

## Learn Egyptian mythology from great works of art



### ABC Egyptian mythology in Art

#### *Acknowledgement*

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Front cover: 22nd dynasty, Triade d'Osorkon, 865-830 BCE  
Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

Back cover: Middle Kingdom, Sphinx of Amenemhat III, 1831-1786 BCE  
The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, Egypt

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# ABC Egyptian mythology in Art

# A is for Amun

Amun is the god of the air and sun, who became the king of the gods and was later merged with Ra to form Amun-Ra, symbolizing supreme power and creation



Nubian  
Amulet of Amun, c. 722-332 BCE  
Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, US

# B is for Bastet

Bastet is the goddess of home, fertility, childbirth, and protection, depicted as a lioness or a domestic cat, and revered for her dual nature as both a nurturing mother figure and a fierce protector against evil spirits and disease



Late Period  
Figurine Bastet, c. 664-332 BCE  
Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

# C is for Chonsu

Chonsu (or Khonsu) is the god of the moon and time, often depicted as a young man with a sidelock of youth and a lunar disk, known for his role in healing, protection, and controlling the passage of time



Late Period  
Statuette of Khonsu, c. 664-525 BCE  
The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, US

# D is for Duamutef

Duamutef is one of the Four Sons of Horus, depicted as a jackal-headed god, responsible for protecting the stomach of the deceased and associated with the east, under the guardianship of the goddess Neith



Nineteenth Dynasty-New Kingdom  
Canopic Jar, c. 1250 BCE  
The Penn Museum, Philadelphia, US

# E is for Ennead

The Ennead is a group of nine deities, worshipped primarily at Heliopolis, consisting of Atum, Shu, Tefnut, Geb, Nut, Osiris, Isis, Seth, and Nephthys, who together represent the creation myth and the lineage of the gods



19th Dynasty  
'Book of the Dead', Papyrus of Ani, c. 1250 BCE  
The British Museum, London, UK

# F is for Four Sons of Horus

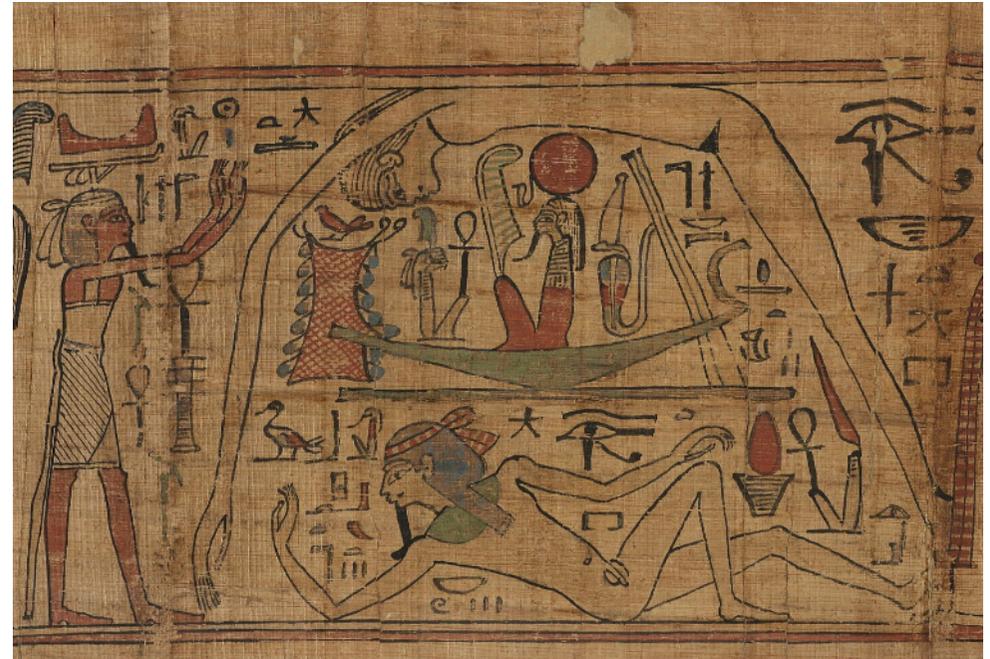
The Four Sons of Horus - Imsety, Hapi, Duamutef, and Qebhsenuf—are protective deities, each guarding a specific organ of the deceased during the mummification process and represented by canopic jars in which these organs were stored



