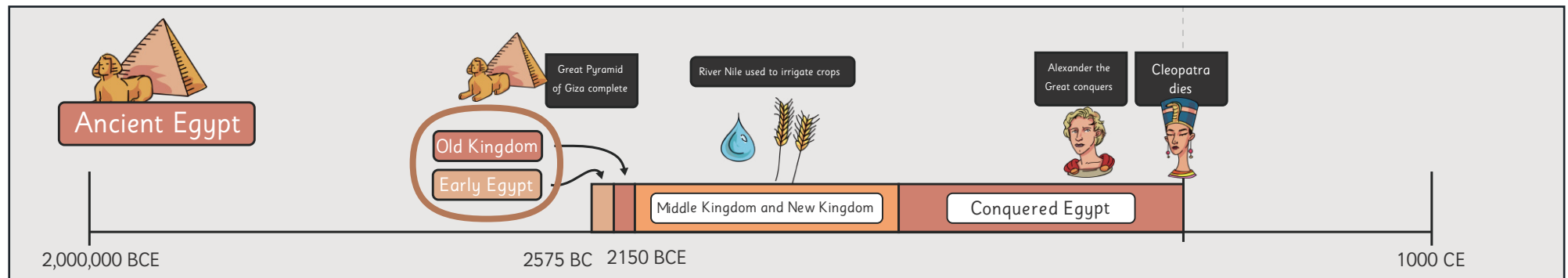
Religion



The **Old Kingdom** period of Ancient Egypt had many **new religious buildings** and activities.

Ancient Egyptians were **polytheistic**, which means they worshipped **more than one god**.

Let's look more closely at three of these gods!



Word detective



polytheistic – believing in more than one god

The word **polytheistic** comes from Greek word parts and is used to describe a belief in more than one god.

poly	+	the	+	ist	+	ic	+	= polytheistic
“many”		“god”		“person with a skill, belief or linked to”		“related to or like”		

Together, these word parts build a word that means the
“related to people who believe in more than one god”.



Ra



In the Old Kingdom, **Ra (the Sun God)** was the **most important**.

Ancient Egyptians believed that he was the **creator of all life**, and represented **sunlight, warmth** and **growth**.

Ra was drawn with the **head of a falcon** (a type of bird) and a **cobra** (a type of snake) **resting** on his head.



Bastet



This **goddess** was believed to be the **protector of Lower Egypt**.

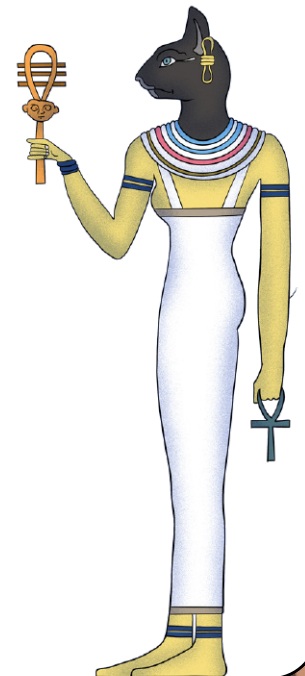
People worshipped her because they thought she would **protect** them **from diseases** and **evil spirits**.

She was also the goddess who protected **pregnant women**.

Bastet was drawn with the **head of a cat**, and she would often be holding a special object called a **sistrum** in one hand.



Walters Art Museum, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



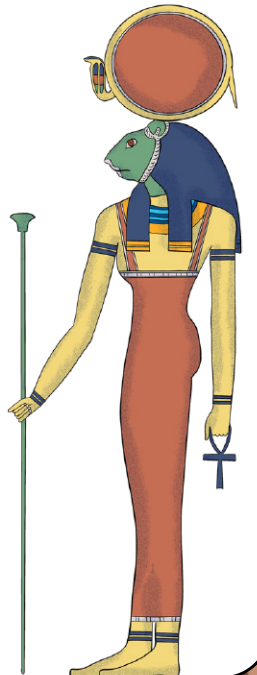
Sekhmet



This goddess was known as the '**warrior goddess**' and the '**goddess of healing**'.

