

# Gods and goddesses

Re or Ra was the god of life. His sign was the Sun disc. He gave life to Shu and Tefnut.

Shu was the god of air. His sign was a feather. He was the father of Geb and Nut.

Tefnut was the goddess of rain. Her sign was a lion head. She was the mother of Geb and Nut.

Geb was the god of the Earth. His sign was the goose. He was the father of Osiris, Isis, Set and Nephthys.

Nut was the goddess of the sky. Her sign was a vase. She was the mother of Osiris, Isis, Set and Nephthys.

Osiris was the god of farming, nature and king of the underworld. He was shown as a mummy with a crook and flail. He was the father of Horus and Anubis.

Isis was the goddess of mothers and children. Her sign was a throne shown on her head. She was the mother of Horus.

Seth was the god of storms and destruction. His sign was a pig or hippopotamus. He was the husband of Nephthys.

Nephthys was the goddess of the desert. Her sign was a bowl and she was the mother of Anubis.

Horus was the god of the sky and could defeat all evil in the world. His sign was a falcon.

Anubis was the god of the dead. His sign was a jackal head.

Thoth was the god of wisdom and learning. His sign was an ibis or a baboon. He was the husband of Ma'at.

Ma'at was the goddess of justice and truth. Her sign was a feather and she was the wife of Thoth.

Amon was the lord of all gods. His sign was two feathers with a red crown.

# Gods and goddesses

## Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

## Resources

Copies of the worksheet.

## Using the worksheet

The Egyptians had many gods and there were many different interpretations of the relationships between them. The information on the worksheet is just one example. The worksheet can also be used to help the students recognise the gods when they look at photographs of them on columns and artefacts. The information allows the construction of a 'family tree'. If this is done, it will be seen that brothers and sisters married each other and this should be explained as being acceptable to the Egyptians but not to many other religions.

## Younger students

The students could answer these questions from the board.

1. Who was god of the Earth? (Geb).
2. Who was god of wisdom and learning? (Thoth).
3. Who was goddess of justice and truth? (Ma'at).
4. Whose symbol was a falcon's head? (Horus).
5. How many gods and goddesses have animal signs and who are they? (Seven – Tefnut, Geb, Set, Horus, Anubis, Thoth, Amon).

## Outcomes

The students:

- Can extract information from a text.
- Know the responsibilities of some of the gods.
- Identify some gods by their signs.

## Older students

The students can answer the questions for younger students then answer these questions.

6. How many children did Geb have? (Four).
7. What relation was Osiris to Set? (Brother).
8. What relation was Nephthys to Tefnut? (Granddaughter).
9. What relation was Horus to Seth? (Nephew).
10. What relation was Horus to Shu? (Grandson).

## Outcomes

The students:

- Can extract information from a text.
- Know the responsibilities of some of the gods.
- Identify some gods by their signs.
- Can work out the relationships between some of the gods and goddesses.