21st Dynasty  
Canopic jars of Neskhons, c. 1077-943 BCE  
The British Museum, London, UK

# G is for Geb

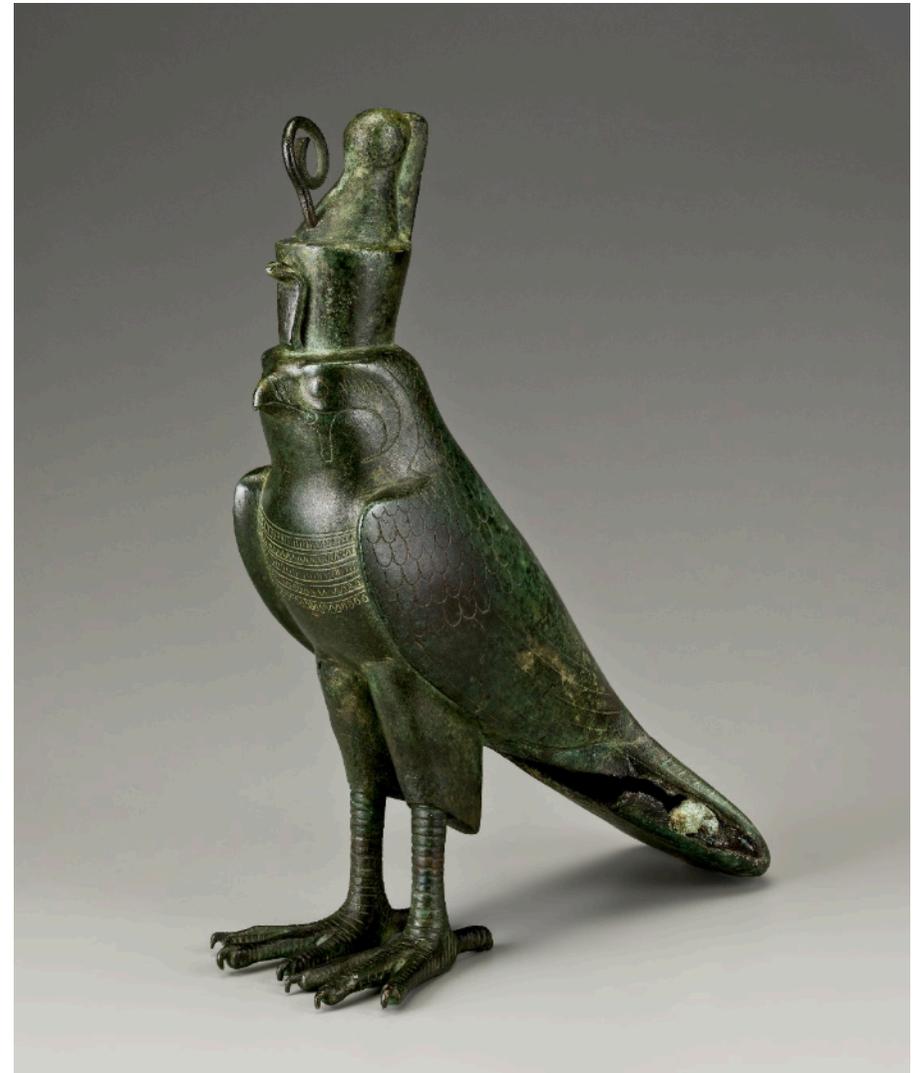
Geb is the god of the earth, father of snakes, and a key figure in the Ennead of Heliopolis, often depicted lying beneath the sky goddess Nut and associated with fertility, earthquakes, and the natural world



21st Dynasty  
Part of papyrus mythologique de Nespakachouty, c. 1069-943 BCE  
Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

# H is for Horus

Horus is the god of the sky, kingship, and protection, often depicted as a falcon or a man with a falcon head, symbolizing divine rulership, and known for avenging his father Osiris by defeating Seth to become the rightful king of Egypt



