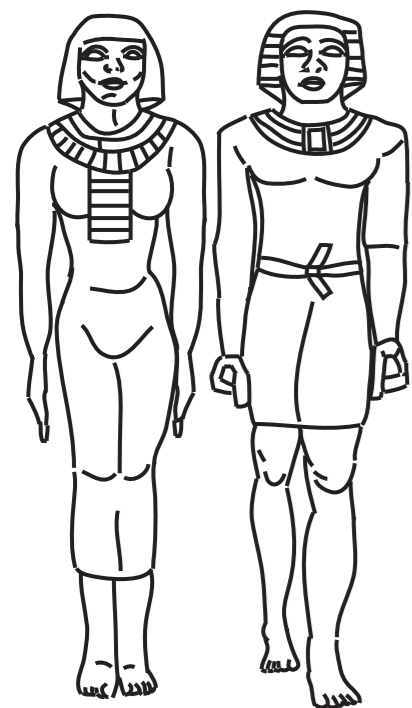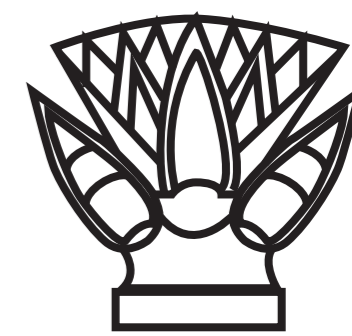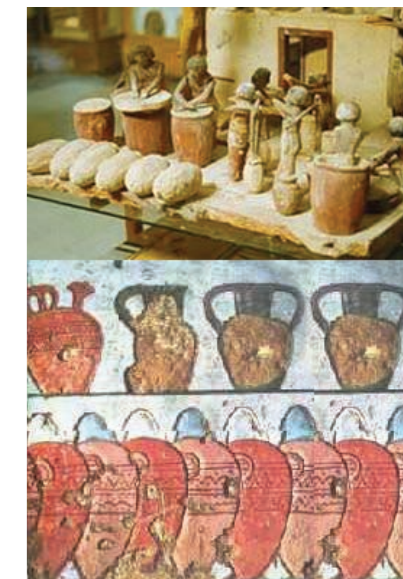# Ancient Egyptian Life
Workplace - Lower Class

Around five thousand years ago people settled in the delta valley in Egypt About a thousand years later the people started domesticating animals. Bulls were used to plow fields. The majority of people were farmers. Egypt grew in size and needed much grain to feed its people.
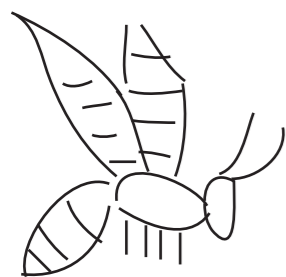
Beer making was an everyday staple of the Egyptian lifestyle. Adults, children, rich and poor all drank beer. Not like today's beer, more likely sweet by adding dates or figs and nourishing from bread grains and yeast.

The reason behind so much beer was that they did not have safe drinking water, and Egypt being a desert did not have a lot of water. What little water they had was used for crops.
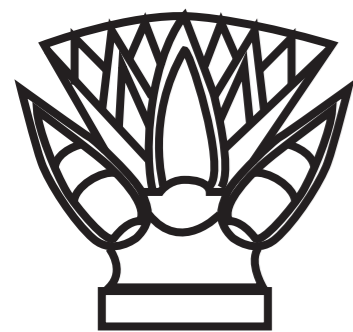
Beekeeping has been practiced ever since ancient Egypt. Several temples have depictions of the process of extracting honey. Honey was only for the rich. It was used for its sweetness in food and for medical uses. It was also dangerous work as the beekeepers had no protective gear.
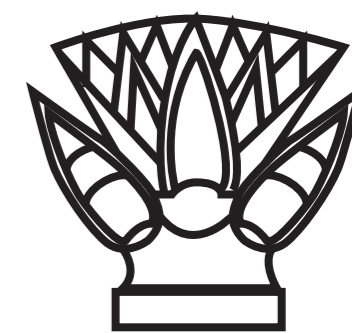
Pottery is almost exactly the same now as it was in ancient Egypt. Clay was molded by hand on a potter's wheel and burned in a kiln. Egyptians often painted and added designs to their pots. They used ceramics for everything, jugs for beer and wine, plates, toys, beaded jewelry, and small figurines of their gods to pray to.