People believed that she would **protect** you **in battle** and **heal** you if you were injured.

Sekhmet was drawn with the **head of a lioness**, and she would often hold a **wooden staff** (a long stick).



Ancient Egyptian gods



Settlement



Civilisation



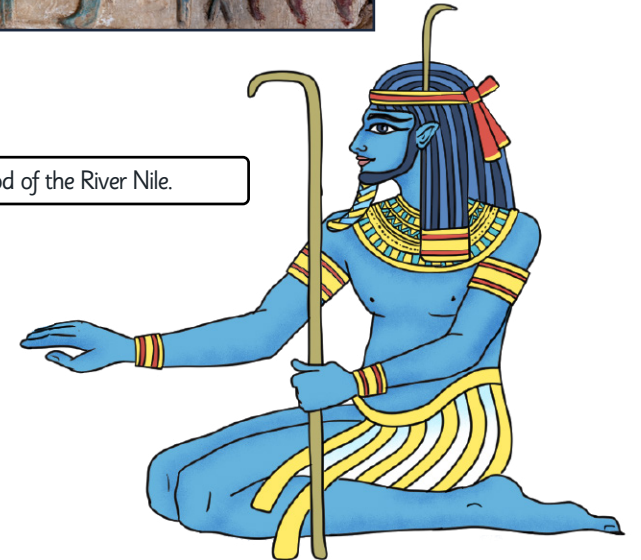
Historical
significance

There were **many** more **gods** in Egypt at the time. Each god ruled an **aspect of life**. For example, there was a god of the **River Nile**. The Nile was incredibly important to the Egyptians because it watered their **crops** 🌾.

This god would have been **very important**, just like Ra, the god of the sun.



Hapi, god of the River Nile.



Stop and jot



The Ancient Egyptian people went to the **temples** to offer their **prayers**.

Read the statements of these Egyptian worshippers on your stop and jot worksheet and **decide** which god they should pray to by ticking the correct box.

Then justify your choices to your learning partner.

Be ready to share your feedback with the class before the answers are revealed.

Stop and jot

Read the words of each worshipper and tick the god that they should pray to.
Explain your reasoning to a learning partner.

I am **pregnant** and want to receive the blessings of the gods.
I want my child to be **healthy** and **happy**.



☐

☐

☐

I am a **warrior** going off to war. I need the gods' **protection** and want to make sure I return home to my family.



☐

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☐

I want to cast a spell for a **good harvest**. We need the harvest to be good so that we have **food to eat**.



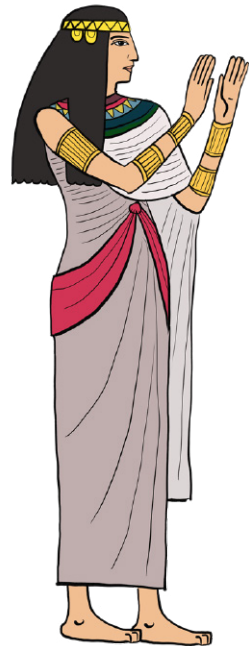
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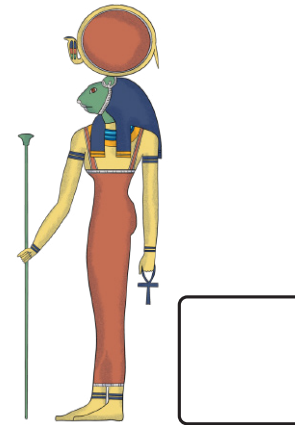
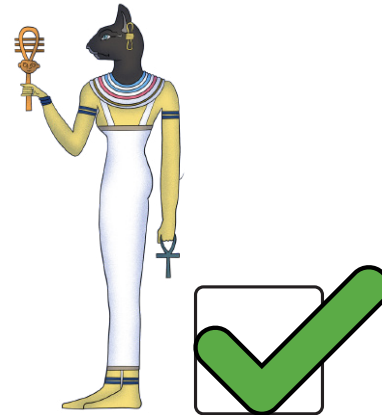
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Stop and jot

answers



I am **pregnant** and want to receive the blessings of the Gods.
I want my child to be **healthy** and **happy**.