Late Period-Ptolemaic Period  
Horus Falcon Wearing Double Crown, c. 664-30 BCE  
The Brooklyn Museum, New York, US

# I is for Isis

Isis is the goddess of magic, healing, motherhood, and fertility, known as the wife of Osiris and mother of Horus, revered for her role in protecting her family, resurrecting Osiris, and her magical abilities that made her one of the most powerful deities in Egyptian mythology



Late Period  
Isis with Horus, c. 664-332 BCE  
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

# J is for Jackal-headed Anubis

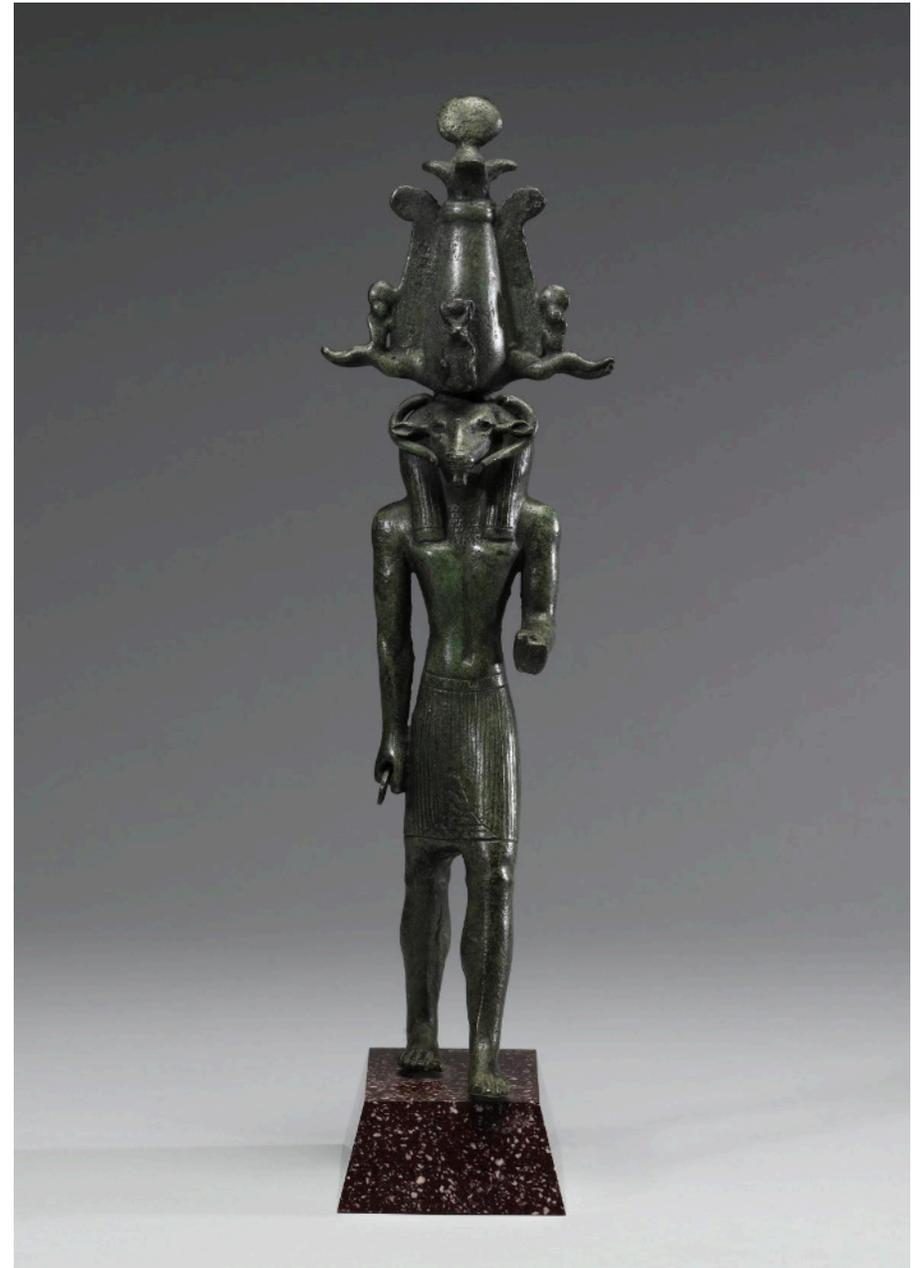
Anubis is the god of mummification and the afterlife, depicted with a jackal head, who guided souls to the afterlife and protected the deceased