What do you think?

Imagine you lived in ancient Egypt.
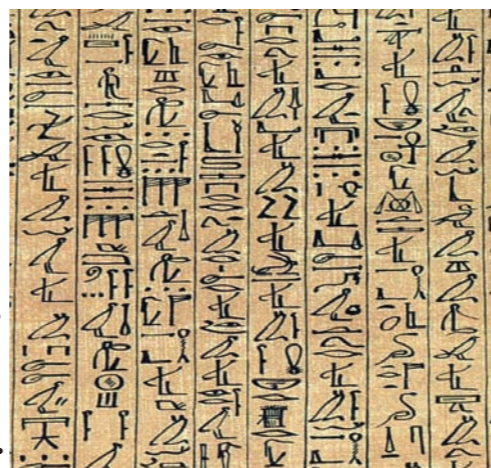Which job would you like to have? Explain.

Vocabulary Terms

Dates - small edible sweet fruit that come from from a palm tree

Domesticate - changing a plant or animal to meet the needs of humans

Kiln - an oven used to fire and harden clay to ceramics

Depictions - representations usually visual, in pictures, drawings or lines

Ancient Egyptian Life
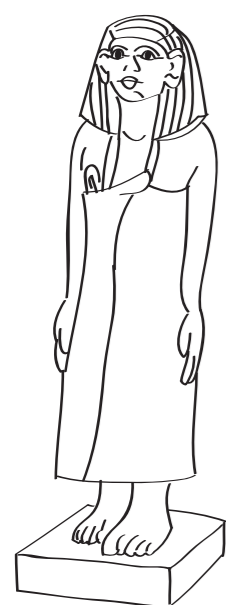## Workplace - Upper Class

What is known of ancient times comes largely from the work of scribes. Young men went to school to learn to be a scribe. Everything was written down - notes to loved ones, grain amounts in storage, official pharaoh documents. Papyrus made of reed mats are still found today with their colorful writing and pictures on them.

Stone was a major building material. The main types of stone were, limestone, granite, sandstone and alabaster. One of the three Giza pyramids had more than two million blocks. Quarries of stones can be found near most of all the large temples and monuments. Carvings are on everything the Egyptians built or made. Hundreds of stone masons worked on carvings for the insides of tombs and the pharaoh's household. First they would draw and then chisel and hammer out the drawing, smoothing it until finished.

The priest's job was to care for the god of that temple. Even in small towns there was a temple. Food was prepared and laid out at the feet of the god's likeness three times a day. As caretakers of the gods' temples priests received gifts of wealth. Appeasing the gods and their priests was meant to ward off disasters such as drought, or pests destroying crops.
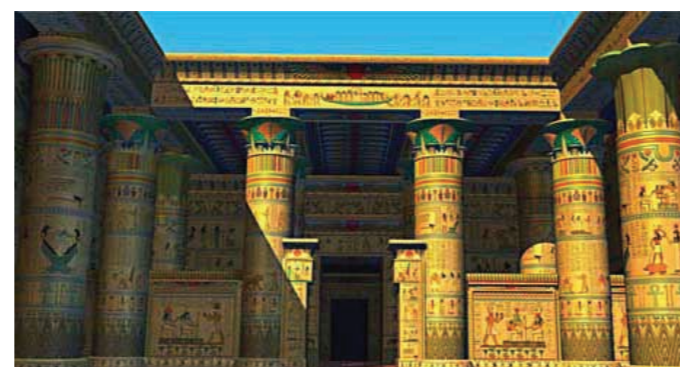
A noble man was a person of great respect and power in a town or village; most were related by blood to the pharaoh's family. They were often a mayor or officials to the pharaoh themselves. As a mayor of a sector they took reports on the crops and dealt with taxes paid to the pharaoh, even settled small disputes between townsfolk. If they were officials of the Pharaoh they helped to make decisions regarding other countries, or prepare for festival and religious events the pharaoh attended.

What do you think?

If you were a noble man in ancient times what would you do that was positive in your town?
Even not being a government official what can people do to be good citizens of a country?
Is it different in modern times than ancient times?

Vocabulary Terms

Alabaster - Is a white colored mineral that can be cut with a knife

Temple - A building reserved for spiritual or religious rites.

Papyrus - Thick grasslike plant pressed down into flat pieces.

Taxes - To levy money on a population to pay for the state needs.