

**ANCIENT EGYPT:
The Gift of the Nile
(3000 B.C. - 30 B.C.)**

VOCABULARY LIST

A note on spelling: English spelling of Egyptian names will vary depending on the source. The spelling used in this program is in common usage today.

ABU SIMBEL: A huge cliff temple built by pharaoh Ramses the Great, which includes four enormous statues of himself that are over sixty-five feet tall.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT: (356-323 B.C.) Son of King Philip of Macedonia. He conquered Greece, Egypt, Persia, Turkey and many other countries. Greece declared him to be a god in the year 324 B.C. Alexander died at the age of 32.

ANKH: The Egyptian symbol for life; a hieroglyphic letter based on the design of a sandal strap.

ANKHESNAMUN: Wife of King Tutankhamon ("King Tut").

ARCHAEOLOGIST: A person who studies the lives and cultures of ancient peoples. Archaeologists excavate ancient living sites and examine the things that were left behind by ancient civilizations in order to understand how they lived.

AMON: The god of life and of reproduction; Amon was considered to be unseen, but present everywhere. In ancient Egyptian the name meant "hidden."

ANCIENT: Very old; belonging to times long past.

ANTIQUITY: Ancient times or relating to the distant past.

ANUBIS: A jackal-headed Egyptian god whose job was to lead the dead to judgment.

ARTIFACT: An object which has been made or modified by a human. In Egyptology, an object which was made in Egypt during ancient times.

BA: According to ancient Egyptian religion, the physical vitality present in a living thing.

BARLEY: A type of cereal grain.

BURIAL CHAMBER: A tomb; a room used to hold a dead body.

CAIRO: The modern capital of Egypt, founded in 969 A.D. by Arab Muslims.

CARTER, HOWARD: The archaeologist who, in 1922, discovered King Tut's tomb.

CARTOUCHE: An oval frame used to surround the hieroglyphic name of an important person in ancient Egypt.

CIVILIZATION: The total culture of a people.

CLEOPATRA: The name of seven Egyptian queens during the Ptolemaic period of Egyptian history. The most famous was Cleopatra VII, the last Ptolemaic ruler, who was queen during the time of the Roman emperors Julius Caesar and Augustus. According to legend, Cleopatra committed suicide by allowing herself to be bitten by an asp (a poisonous snake) after Egypt fell to the forces of Rome.

COBRA: A type of poisonous snake found in parts of Asia and North Africa. It was a symbol of protection.

COFFIN: A box in which a dead person is placed for burial.

COPPER TOOLS: Tools made partly or completely from copper. Before the introduction of bronze or iron, copper was the only metal known to the Egyptians. Copper is an inferior metal for tools because it is a soft metal.

CROCODILOPOLIS: The Greek name for a city in Egypt, named after the crocodile. The crocodile god Sobek was the local favorite. A live crocodile was kept in a pool in Sobek's temple.

DELTA: The triangle-shaped fourth letter of the Greek alphabet. Also a triangular or fan-shaped land form that forms from sediment deposited at the mouth of a river.

DISK: (Also spelled Disc) A round, thin plate. In ancient Egyptian temple carvings, the round carving representing the sun is usually called a "sun disk."

DOMINION: A governed territory or country.

DYNASTY: Rulers who are all members of the same family. Egypt was ruled by 30 different dynasties between 3100 B.C. and 341 B.C.

EASTERN DESERT: The name sometimes given to the desert on the east side of the Nile. The Eastern Desert contains a range of mountains which lie near the western shore of the Red Sea.

EDFU: A place in Egypt on the upper Nile where a temple to the falcon god Horus was built.

EGYPTOLOGY: The study of the ancient history, language, buildings or artifacts of ancient Egypt.

EGYPTOLOGIST: A person who studies ancient Egypt; an expert in the field of Egyptology.

FUNERARY: Something that is used for or associated with the burial of a dead body.

(Continued on Blackline Master 2)

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VOCABULARY LIST (Continued)

GIZA: The city of Giza is a part of the greater city of Cairo. The Great Sphinx and the Great Pyramids are located at Giza on the western edge of the city.

