

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ra, God of the Sun

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Religion was important in the daily life of Egyptians. They worshiped many gods and goddesses. **Ra** (RAH) was the sun god. It was believed that he created the world. His name is also spelled Re. To the early Egyptians, the sun was the symbol of creation.

The Egyptians believed that Ra sailed across the sky every day in a golden boat. At sunset, Ra sailed into the underworld. Temples to honor Ra were obelisks, and the sun itself became part of the temple as it rose to the top of the obelisk. (An obelisk is a tall, slender stone pillar that has a square base and four sides that come to a point at the top like a pyramid.) In the daytime, Ra had the head of a hawk with a sun disk on top. At night, he had the head of a ram and the body and wings of a vulture.

Over the many years of Egyptian history, ideas about the gods changed. The gods took on each other's roles or merged with other gods. Ra merged with the god Horus. That god was known as Ra-Horakhty. Ra combined with Amun (or Amon) and was known as Amun-Ra (or Re-Amon - there were different spellings of both). When merged with Atum, he was Atum-Ra. The god Ra lived on in varied forms until the Romans took over Egypt in the first century.

Ra, God of the Sun

## Questions

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1. Ra (or Re) was god of the \_\_\_\_\_.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Temples to honor the god Ra were of what shape?

- A. obelisks
- B. vultures
- C. pyramids
- D. steps

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Where did Egyptians believe Ra was during the daytime?

- A. in the underworld
- B. in heaven
- C. sailing across the sky in a golden boat
- D. inside his temple

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Where did Egyptians believe Ra was during the nighttime?
- A. in the underworld
  - B. sailing across the sky in a golden boat
  - C. in heaven
  - D. inside his temple

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How many of these can you write about? Think! Write! Check all the ones you answered.

- How are obelisks like pyramids? How are they different? Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting the two. Then draw a picture of each to illustrate your paragraph.
- Do research and make a list of some Egyptian gods and goddesses.

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