



Cornerstones

Egyptian hierarchy

Pharaoh

Egyptian society had a strict hierarchy with the pharaoh at the top.

The pharaoh was the richest and most powerful person. They owned all of Egypt.

He or she decided what was right and wrong and the laws of the land.

Egyptian people believed that the pharaoh was a god on Earth.



Priests

In Egyptian society, priests were very important, as they were responsible for keeping the gods happy.

The priests performed complicated rituals and ceremonies to the god of their temple.

They had to be pure and clean, so they shaved their heads and bodies and washed four times a day.



Vizier

The vizier was the pharaoh's senior adviser and sometimes called the high priest.

He managed administration, controlled the supply of food, settled arguments between nobles and protected the Pharaoh's family.

All official documents had to have the vizier's seal of approval.



Nobles

Rich and powerful nobles ruled the regions and districts of Egypt (nomes).

They made local laws and controlled their area for the pharaoh.



Farmers

Farmers produced crops from the pharaoh's and nobles' land. They received housing, food and clothes in return.

More wealthy farmers rented land. They paid the nobles by giving them a percentage of their crop as rent.



Scribes

Scribes were some of the few people in Egyptian society who knew how to read and write. They had a very important role in the hierarchy.

Scribes kept accurate records and information, such as the size of the harvest, numbers of soldiers in the army, and the type and number of gifts given to the gods.

Learning to read and write was complicated. There were hundreds of hieroglyphs to remember!

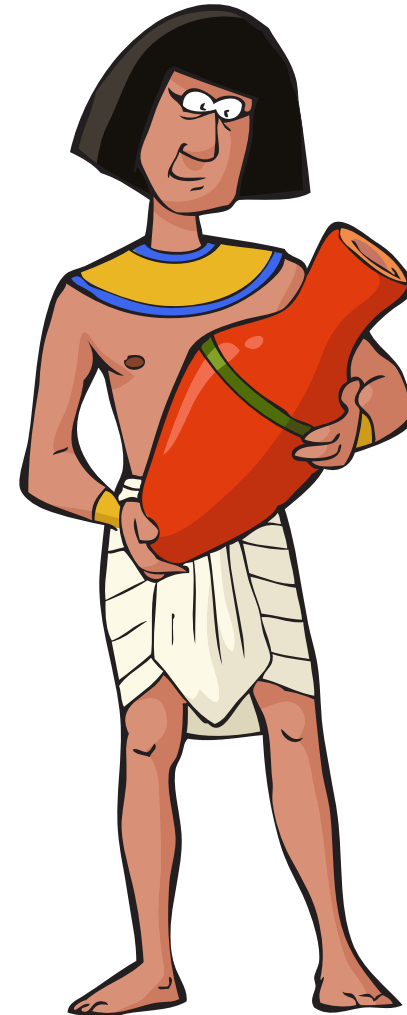


Craftspeople

Egyptians were some of the most highly skilled craftspeople in history. Trades were passed down from generation to generation.

Groups of craftspeople often worked together in workshops.

They used simple tools and techniques to make everyday things, like pots and furniture. They also made beautiful art and decorations.

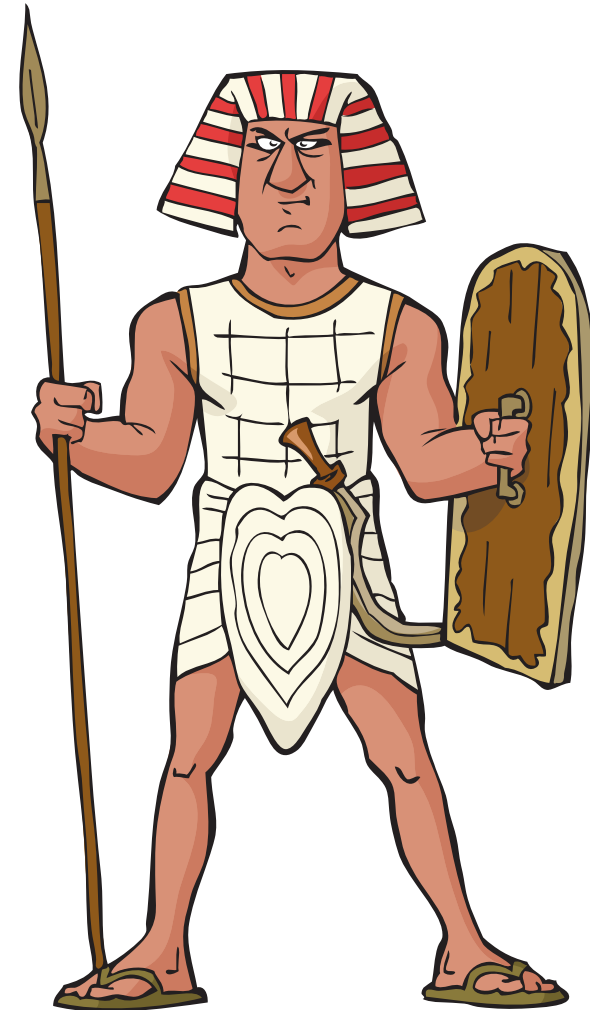


Soldiers

Soldiers were responsible for keeping the country safe. It was a dangerous occupation in times of war.

Many second sons joined the army, including the pharaoh's children.

Soldiers were rewarded for brave service. They were given riches captured from their enemies and sometimes even land.



Slaves, labourers and peasants

Slaves were usually prisoners who had been captured in war. They were used in the households of the pharaoh and the nobles.

They also worked in mines, quarries and temples.

Slaves were at the bottom of society and had no rights.

