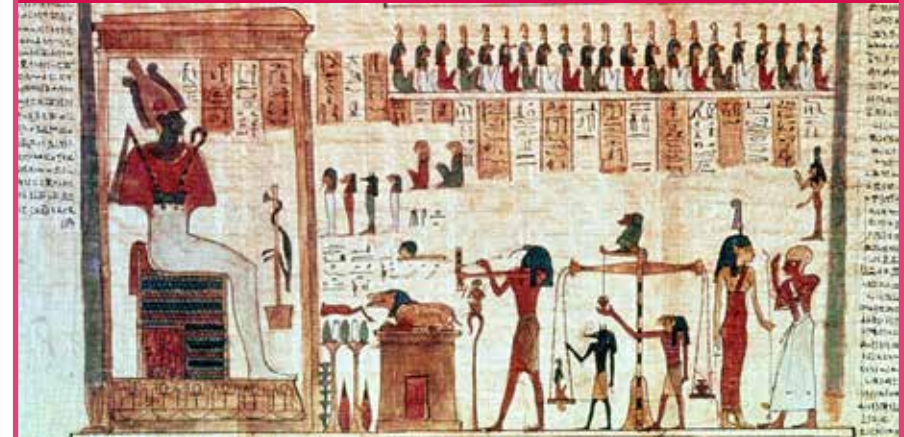


What did the Ancient Egyptians believe?

Book of the Dead	A long sheet of papyrus containing a series of written spells which guided the dead to the afterlife.
civilisation	A large group of people with a common language, way of life and governance.
historically significant	A person or event that deserves attention.
immortal	Able to live forever.
mummification	The Egyptian process of preserving a body, so it could travel to the afterlife.
preserve	To prevent a body from decaying.
pyramid	A large stone tomb, built for a pharaoh.
Ra	The ancient Egyptian sun god, who later merged with Atum, the creator god.
River Nile	The longest river in the world, along which the ancient Egyptian civilisation developed.
sarcophagus	A decorated stone coffin, used in ancient Egypt.

The afterlife



The Egyptians believed that after a person died, they travelled to the afterlife - a kind of paradise or heaven in which people became immortal. The journey to the afterlife was full of challenges, and in the end a decision would be made as to whether a person would go to the afterlife or the underworld.

The creation story

The ancient Egyptian creation story explains how the world, life and people began. Atum, the first god, created Shu and Tefnet. This led to the creation of many other gods, including Horus - the first king of Egypt. Ancient Egyptians believed that Horus was the ancestor of all the pharaohs.

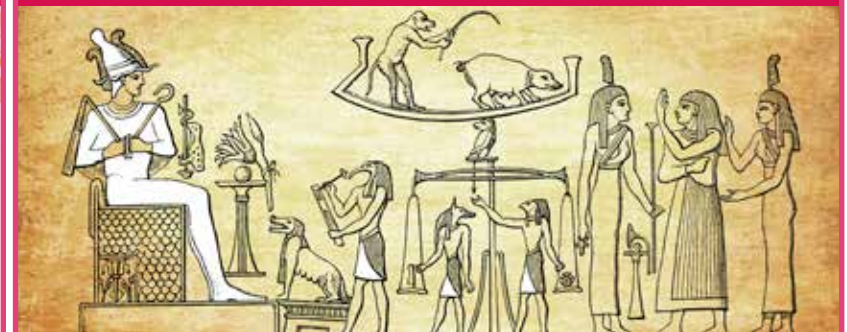


Gods and goddesses

The ancient Egyptians worshipped over 1,500 gods and goddesses, responsible for all aspects of daily Egyptian life. For example, Thoth was the god of writing. Temples were built for the gods, and festivals were dedicated in their honour.



Weighing of the heart ceremony



The ancient Egyptians thought the heart recorded all the good and bad things a person did. If the heart weighed the same as the Feather of Ma'at, the person went to the afterlife.

What did the Ancient Egyptians believe?

Timeline