GRAVE GOODS: Food, clothing, or objects placed in a grave to supply comfort to the dead person. Egyptians traditionally buried food and drink with the body. A pharaoh's grave goods might include jewelry, statues, furniture, and boats. The boats were used for travel in the underworld.

HATHOR: The Egyptian goddess of love and happiness, usually represented as having the horns of a cow; between the horns is the sun disk.

HATSHEPSUT: A powerful woman of the New Kingdom period of Egyptian history who became a pharaoh.

HIEROGLYPH: A picture used to write something; an element of hieroglyphic writing.

HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING: Writing using pictures.

HISTORIC TIMES: The time period after the invention of writing. During historic times, events were recorded or written down.

HORUS: The falcon-headed Egyptian god who was the protector of pharaohs. Horus was usually depicted wearing the double crown of Upper and Lower Egypt.

INLAID: A type of decoration that is set into a surface, such as ivory inlaid into wood.

INSIGNIFICANT: Unimportant, small, trivial. For example, compared to the statues of Ramses, others seem insignificant.

ISIS: The Egyptian goddess of fertility, wife and sister of the god Osiris, mother of the falcon god Horus.

KA: According to ancient Egyptian religion, a person's spirit or soul. It was the ka that received the offerings of food and drink in the tomb.

KHAFRE: King Khafre was a powerful pharaoh of the Old Kingdom. One of the three Great Pyramids at Giza is the pyramid for this king.

KNUM: An Egyptian god with a ram's head that was believed to have created human beings from clay.

KOM OMBO: The city on the Nile where a great temple was built for the crocodile god Sobek and the falcon god Horus.

LINEN: A fabric woven from the beaten fibers of the flax plant that was popular in ancient Egypt and is still being made today.

LOWER EGYPT: The Nile Delta.

LUSH: Rich plant growth. For example, the irrigated land by the Nile was very lush.

MACEDONIA: An ancient kingdom lying to the north of the lands of ancient Greece now mostly part of Greece. Alexander the Great was from Macedonia.

MARSHLANDS: Wetlands; land which is partly or completely under water for at least part of the year.

MASTABA: An Egyptian burial monument that looks like a flat bench with sloped sides. First made of clay brick; later mastabas were of cut stone.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA: The sea lying directly to the north of Egypt. The Nile River empties into the Mediterranean Sea.

MEMPHIS: The first capital of a united Egypt. When Menes united Upper and Lower Egypt, Memphis was his capital. It is a few miles south of modern Cairo.

MENES: The name often given to King Narmer, who united Upper and Lower Egypt into a single kingdom around 3100 B.C. The name "Menes" means "king."

MIDDLE KINGDOM: The period of ancient Egyptian history from about 2133 B.C. to about 1786 B.C. The capital of the nation was established at Thebes. The god Amon became the prominent god of the country.

MONUMENT: A building serving as a lasting reminder of someone or something. A pyramid was a funerary monument for a pharaoh.

MUMMY: A dead body which has been preserved or dried out.

NEW KINGDOM: The period of ancient Egyptian history from about 1567 B.C. to about 1085 B.C. The period was marked by military strength and temple building.

NILE RIVER: One of Africa's great rivers. It flows from central Africa into the Mediterranean Sea. Egypt depends so much on the waters of the Nile that it is sometimes called "the gift of the Nile."

NOFRETARI: The favorite wife of pharaoh Ramses the Great.

OASIS: A fertile place in a desert that has plants and water.

OBELISK: A tall, slender, four-sided stone pillar shaped from a single stone. The ancient Egyptians carved hieroglyphs on these monuments, which they erected to honor famous people or their achievements.

(Continued on Blackline Master 3)

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VOCABULARY (Continued)

OLD KINGDOM: The period of ancient Egyptian history from about 2686 B.C. to about 2181 B.C. The Great Sphinx and the Great Pyramids at Giza were built during this period.

OSIRIS: Ancient Egyptian god of the afterlife. Husband and brother of the goddess Isis.

PAPYRUS: A water-loving plant that used to be abundant in the valley of the Nile. Papyrus was used for many things by the ancient Egyptians, but it is best known for making paper.

PHARAOH: An ancient Egyptian ruler. The word "pharaoh" means "great house."