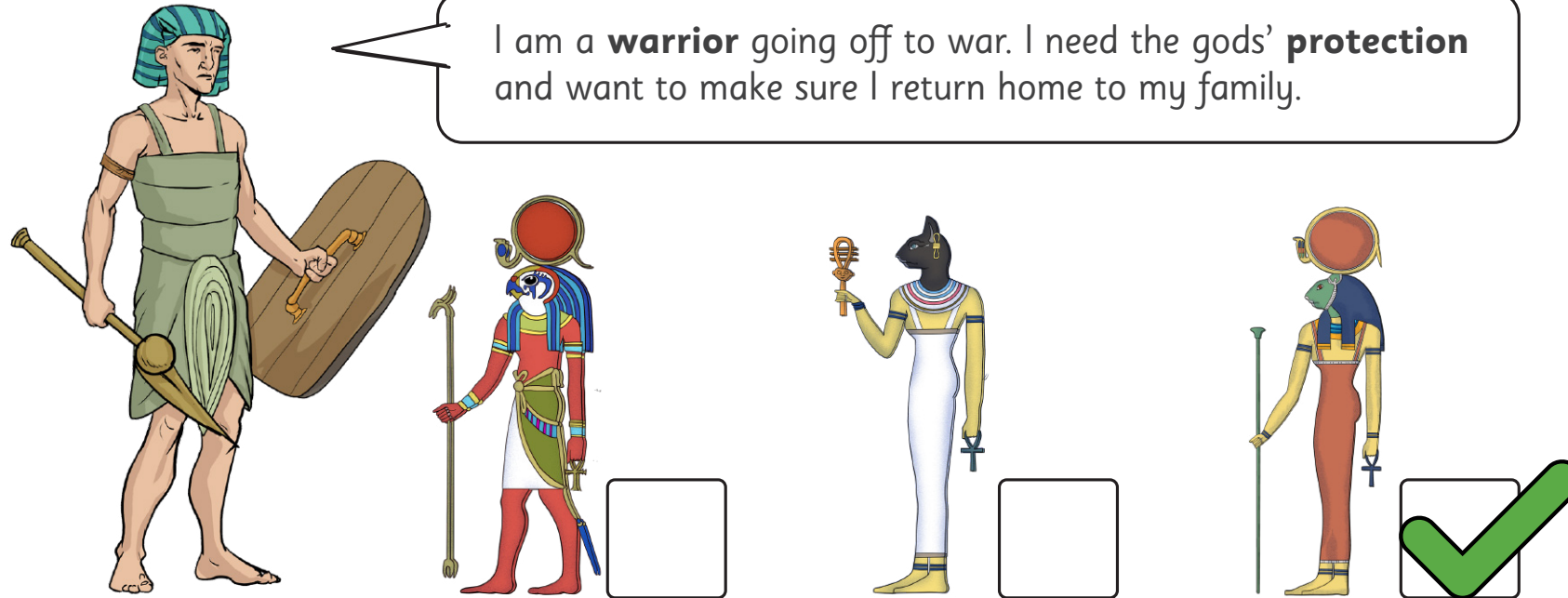


People worshipped Bastet because they thought she would protect them from diseases and evil spirits. She was also the goddess who protected pregnant women.



Stop and jot

answers



People believed that Sekhmet would protect you in battle and heal you if you were injured.

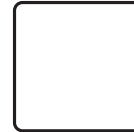
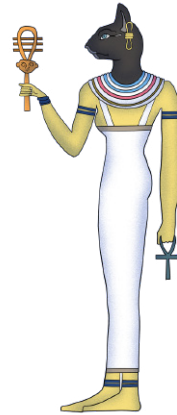


Stop and jot

answers



I want to cast a spell for a **good harvest**. We need the harvest to be good so that we have **food to eat**.



