Egyptian God and Goddesses Notes

- The ancient Egyptians believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each one had their own role to play maintaining peace and harmony across the land.

- They worshipped these gods so that life continued to go smoothly.

- There were many gods. Some gods offered protection, took part in creation, or represented plants or animals.

- Ra= Sun god; most important god of all gods. It was believed that the goddess Nut gave birth to the Sun in the morning and swallowed it at night. Egyptians believed that all pharaohs were descendants of Ra.

- Anubis= god of embalming. He looked over all dead mummified Egyptians and invented the mummification process. He had a human body with a jackal’s head. Embalmers often wore a mask of Anubis when at work.

- Osiris=first pharaoh and god of the Underworld. He taught the Egyptians to farm.

- Bes=God of family and health. He was favored by pregnant women and appeared as a dwarf. He supposedly protected people from nightmares.

- Ma’at=Goddess of the truth. She wore a feather on her head and dressed with feathers.

- Thoth=God of wisdom. He is often shown with the head of a ibis bird. He also could be shown as an ibis or a baboon.

- Ptah=creator god. He supposedly created the gods and molded the other gods out of precious metals. He married the goddess Sekhmet who had the head of a lion.
• Amun= king of the gods. It is believed that he and Ra joined forces and became Amun-Ra. His name means the “hidden one”.

• Hathor=goddess of festivals. She is associated with love, happiness, music and festivals. She was mother to pharaohs.

• Seth=wicked god of the sky/chaos. He was the most evil God of all the gods. He was the god of chaos, confusion and violent weather. He murdered his brother, Osiris, and then scattered him all over the land. He appears with a forked tail and cloven hooves with large pricked ears and nose on a monstrous head.

• Khnum=god of the Nile River. Khnum was in charge of the river and Inundation.

• Horus=god of kingship. He was the child of Osiris and Isis. He became the divine protector and god of every pharaoh. He lost his eye when he battled Seth. Thoth healed the eye and it became a symbol of healing and power.

• Sobek=crocodile god

• Bast= Egyptian cat goddess

• Isis=mother goddess

• Nepthys= goddess of the dead.

The Weighing of the Heart Ceremony

• The Egyptians loved their gods are were not afraid of them like other ancient civilizations.

• There was one exception to this rule. The god Ammut, also called the devourer was feared by the Egyptians.
• The Egyptians believed that if you did something bad your heart would be heavy and Ammut would suddenly appear and eat you up.

• Ammut had a big part in the weighing of the heart ceremony.

• When you died, the ancient Egyptians believed you traveled to an afterlife where you spent eternity.

• You had to earn your way there. To enter your afterlife, you had to have a light heart. Light hearts were earned from a lifetime of doing good deeds.

• After you died, the ancient Egyptians believed your heart had to be weighed. It had to be lighter than a feather. To find out if your heart qualified for the trip to the afterlife, your spirit had to enter the Hall of Maat.

• You had to plead your innocence to the Gods. Then the God Anubis would lead you into the Hall of Maat and weighed your heart.

• The God Thoth recorded the findings.

• If your heart was light, you were considered to be free and pure from sin. This meant you had passed the test and entered your afterlife. This was lead by Horus and Osiris. BUT, if your heart was light because of your deeds were dreadful, the God Ammut would suddenly appear... and eat you up!