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LABBEAST Egyptian Gods

Templates of 16 Egyptian gods with animal heads to color-in and trace



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Egyptian Gods

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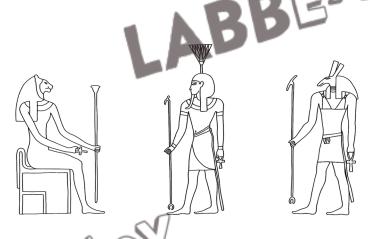
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INTRODUCTION

Egyptian Gods

The Egyptians mostly often conceived of their gods as part animal, and they therefore depicted them as half animal, half human. Most of their gods have a human body and an animal head. The 20-meter high Sphinx of Giza is, on the other hand, composed of a lion's body and a human head.

When you see Egyptian relief carvings and wall murals for the first time, they're hard to get your head around. It makes you wonder if the ancient Egyptians had a 'kink' in their optics. You quickly get used to their style of representation, however, and after a while the lack of realism doesn't bother you. It's essential to know that the Egyptians represented nature in a completely different way than we're used to. Their artists weren't interested in reproducing reality as it looks – what mattered was to paint what was important for the client.



This distinctive Egyptian style had a set of fixed rules that every artist learned from an early age. Seated forms had to be depicted with their hands resting on their knees. Men's skin was depicted darker than women's. Egyptian artists had to leave out everything that was unimportant – the images were meant to fulfill a certain function and only ever show the most important things: A head is best recognized in profile, so it was drawn from the side. The upper body, shoulders, and chest are shown better from the front, so they were drawn from the front. Arms and legs are again more noticeable when seen from the side, so the artists depicted them from the side. This is why Egyptians look so flattened and twisted in their images.

Walking Egyptians appear to have two left feet. You mustn't think that the Egyptians believed people really looked like that, of course. They were just following a strict religious rule: Meaning is more important than reality. The same goes for the proportions: If someone was said to be "a great man" in the sense of 'powerful,' an Egyptian artist would depict that person as taller than his servants or his wife. Children today sometimes draw in this way.

Micha Labbé

Coloring-in the Images

The figures of the gods were mostly painted in color. An unpainted figure was considered incomplete - it simply didn't exist. The color palette of the Egyptians was simple and clear: Black, white, red, yellow, blue, and green - artists used nothing else. There's nothing preventing you from painting these figures in other, brighter, more modern colors such as shocking pink or neon green, however... They'll look awesome!



Copying the Images

These formally strict, rigid figures were painted from memory, which is not so easy! You quickly notice this when you try to copy Egyptian pictures. The results can often turn out a bit crooked or distorted. The smallest inconsistency throws off the whole effect. That's why the Egyptians developed a sophisticated copying system to transfer their pictures and designs onto walls. They laid a grid of squares over the designs, then corresponding grid lines were drawn on the wall and, finally, the artist copied the drawing - square by square.

These materials consist of coloring in templates of 16 Egyptian gods with animal heads. The pictures can be colored in individually, each with its own frame. In addition, you have the opportunity to learn about the fascinating Egyptian copying system that was used to produce wall drawings and to work like an Egyptian artist from over 5000 years ago. We've prepared worksheets for all 16 figures with corresponding guidelines just for this!