Ancient Egyptians believed that Ra was the creator of all life, and represented sunlight, warmth and growth. All of this is important for a good harvest to grow **crops** 🌾.



The sun temple



Settlement



Civilisation



Historical
significance

Today, we visit religious buildings like **churches**, **synagogues** and **mosques** to worship God.

In the Old Kingdom, special buildings called **sun temples** were built as a **sacred, holy place** to worship **Ra**, the Sun god, who was believed to be the **most important god** at the time.

The temples had **high walls**, and a tall pointed statue called an **obelisk** stood in the middle.



New word alert!



obelisk – a tall monument found in the centre of temples



Let's discuss



Settlement



Civilisation

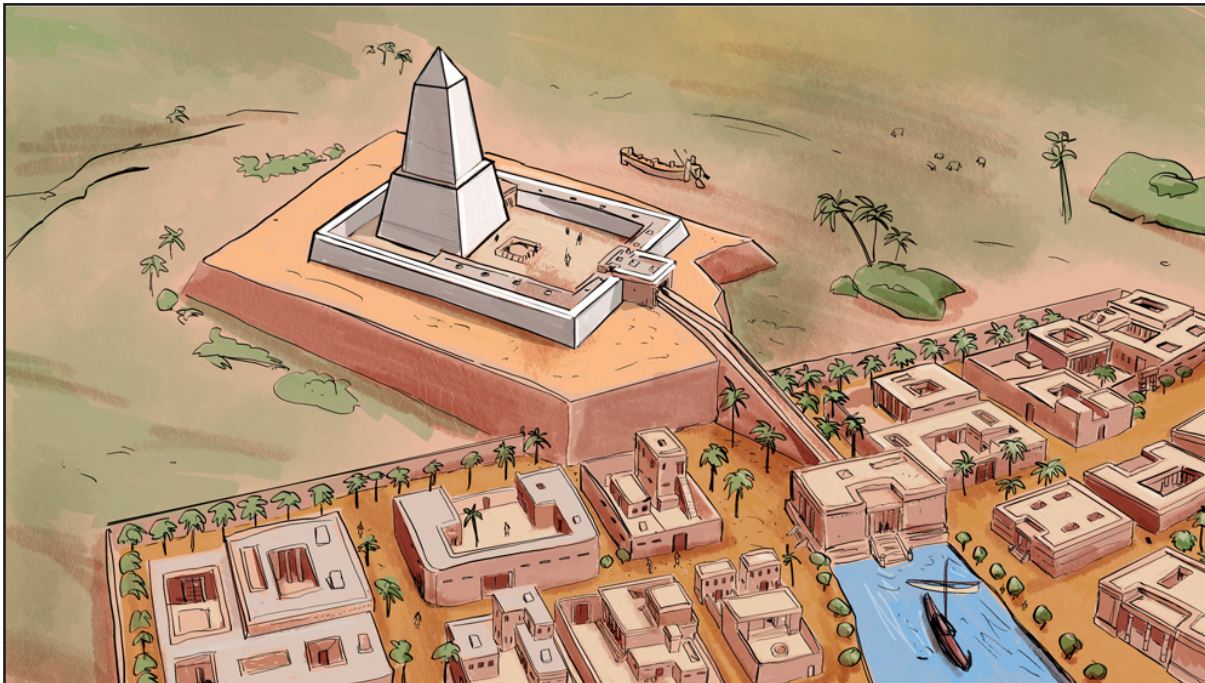


Historical
significance



Asking and
answering questions

Examine the ancient Egyptian scene and **answer the questions** below with your learning partner.



Which building do you think is the sun temple?

What makes the sun temple look **more important** than the other buildings?

Use these sentence starters to help you:

“I think that... because...”

“The sun temple has a...”

“It looks important because...”

Be ready to **share your feedback** with the class before the **answers** are revealed.