PRODUCTIVE: Something or somebody that produces. For example: Productive land produces a good crops.

PTOLEMY: The name of 14 Greek (Macedonian) rulers of Egypt from 323 to 30 B.C. Ptolemy I was a general in the army of Alexander the Great.

PYRAMID: A huge building with a square base and triangular sides sloping upward to a point. In ancient Egypt the pyramids were built as tombs. They were designed to give the best possible protection to the body and the grave goods. The largest pyramid in Egypt was 481 feet high when completed and covers 13 acres of land.

RAMSES THE GREAT: Also known as Ramses II. One of the most powerful of all the pharaohs of ancient Egypt and today perhaps the most famous. Many huge statues of Ramses the Great are still in Egypt today.

RE: The Egyptian Sun god, also called "Ra."

RED SEA: The sea lying directly to the east of Egypt.

ROMAN EMPIRE: A great and powerful empire that ruled nearly all of Europe and parts of Africa and Asia for many centuries. The headquarters of this empire were in Rome, which is today the capital of Italy. The Roman empire was most powerful from about 300 B.C. to around 400 A.D. After conquering Greece, the Romans came to rule Egypt as well in 31 B.C.

ROSETTA STONE: A small black stone found in 1799 containing the same message written in both Egyptian hieroglyphs and Greek. By comparing the Egyptian with the Greek, the meanings of the hieroglyphic symbols were revealed.

SACRED: Important for religious or spiritual reasons.

SAHARA DESERT: Located in North Africa, the Sahara is the world's largest desert, covering about three million square miles.

SARCOPHAGUS: A stone coffin.

SCARAB: A beetle that was sacred to the ancient Egyptians. The scarab beetle was associated with the sun god, with immortality and with resurrection. After a person died, it was common to remove organs such as the heart and replace them with a small stone carving of a scarab beetle.

SEARING: A burning heat. For example, it was hard to cross the Sahara Desert because of the searing heat.

SILT: Fine particles of soil. Fine soil is easily carried by wind or water.

SOBEK: The Egyptian crocodile god.

SPHINX: An Egyptian statue usually having the body of a lion and the head of a man, or sometimes the head of a hawk or a ram.

SYMBOL: Something that stands for or represents another thing. For example, the cross is the symbol of Christianity and the ankh was the Egyptian symbol for "life."

TEMPLE: A sacred building; a building used for religious purposes.

THEBES: This city was the capital of ancient Egypt in the 21st century B.C. It was located in the southern part of Egypt and became one of the world's wealthiest cities. It was famous for its stone temples, such as the Temple of Karnak and the Temple of Luxor. The god Amon was particularly important to the residents of this city.

TOIL: Hard work; to work long and hard.

TOMB: A place of burial; a building or room in which a dead body is placed; a burial chamber.

TUTANKHAMON: King "Tut," a young pharaoh of the New Kingdom period of Egyptian history. Tutankhamon is famous today because his tomb in the Valley of the Kings was the most undisturbed ever found by archaeologists. Hundreds of beautiful artifacts were removed by Howard Carter.

UNDERWORLD: According to Egyptian mythology, a world where people might go after death. According to some traditions, the underworld was physically under the world. The sun would pass through the underworld at night.

UPPER EGYPT: The long, narrow Nile Valley south of the Nile Delta. The Nile Valley is bounded on each side by desert.

VALLEY OF THE KINGS: An area of desert canyons where many pharaohs and important Egyptians were buried. It is located on the west side of the Nile, across the river from the ancient city of Thebes.

ZOSER: A powerful pharaoh who built the step pyramid at Memphis, the first pyramid ever built.

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TIMELINE

3100-2686 B.C. Dynasties I & II

- Menes and those who came after him organize the united kingdom of Egypt.
- A calendar, with 365 days a year, is invented in Egypt—one of the first calendars ever used.
- Egyptian buildings are made mostly of sun-dried bricks.
- Stonehenge built in England.
- Camels domesticated in Arabia for the first time.
- Cotton cultivated in India for the first time.
- Silkworms raised in China for the first time.

