

# Ancient Egyptian Food, Jobs, Daily Life

## What did they wear?

Looking nice and being clean was very important to the Egyptians. Most everyone, men and women, wore jewelry of some type. The rich wore jewelry made of gold and silver, while the poorer people used copper.

Makeup was important as well. Makeup was worn by both men and women. They had cosmetic cases they would carry around. The main type of makeup used was eye paint.

Because it was so hot, most people wore white linen clothes. Men wore kilts and women wore a straight dress.



## Where did they live?

The average family lived in a village of sun baked mud houses. The houses were fairly small with few windows or furniture. They had flat roofs where people would sleep in the summer when it was too hot inside.

## What did they eat?

The main staple of the commoner was bread. They also had fruits, vegetables, lamb and goats for food. They had clay ovens to cook in and usually used dishes made of clay. The main drink was beer made from barley.

## What kinds of jobs did they have?

Ancient Egypt was a complex society needing people doing many different tasks and jobs. Some of the jobs they had included:

- **Farmers** - most of the people were farmers. They grew barley to make beer, wheat for bread, vegetables such as onions and cucumbers, and flax to make into linen. They grew their crops near the banks of the Nile River where the rich black soil was good for crops.
- **Craftspeople** - There were a wide variety of craftsmen jobs. They included carpenters, weavers, jewelers, leather workers, and potters.
- **Soldiers** - Becoming a soldier was an opportunity for a person to rise in society. Most of the soldiers were footmen. In peacetime, soldiers would help with government projects: moving stone for a pyramid, digging a canal, etc.
- **Scribes** - Scribes were important people in Ancient Egypt as they were the only people who knew how to read and write. Scribes came from wealthy families and took years of training to learn the complex Egyptian hieroglyphics.
- **Priests and Priestesses** - Priests and Priestesses were responsible for the temples and held religious ceremonies.

## Fun Facts about Ancient Egyptian Daily Life

- The bread the Egyptians ate was so rough that it caused their teeth to wear away.
- The inside of houses was often painted with scenes from nature or colorful patterns.
- Women could hold important jobs in Ancient Egyptian society including high ranking positions such as priestesses, supervisors, and administrators. Some women reached the highest ranking posts in the land. Hatshepsut, a woman, became one of Egypt's most powerful Pharaohs.
- The average peasant girl married young, around the age of 12.