Let's discuss

answers



Settlement



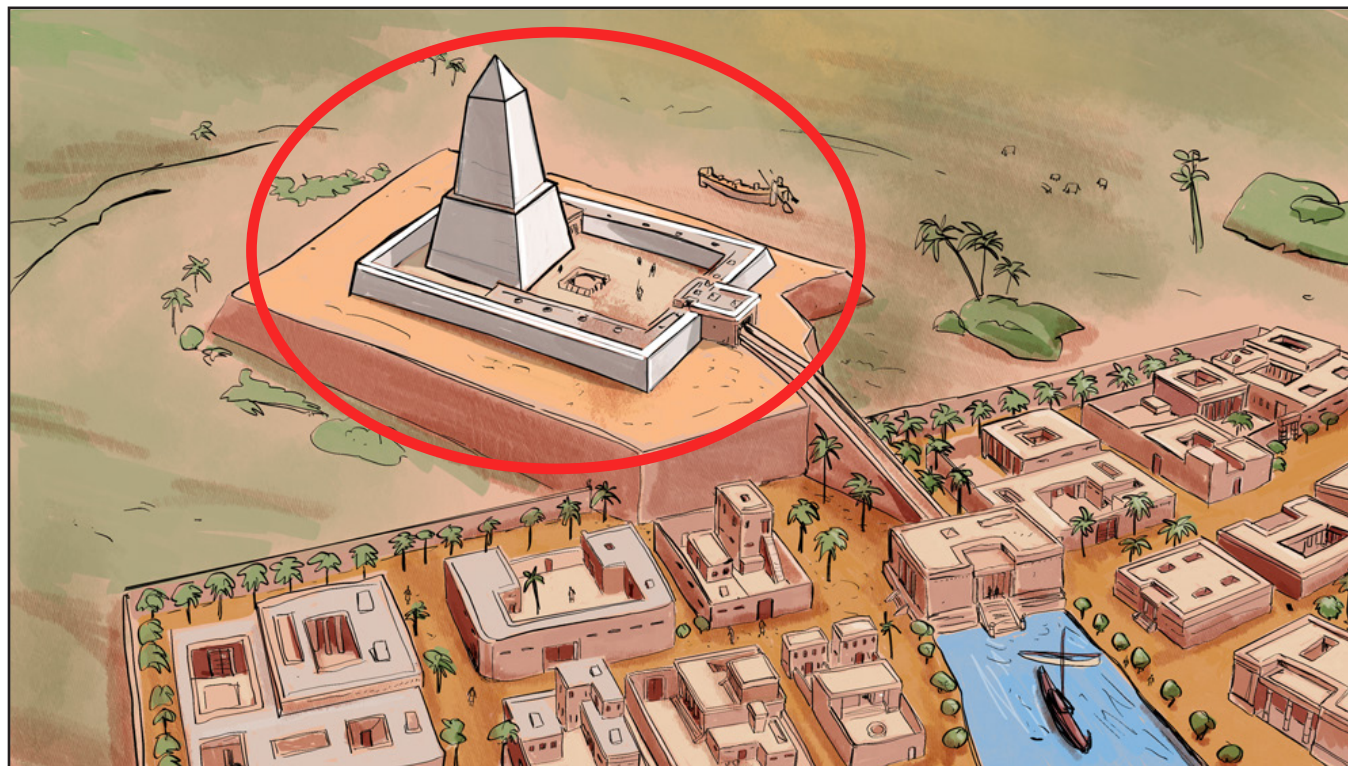
Civilisation



Historical
significance



Asking and
answering questions



The sun temple is the **large white building**. It has an **obelisk**  in the centre.

It is **larger** than the other buildings around it, making it stand out. It is white to **reflect the sun**. It is the **most important building** because it is the **house of the gods**.



Temple with an obelisk



Settlement



Civilisation



Historical
significance



There are many **obelisks**  that remain in Egypt today.

This photograph shows an obelisk within the remains of a **temple** in a place called **Luxor**.

If you look really closely, you'll see **hieroglyphics carved into the stone**.