Ptolemaic Period  
Statuette of Anubis, c. 332-30 BCE  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US

# K is for Khnum

Khnum is the god of creation and the Nile's source, depicted as a ram-headed deity, who was believed to fashion humans and their ka (soul) on a potter's wheel from clay, and was associated with fertility and water



Standing Khnum  
The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, US

# L is for Lates fish

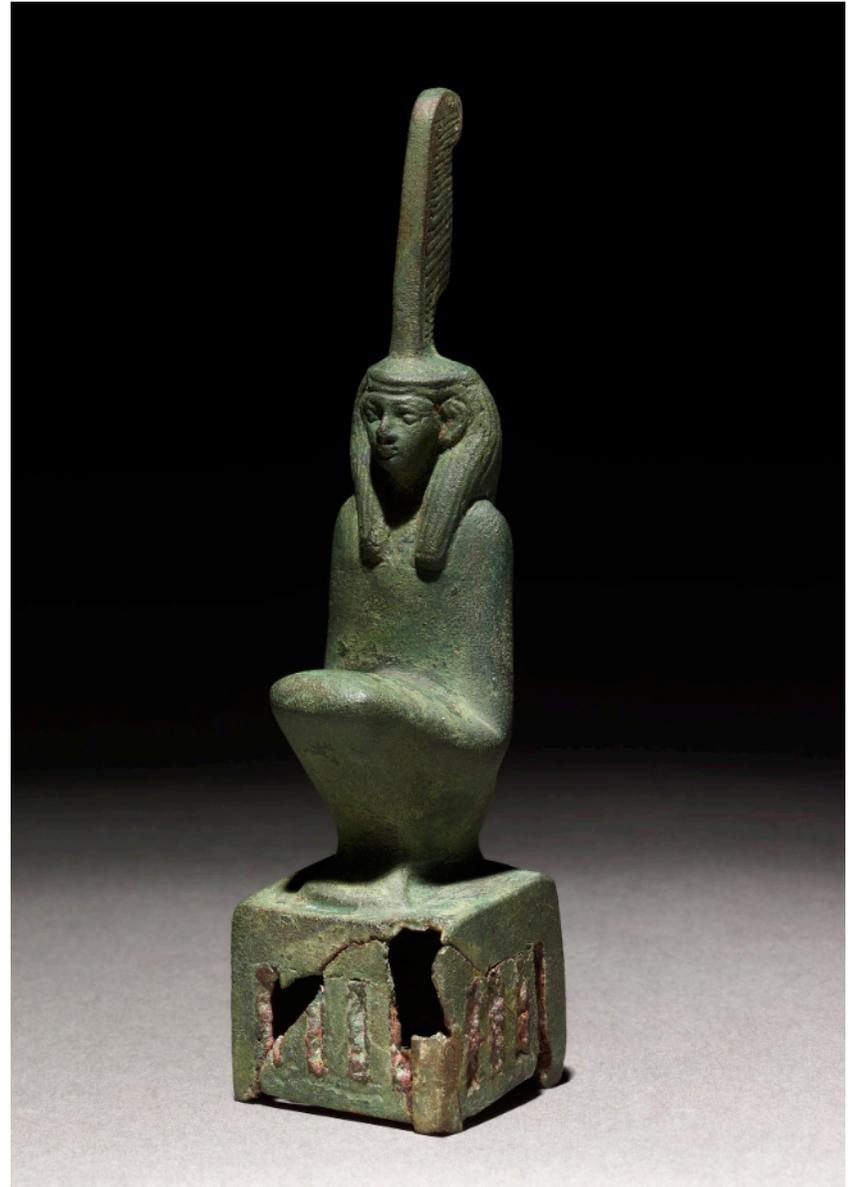
The Lates fish (Nile perch) was considered sacred, associated with fertility and protection, and believed to have swallowed part of the dismembered god Osiris, symbolizing rebirth and the cycle of life



