

Section Reading Support HOW 63 Ancient Egypt and Nubia, Section 3

Egyptian Religion

Beliefs

- Gods and goddesses controlled the workings of nature
- Ancient Egyptians believed in several groups of gods; Osiris, Isis, Horus, and Amon-Re were some of the important gods
- Ancient Egyptians believed in life after death; souls needed food, clothing, and other items
- A spirit would exist in the afterlife if the body was made into a mummy

Practices

- Bodies of important people were mummified
- Coffins to hold the mummy were carved; pharaohs had three or four coffins, one inside of another
- Tombs were built to hold the remains of the pharaohs
- A person's possessions were buried with him or her

Pyramids

- Most pyramids built during Old Kingdom
- The largest pyramid, the Great Pyramid, was built in Giza for Khufu, second king of the Fourth Dynasty
- It took up to 20 years to build a pyramid—stones weighed 5,000 pounds each on average
- Pyramids are located on the west side of the Nile—Egyptians believed the west was the land of the dead