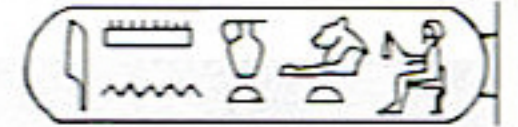


Stop 5: Deir el-Bahri



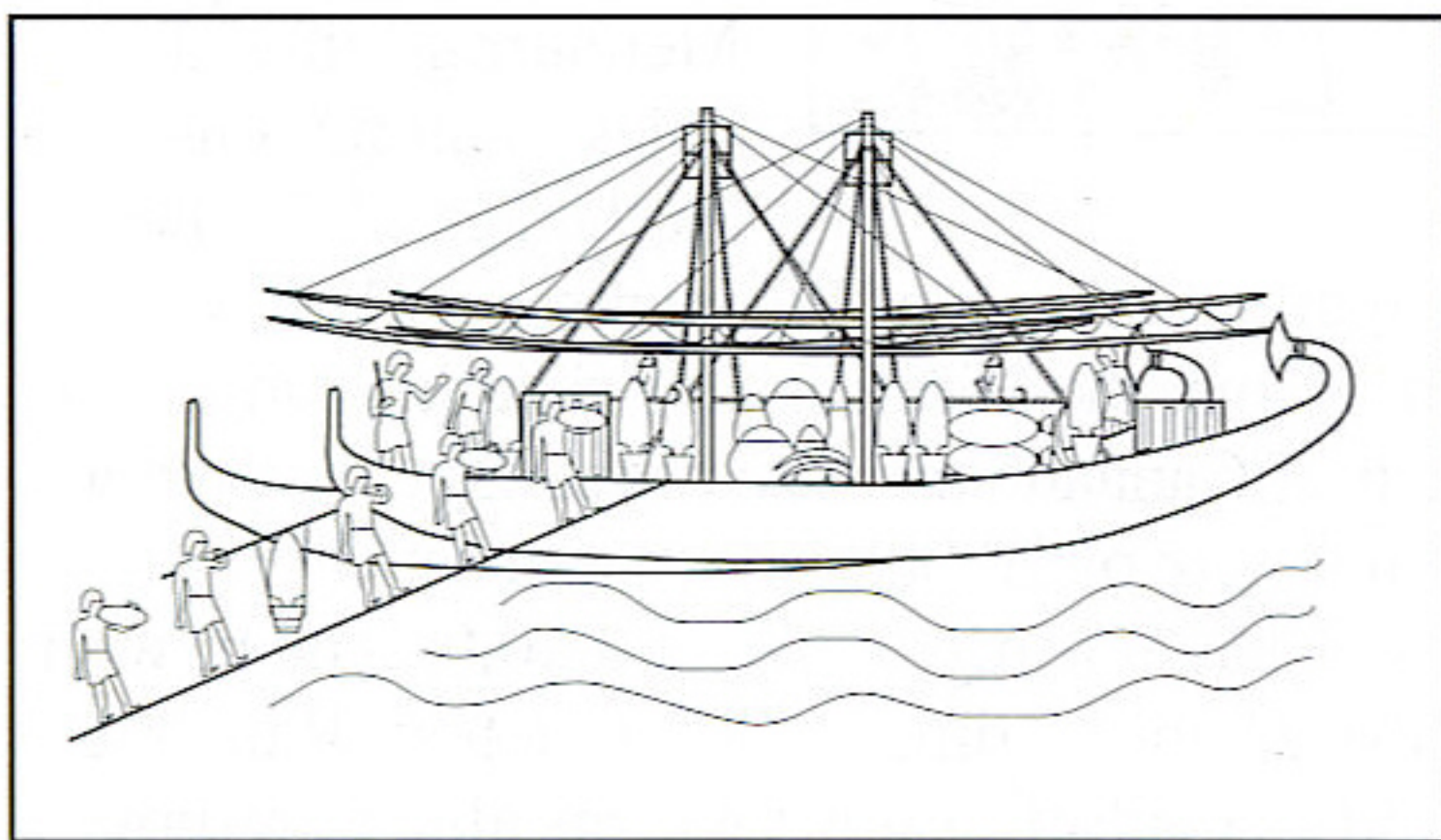
Statue of Hatshepsut

Information on Hatshepsut



Queen Hatshepsut (pronounced haht-SHEP-soot), the pharaoh of the New Kingdom from 1473 to 1458 B.C.E., was one of ancient Egypt's few female rulers. Hatshepsut came to Egypt's throne under unusual circumstances. At first, she ruled jointly with her half-brother, Thutmose II (pronounced thoot-MOH-suh), the youngest son of the previous pharaoh, Thutmose I. When her brother died, his heir was to be his own son, Thutmose III, but the pharaoh-to-be was only 10 years old. So, Hatshepsut continued to share the reign, this time with her young nephew. The two reigned jointly for a number of years, until Hatshepsut declared herself pharaoh and became the sole ruler.

Under Hatshepsut's capable rule, the Egyptian economy grew significantly. She is noted for organizing several trading expeditions to foreign lands, particularly to the land of Punt, an African kingdom southeast of the Egyptian Empire. A record of an expedition to Punt is carved on the walls of Hatshepsut's temples. It shows her trade representatives setting off on five large sailing ships, carrying Egyptian goods down the Red Sea. The ships returned with valuable luxury goods that were not available in Egypt. These goods included gold, ivory, leopard skins, ostrich feathers, incense, rare woods, greyhounds, and cheetahs. Egyptians used some of these goods to create valuable jewelry, fine furniture, and fashionable clothing.



Egyptian ship being loaded with goods from Punt

When Hatshepsut died, her body disappeared. Some scholars believe that Thutmose III, her nephew and successor, who had been kept waiting to rule for years, played a role in her death. Whatever the truth, it is certain that after she died, he destroyed many of the queen's monuments, as well as much of the evidence of her rule.

Prompt: Create simple drawings of three trade goods that were brought back from the expedition to Punt, and explain why the Egyptians wanted those goods.