Late Period-Ptolemaic Period  
Lepidotus fish, c. 664-30 BCE  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US

# M is for Ma'at

Ma'at is the goddess of truth, justice, balance, and cosmic order, often depicted with an ostrich feather on her head, symbolizing the principles that maintained the universe's harmony, and her feather was used to weigh the hearts of the deceased in the afterlife



Late Period  
Figure of the goddess Maat, c. 664-332 BCE  
The British Museum, London, UK

# N is for Nut

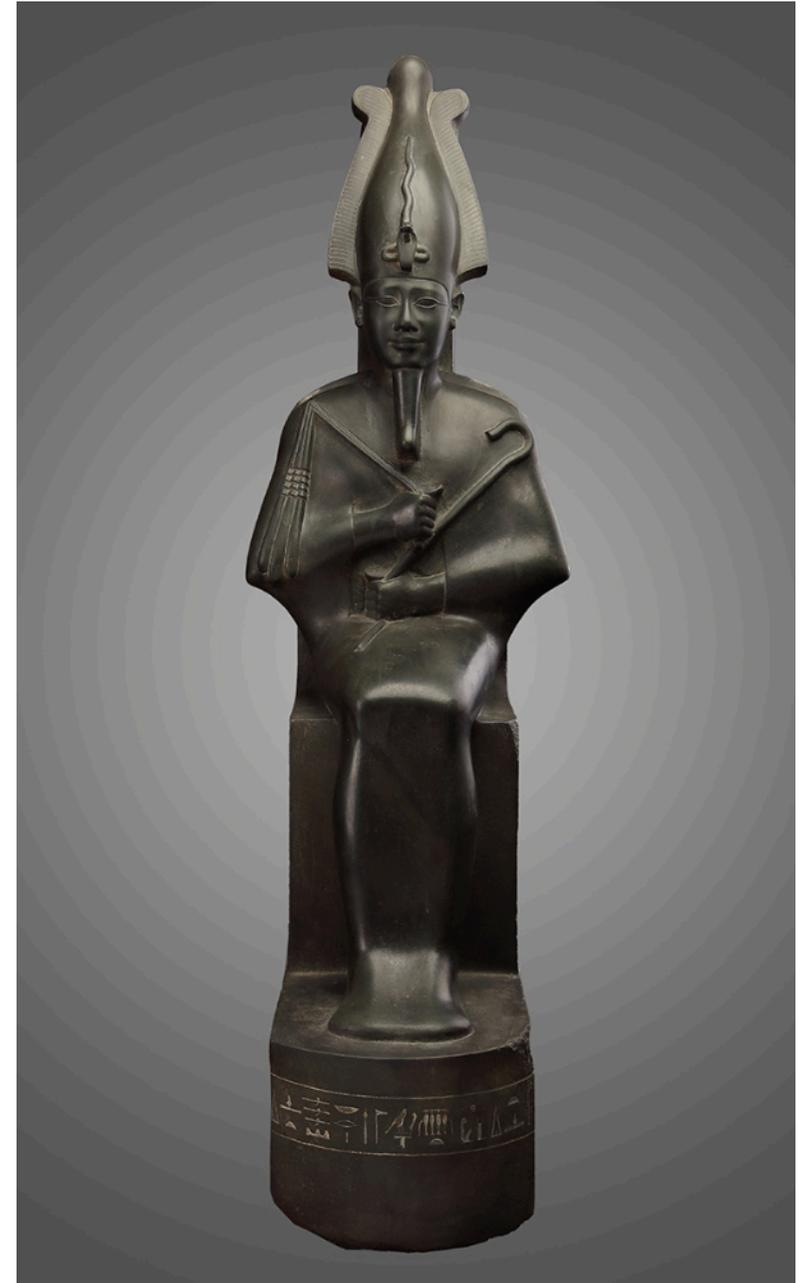
Nut is the sky goddess who arches over the earth, symbolizing the heavens, and is the mother of Osiris, Isis, Seth, and Nephthys, playing a key role in the creation myth and the daily cycle of the sun