2686-2181 B.C. OLD KINGDOM Dynasties III to VI

- Era of pyramid building; Great Pyramids are built.
- The Great Sphinx is built.
- A high point of Egyptian statue making.
- Cats are domesticated for the first time in history in Egypt.
- Yams cultivated in western Africa.
- Peanuts cultivated in tropical America.
- Surgical operations in Egypt.
- People of the pharaoh's court are having scenes from daily life painted on the walls of their mastaba tombs.
- Chinese astronomers record seeing a comet in the year 2296 B.C.
- The world's first maps are being made in Mesopotamia.

2181-2040 B.C. INTERMEDIATE PERIOD Dynasties VII to X

- Social turmoil and political chaos in Egypt.
- The world's first zoo is founded in China.
- Mathematics developing in Mesopotamia.
- First plows developed in Iraq.

2133-1786 B.C. MIDDLE KINGDOM Dynasties X & XII

- Time of glorious pharaohs.
- Royal Egyptian sculpture workshops reopened after long period of closure.
- Records of the movement of the stars and planets being kept in Babylonia.
- Babylonians develop first multiplication tables.
- Egyptians advanced in mathematics and geometry.
- Egyptians widely using papyrus as writing paper.

1786-1567 B.C. INTERMEDIATE PERIOD Dynasties XIII-XVII

- Time of great social and political disturbances in Egypt as Middle Kingdom collapses.
- Foreigners called "Hyksos" invade from the north.
- First horses introduced into Egypt from Asia.
- Phoenicians are using a 22 letter alphabet.
- The volcanic island of Thera in the Mediterranean Sea explodes in about 1645 B.C. This explosion probably destroyed the Minoan civilization on the nearby island of Crete.

1567-1085 B.C. NEW KINGDOM Dynasties XVIII - XX

- During the period, Egypt reaches the peak of its glory and splendor.
- Early in period, Hyksos driven from Egypt.
- Egypt ruled by Queen Hatshepsut, 1490-1468 B.C.
- Pharaoh Tutankhamon (King Tut) rules Egypt, 1347-1338 B.C.
- Books on medicine and surgery written in Egypt on papyrus.
- Egyptians building water clocks and making things out of glass.
- The Mycenaean culture is developing in Greece.
- Period of Egypt's greatest geographical expansion, including domination of Syria, Palestine and Nubia.
- Ramses the Great rules Egypt, 1290-1224 B.C. The great temples at Abu Simbel are built.
- Egyptians build a canal from the Nile to the Red Sea.

1185-900 B.C.

- Political divisions within Egypt; Egyptian power declines.
- The Mycenaean civilization destroyed by the Dorians in Greece. (Continued on Blackline Master 5)

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TIMELINE (Continued)**

900-851 B.C.

- A symbol for zero used in India for the first time in the world's history.
- Chinese use natural gas from gas wells.

800-751 B.C.

- The Olmecs build the first pyramids in Mexico.

776 B.C.

- The first Olympic games are held at Olympia in Greece, in honor of the god Zeus.

663 B.C.

- The great Egyptian city of Thebes is sacked by the Assyrians.

600 B.C.

- Phoenician sailors travel by ship all around Africa.

586 B.C.

- Jerusalem destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia.

585 B.C.

- May the 28th of this year is believed to be the first accurately known date in human history.

500 B.C.

- Certain people in Greece are teaching that the earth is ball shaped, not a flat disc.
- The first steel is made in India.

483 B.C.

- The Buddha, founder of Buddhism, dies in India.

457 B.C.

- Beginning of the "Golden Age" of Athens under Pericles.

400 B.C.

- The Persians invade Egypt.

390 B.C.

- A Greek astronomer suggests that the planets Venus and Mercury may orbit the sun.

332 B.C.

- The Macedonian Greek, Alexander the Great, conquers Egypt, bringing Greek culture to that land. Alexandria, a great city of science and culture, is founded on the Mediterranean shore of Egypt in honor of Alexander.

323 B.C.

- Alexander the Great dies. Macedonian pharaohs called the "Ptolemies" begin to govern Egypt.

260 B.C.

- The Great Wall of China is begun.

170 B.C.

- The first paved roads are built in Rome.

148 B.C.

- Macedonia becomes a Roman province.

