Name:	 /
Period:	

Assignment **2A** 



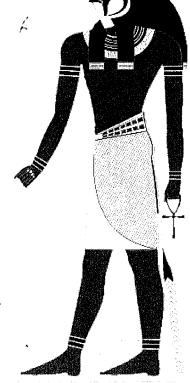
## Isis, Osiris and the Egyptian Afterlife

The people of ancient Egypt did not have scientific explanations for natural phenomena. They believed sunshine and the great Nile River were gifts from their many gods. The beliefs of the ancient Egyptians slowly changed over time, but many of their legends influenced Egyptian culture for thousands of years.

The ancient Egyptians believed Ra was the sun god who came to earth as the first ruler of Egypt. Egypt became very rich during Ra's rule, but the people grew lazy and neglected to honor the sun god, so Ra used his magic to create a bloodthirsty lioness god named Sekhmet. Sekhmet reminded the Egyptian people of the power of Ra by terrorizing the Nile River Valley. When the Egyptian people showed their appreciation, Ra used magic to tame Sekhment and turn her into Hathor, the goddess of love. This lesson tells us the Egyptian people both valued and feared the sun. The sun made it

possible for Egyptian crops to grow, but the sun could also turn good farmland into desert where no crops would grow.

Ra's many children included Osiris and Isis, the brother and sister who ruled the Nile River Valley after they taught the Egyptians to farm and domesticate animals. The Egyptian people praised Osiris and Isis for the many gifts they bestowed on their civilization. Seth was their jealous brother and the god of storms. Seth invited all of the gods to a great party. Near the end of the feast, Seth brought in a beautiful cedar chest.



Horus is often depicted as having the body of a man and the head of a falcon.

"I will give this chest to whosoever fits in it most exactly!" The gods tried to fit into the box, but everyone was too big or too small. Seth had carefully measured his brother so that only he would fit in the chest space. Osiris was the last of the guests to lay down in the chest.

"I am the exact fit, so the chest is mine," cried Osiris and he climbed into the container.

"It is your chest and it is where you will be forever," replied Seth as he sealed the lid and cast the chest and Osiris into the Nile. Isis recovered her brother's body and returned it to Egypt. When Seth discovered what Isis had done, he ripped opened the chest, tore the body of Osiris into fourteen pieces, and scattered the pieces along the whole length of the Nile.

The people of ancient Egypt believed that when their gods left this world they could live in an afterlife. The afterlife was a perfect version of ancient Egypt. In order to get to the afterlife, however, the gods first had to pass through the underworld. The underworld was a strange and dangerous place filled with fantastic and dangerous creatures. Traveling through the afterworld required the Egyptian gods to be very clever because they had to complete many tasks. The Egyptians believed that their gods could not reach the afterlife unless their bodies remained in one piece in Egypt. Isis knew the body of Osiris had to be intact and buried in Egyptian sand, so when she found the pieces of her brother, she buried Osiris in a secret place where Seth could not him.

Horus was the son of Isis and the god of the sky. Horus took the form of a falcon and brought the sun with him each day as he flew across the sky. The eyes of Horus were said to be the sun and the moon, but the moon was not as bright because it was damaged by Seth in a great battle conflict. Horus subdued Seth, but he was never able to kill his uncle. This legend of Horus and Seth helps to explain why the Egyptians believed that they could never completely defeat evil and chaos.

<sup>\*</sup>This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.

Name:	Assignment		别国别兄	EGYPT
Period:	2B	WW	ń.mrdöv	vling.com
Fill in t	he Blanks	3		
The people of ancient Egypt believed in many	g an	d gde_	_ss. They	believed that
Ra, their god of the s, came to er_h as the	ne first rl_	_r of Egypt.	When the Ea	gyptian people
began to disregard Ra, the sun god unleashed a ter	rrible l <u></u> o_	_es god na	med Sk_	_et on the
people, but when the Egyptians showed their *a	_pei	ton to Ra,	the sun god	used his
$m\_g\_c$ to turn Sekmet into $H\_t\_or$ , the god	dess of l	•		
Osiris, Isis and Seth were c <u>i</u> den of Ra.	Seth tricked	d Oiis i	nto climbing	into a giant
$c$ and then threw the chest into the $N$ _	Isis	*rti	vd the che	est, so the
enraged Seth tore his brother's body into $f_u_t$	en pieces.	Isis recover	ed the pieces	of Osiris' body
because the $E\_y\_t\_a\_s$ believed their gods h	nad to be b_	_red in on	e piece in ord	ler to travel to
the atrie.				
Seth was finally defeated in a great battle H	r_s. Horus	s was Seth's †	<sup>6</sup> np_ew :	and the god of
the $s$ The legends say that Horus would tak	e the form of	a fl_on	and fly acros	s the sky each
day. The eyes of Horus eyes were the s $\_$ and t	the m	_, but the mo	on was not a	as bright as the
sun because it had been damaged in Horus' battle	with S	·		
*1. Why do you think Ra was one of the most import				
$\overline{}$		$\overline{}$	X	
	$\overline{}$	2		
2. Why was it necessary for Isis to find and rebuild t	he body of Os	iris?		
•				
11.1166	· · · · ·			
3. How was the underworld different from the afterl	iie?			
4. According to Egyptian mythology, why were the E	Egyptians neve	er able to com	pletely defea	t evil and chaos?
		^		
	$\longrightarrow$		$ \!$	

<sup>\*</sup>This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.