Late New Kingdom  
Winged Goddess, c. 1295-712 BCE  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US

# O is for Osiris

Osiris is the god of the afterlife, resurrection, and agriculture, who was killed by his brother Seth and resurrected by his wife Isis, becoming the ruler of the underworld and a symbol of eternal life



Late Period  
Statue of Osiris, c. 570-526 BCE  
The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, Egypt

# P is Ptah

Ptah is the god of craftsmanship, creation, and architects, revered as the patron of artisans and builders, often depicted as a mummified man holding a staff, and believed to create the world through thought and speech



Late Period  
Figurine Ptah, c. 664-332 BCE  
Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

# Q is for Qebehsenuf

Qebehsenuf is one of the Four Sons of Horus, depicted as a falcon-headed god, responsible for protecting the intestines of the deceased and associated with the west, under the guardianship of the goddess Serqet



Third Intermediate Period-Late Period  
Funerary figure of Qebehsenuf, c. 1100-332 BCE  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US

# R is for Ra

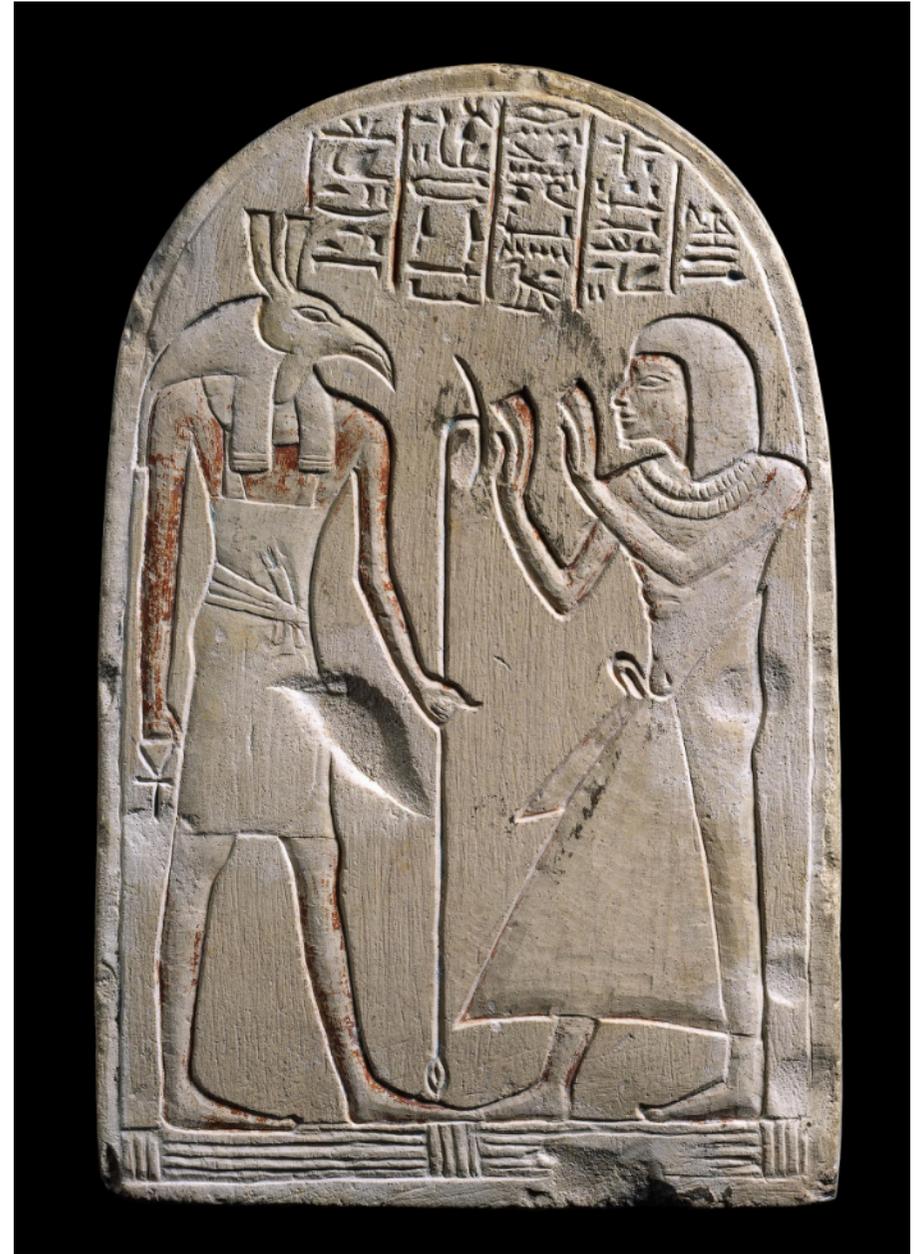
Ra is the sun god and king of the gods, depicted with a solar disk and often associated with creation, light, and life, journeying across the sky by day and battling the forces of chaos in the underworld by night to ensure the continuation of life