146 B.C.

- Rome destroys the Greek city-state of Corinth.

91 B.C.

- The Great Wall of China is completed.

31 B.C.

- Rome conquers Egypt and makes it a province of Rome.

30 B.C.

- Cleopatra, the last Ptolemaic ruler, commits suicide, marking the end of independent rule in Egypt until modern times.

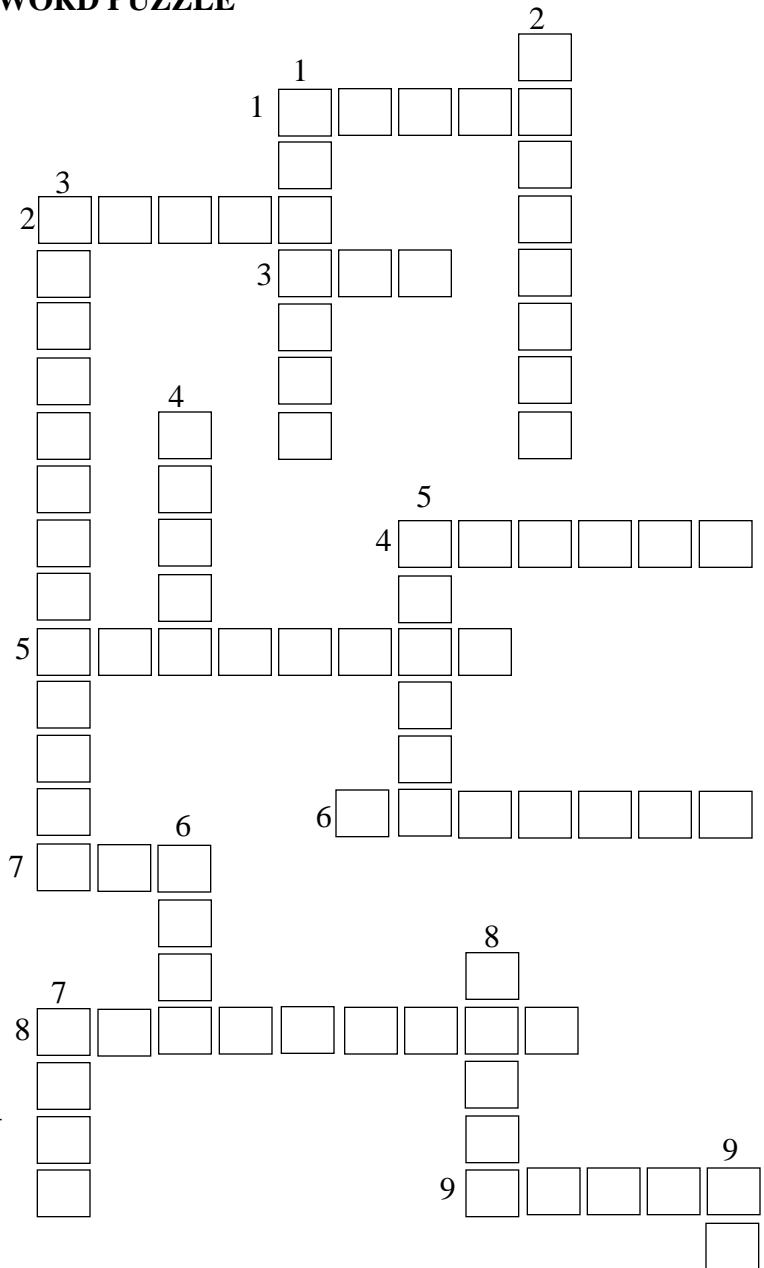
**ANCIENT EGYPT:
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

ACROSS

1. A dead body which has been preserved is called a _____.
2. The falcon god and protector of the rulers of ancient Egypt was named _____.
3. The tomb of the Egyptian ruler Tutankhamon, whom we know as King _____, was the richest tomb ever discovered because it was almost untouched by grave robbers.
4. An imaginary ancient Egyptian beast with the head of a man and the body of a lion is called a _____.
5. In ancient Egypt, rulers were called _____.
6. A plant of the Nile Delta that was used for making paper is called _____.
7. Re, also called Ra, was the _____ god in ancient Egypt.
8. Egypt was conquered by the son of the King of Macedonia in 332 B.C. He brought Greek culture to Egypt. He was called _____ the Great.
9. In ancient Egypt, the crocodile god was called _____.

