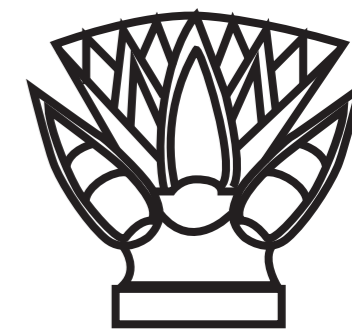


Ancient Egyptian Life Animal Worship 1



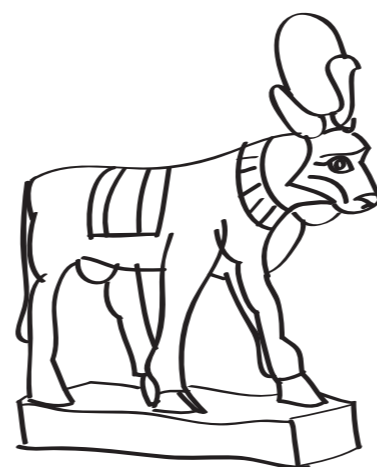
Cats were an important animal to people in ancient Egypt. The cat goddess Bast was worshipped for 3000 years or more up until 390 AD. Cats were praised for their natural ability to catch mice and snakes, which protected stored grain from these pests. It was even considered a death sentence if a cat was killed accidentally. Thousands of mummified cats have been found in tombs and graves.



Crocodiles were formidable animals of the Nile River. The river was widely used for transportation. Sailors would pray to god of crocodiles, Sobek, in the hopes that a crocodile wouldn't eat them. Like other highly worshipped animals, crocodiles were mummified when they died.

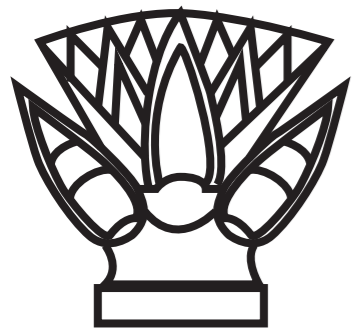


The Apis bull was said to be the god Osiris incarnate. They were treated so well that an Apis bull had his own harem of cows. When one was found it was floated down on a huge barge down the Nile River to the temple where it would live out its natural life. When this special bull died it was embalmed and mummified. He would then be placed into a sarcophagus.



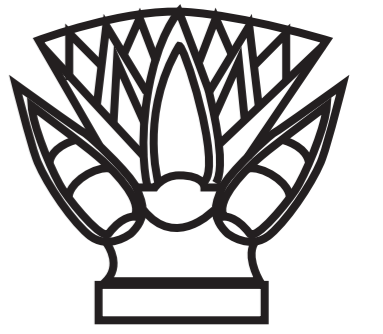
What do you think?

Think about an animal that you believe might be worth worshipping to in an ancient society. Draw and write about why they would be a good animal here in this box.

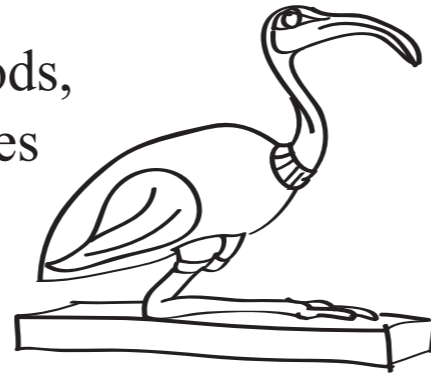


Ancient Egyptian Life

Animal Worship 2



This small bird, the ibis, was associated with the god Thoth. Thoth was the scribe of all the gods, and was believed to judge disputes between the gods. The most common ibis bird was white and black, called the African Sacred Ibis. These birds can still be found in Egypt.



Think about an animal that you believe might be worth worshipping to in an ancient society. Draw and write about why they would be a good animal here in this box.



Since falcons and hawks flew high in the sky against the backdrop of the sun, they were associated with Horus the sun god. Horus was one of the most revered gods. He was the protector of the pharaohs. Horus was often shown in art as a bird of prey. He is really a “super” hawk, as he is made up of many birds. He has the wings of an eagle, and eyes of a falcon.



The Egyptian Cobra is found all over Africa, even today. The cobra is poisonous but its venom can also be used to cure its bites. The snake was portrayed as the goddess Wadjet, the protector of the pharaohs and all of Lower Egypt. Wadjet is seen on all official headdresses worn by the pharaohs of Egypt.