22nd Dynasty  
Ra-Horakhty from Stela of Aafenmut, c. 924-889 BCE  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US

# S is for Seth

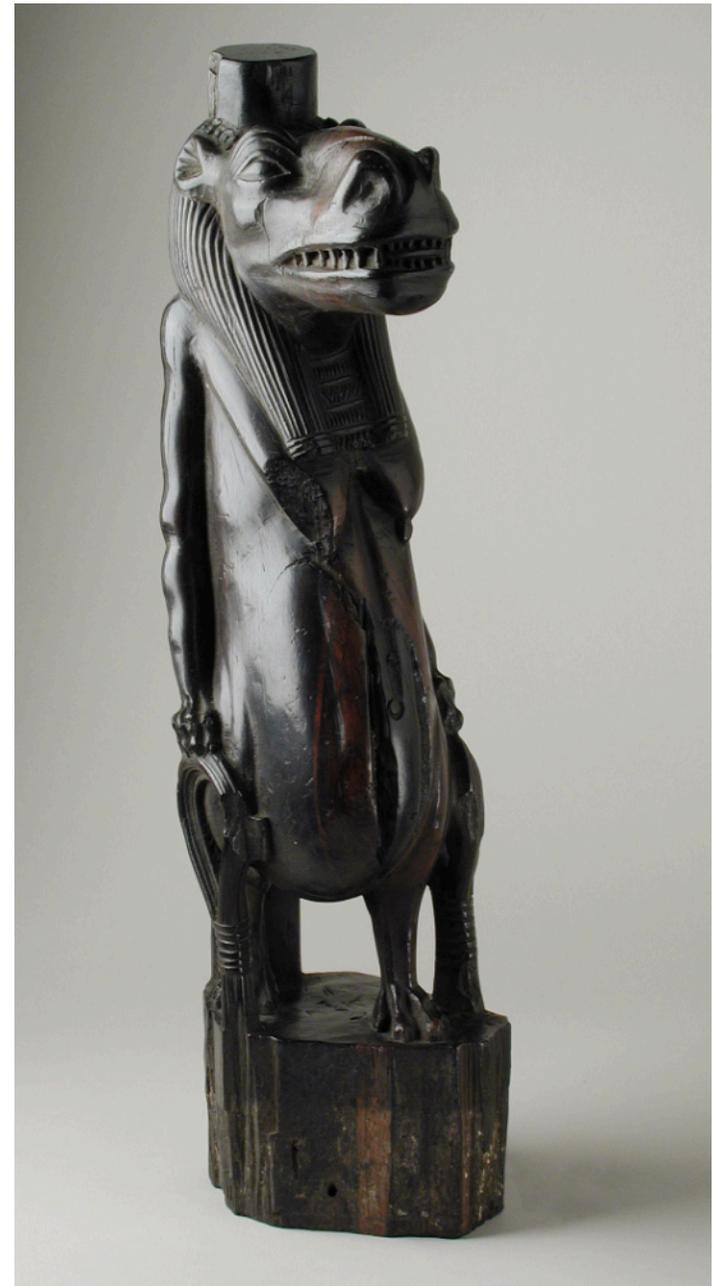
Seth is the god of chaos, storms, desert, and disorder, often depicted with a mysterious, composite animal head, known for murdering his brother Osiris and battling his nephew Horus for control of Egypt, symbolizing the struggle between order and chaos