DOWN

1. An ancient Egyptian burial building that looks like a flat-topped bench with sloped sides is called a _____.
2. The biggest buildings in ancient Egypt were tombs which had triangular sides and square bottoms; they are called _____.
3. Ancient Egyptian was written with little pictures. Today we call this kind of writing _____.
4. The fan-shaped land at the mouth of a river is called a _____ because it resembles the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet.
5. Most of Egypt is covered by the sands of the _____ desert.
6. Because it gets nearly all of its water from this great river, Egypt is sometimes called "The Gift of the _____."
7. The ancient Egyptian symbol for life is the _____.
8. The man who first united Upper and Lower Egypt around 3000 B.C. was King _____.
9. In ancient Egypt, food was placed in the grave with the mummy so that the _____ would not get hungry.



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FACTS ABOUT ANCIENT EGYPT

The capital city of Egypt today is Cairo, but long ago, its capital was the city of Memphis. Memphis had a population of 500,000 in ancient times.

In ancient Egypt, girls married at about age 12, boys at 14. The average lifetime was 40 years.

Every pharaoh had five names. We use their fifth name, but the Egyptians used their fourth name.

By the time King Tutankhamon died in 1347 B.C., the pyramids and Sphinx at Giza were already 1300 years old.

Egyptians ate lettuce, onions, beans, cucumbers, lentils, garlic, barley, grapes, figs, dates, melons, pomegranates, honey, bread, fish, ducks, oxen, and geese. They drank milk, water, beer, and wine.

Paper was made from papyrus by cutting the inner layers of the reed into strips. The strips were placed in horizontal and vertical layers and squashed into a sheet, then the sheet was dried and polished with a stone to make paper.

Papyrus plants can grow to be 13 feet tall.

At banquets, rich ladies wore perfume cones on their braided wigs. As the evening passed, the sweet-smelling perfume would melt and run down over their dresses.

In ancient Egypt, music was played on harps, trumpets, clarinets, lutes, oboes, double flutes, bells, rattles, castanets, lyres, and tambourines. Professional musicians and dancing girls were hired to entertain at banquets.

Heavy stones or statues were moved with the use of wooden sleds. As the sleds were pulled along, water was poured in front of the runners to make the ground slippery. A 23-foot statue, such as the one of Pharaoh Ramses the Great, weighed 60 tons and it took 172 men to pull it over the ground.

The Great Pyramid is made up of over two million stones blocks and each block weighs two and one-half tons.

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ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION

Some gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt:

AMON: Creator god

ANUBIS: Jackal god who helped mummies enter the underworld

HATHOR: Goddess of love

HORUS: Falcon god, protector of Pharaohs

ISIS: Gifted with magic, especially protected children

OSIRIS : Has the body of a mummy; protector of the underworld

RE (RA): The sun god

SOBEK: Crocodile god

THOTH: God of writing and knowledge

Ancient Egyptian religious beliefs and practices:

The ancient Egyptians were polytheistic, meaning they worshipped many gods and goddesses. As with modern-day religions, their religion helped them understand the world around them. They sought the help of gods in difficult times.

Besides the gods listed above, the ancient Egyptians worshipped household gods and village gods. Most people had small altars in their houses or chapels in their gardens.

On special holy days, they went to the public temples. Ordinary people were not allowed beyond the first courtyard, for the inner part of the temple was reserved for the high priests. It was in the inner temple that priests made offerings to the gods.

It was because of their religious belief in an afterlife that the ancient Egyptians made such elaborate funeral preparations.

The pharaoh was believed to be the son of Re, the sun god. It was believed that after death, the pharaoh would join the sun in its daily journey across the sky. Another belief was that after death, the pharaoh would join the god Osiris to rule in the underworld.

One of the symbolic rituals performed on the pharaoh's mummy was the "opening the mouth" ceremony. After the mummy was prepared, the mouth would be ceremonially opened with an adze, a special cutting tool, to restore life to the mummy.