Activity

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Your task is to work as a group to plan a tour around a sun temple, using your **activity worksheet** to help you.

You will each take a different role such as:

- one of the gods
- a worshipper
- a builder (to explain the temple)
- the tour guide

When you have planned your tour and what you will say, you can practise a few times before presenting to the rest of the class!



Settlement



Civilisation



Historical
significance

Activity

Sun Temple Tours

Come and see the greatest temples in all of Egypt!

Imagine you are an Ancient Egyptian tour guide showing a group of tourists around your local sun temple.

Tourists need to learn about:

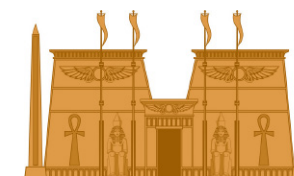
- the different Egyptian Gods and why people pray to them
- the obelisk in the centre of the temple
- why the sun is important to daily life

Work as a group, and plan what you will say on the tour. You could each be in role as:

- one of the gods
- a worshipper
- a builder (to explain the temple)
- a tour guide

Useful words: temple, crops, sun, worship, god, obelisk, belief

Use these pictures of the remains of some temples to help you.

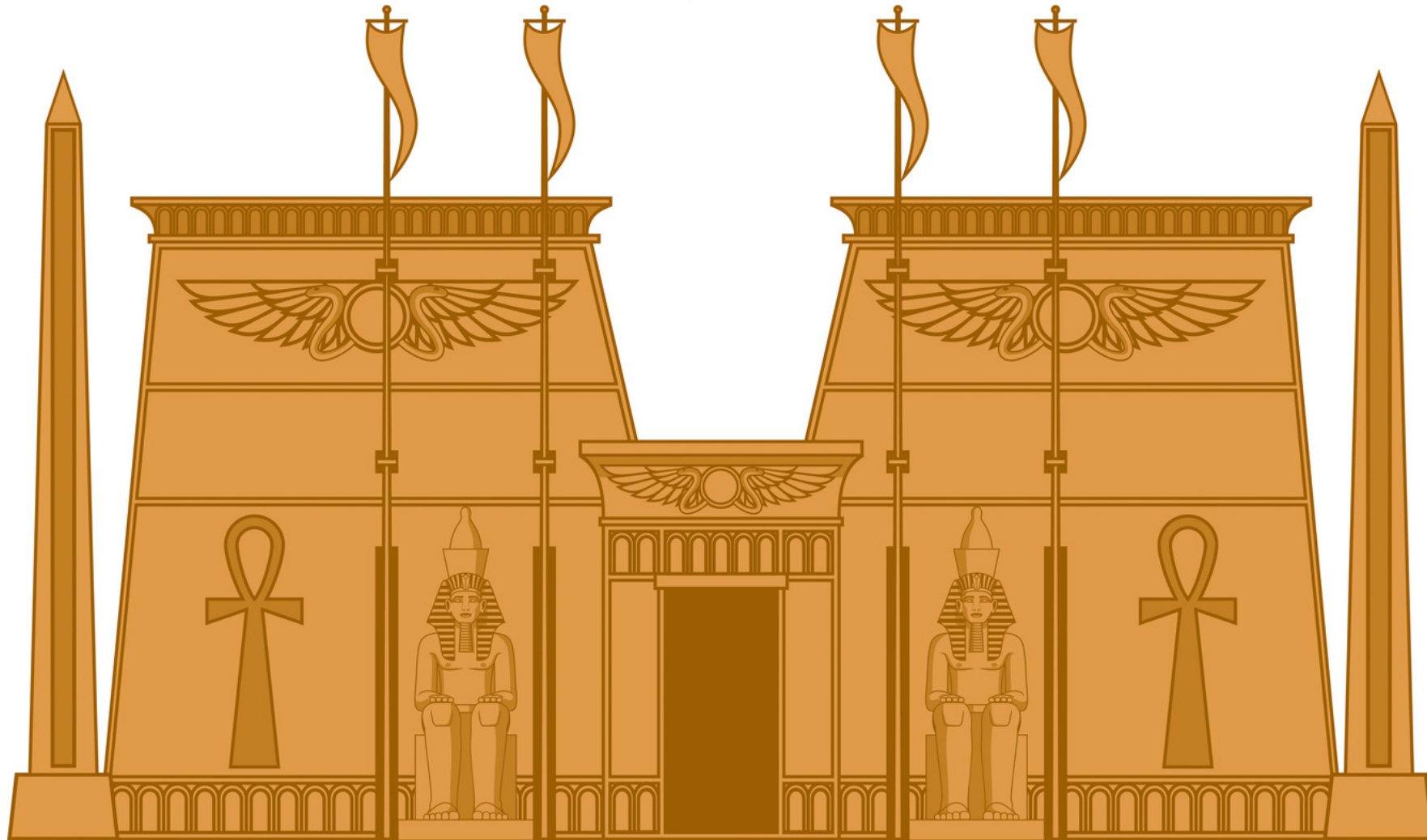


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Back drop for presentations



Back drop for presentations



Challenge



Discuss the **following question** with your learning partner.

Why do you think Ra was the **most important god**?



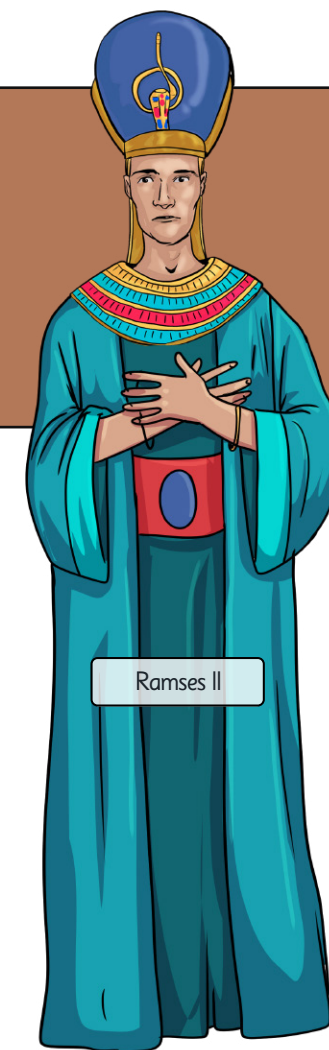
Be ready to **share your feedback** with the class before the **answer is revealed**.

Use these sentence starters to help you.

“I think Ra was the most important god because...”

“Ra was very important to the Egyptians since...”

“I believe people worshipped Ra more than other gods because...”



Challenge



Civilisation

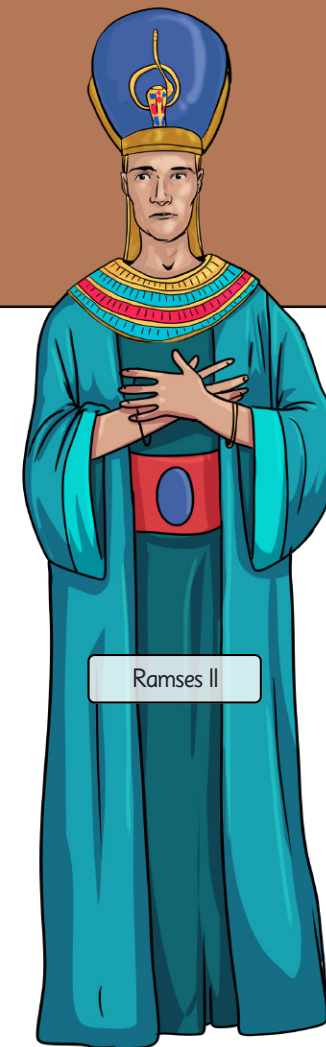
Historical
significanceAsking and
answering questions

Alexander the Great

Why do you think Ra was the
most important god?

The Ancient Egyptians believed that Ra was the most important god because he was the god of the sun.

The sun gave life to everything. It provided light, warmth, and helped crops grow. Without it, people and animals could not survive.



Ramses II

