

# Daily Life

## OCCUPATIONS

Egyptian society was arranged like a pyramid. The cap stone was represented by the pharaoh. Next was the upper class made up of highpriests and viziers followed by armygenerals, priests, and government officials. The next layer was larger. It was the middle class made of merchants, ~~soldiers~~ soldiers, and artisans. The bottom layer was the largest and it was made of farmers, laborers, peasants, and servants.

Many jobs existed in Egypt. your job usually depended upon what your father did for a living. Although few jobs were available for women, they were allowed to work. Egyptian society treated women much better than other ancient civilizations. They had rights and were not dependent on their husbands. Slaves were not too common in Egypt as many people believe and they also had many rights.

## HOMES

Egyptian towns were not set up like the Mesopotamians. They did not differentiate by class. Often the upper class would live next door to the lower class. What did differ, however, was the style of house. The lower class homes usually had one room with a flat roof that was used for sleeping in the hot

weather. Wealthy homes often had several rooms and a pleasure garden where the family would relax and entertain guests. The walls were often painted and the homes had pillars to hold up the ceiling. Wealthy people also had furniture and even a separate bathroom! Although the homes were different in style, they were both made out of sun-dried mud brick. Stone was only used for temples and monuments.

### FOOD AND DRINK

The most common food in Egypt was bread and the most common drink was beer. Only the wealthy could afford meat and wine. Granaries were kept to prevent famine. They were well guarded and strict records were kept on their contents. Since the Egyptians did not use money, they bartered for goods. Laborers were paid with bread and beer. Commoners as well as the upper class would go to the marketplace to exchange goods. Thieves were a problem so merchants would train baboons to protect their goods from theft.

### ENTERTAINMENT

Egyptians found many things to do in their free time. They were fond of board games and story telling. Musicians and dancers were hired to entertain at wealthy banquets. Wrestling was also a popular sport and sometimes people would

hire professional wrestlers to entertain at their parties. In addition to providing food, hunting was a form of entertainment. Sometimes the entire family, including the cat would go hunting together. Children who did not go to school played often. They had cattles, wooden animals dolls and pets. They would play games like tug-of-war and leap frog.

### CLOTHING AND COSMETICS

Egyptians wore the same basic style for centuries. Men wore kilts or loin cloths and women wore straight sleeveless dresses to the ankles. All clothes were made of linen because it was light and plentiful. Children rarely wore any clothes until the age of ten! Sandals were made from papyrus or leather and were worn to protect the feet from the hot sand.

Both men and women wore make-up to make themselves more attractive and prevent eye diseases. They also would shave their heads and wear wigs to protect their heads from the harsh sun. Children also had shaved heads except for a lock of hair called the lock of youth or a side lock. Women often attached fragrance cones to their heads so they could smell good. Jewelry was worn by both men and women who could afford it. It was worn for decoration and protection.