19th Dynasty  
Stela of Aapehty, c. 1292-1189 BCE  
The British Museum, London, UK

# T is for Taweret

Taweret is the goddess of childbirth and fertility, depicted as a protective, pregnant hippopotamus with the limbs of a lion and the back of a crocodile, guarding mothers and children



New Kingdom  
Figure of Taweret, c 1600-1081 BCE  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, US

# U is for Unut

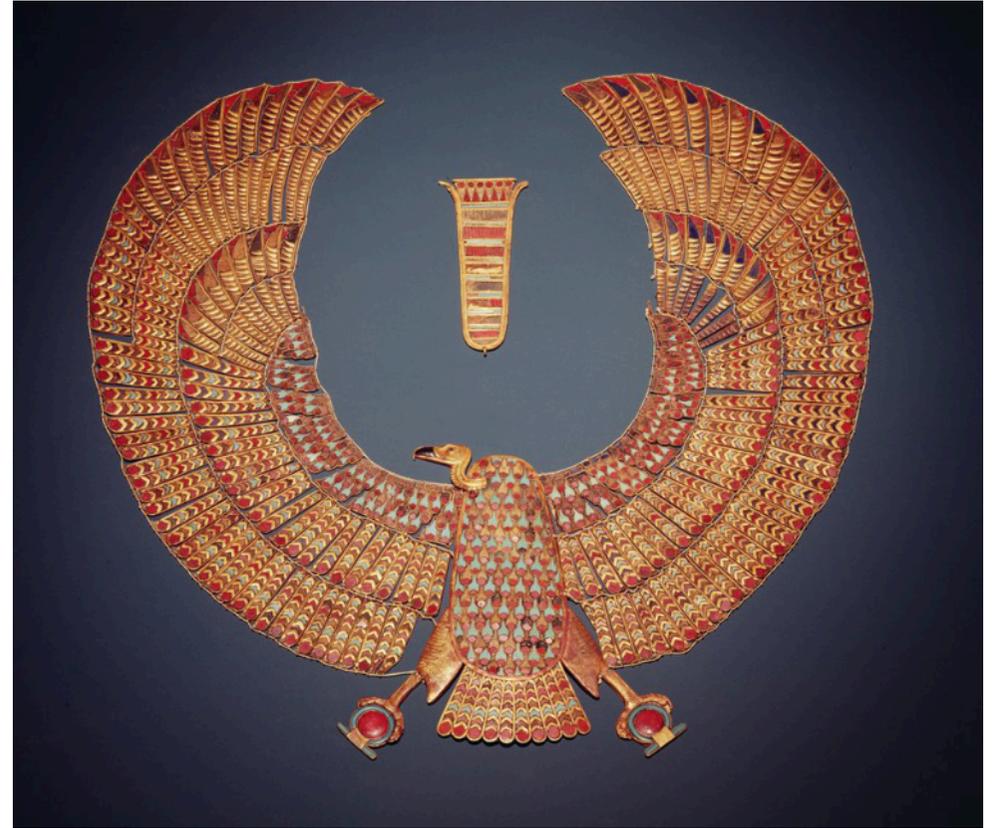
Unut is a goddess associated with fertility and protection, depicted as a hare or a woman with a hare's head



Late Period to Ptolemaic  
Hare Amulet, 664-630 BCE  
The Brooklyn Museum, New York, US

# V is for Vulture-goddess, Nekhbet

Nekhbet is the vulture goddess, protector of Upper Egypt, and symbol of royal authority and maternal care, often depicted with outstretched wings



Collar in the form of the vulture goddess Nekhbet, from the tomb of Tutankhamun, c.1370-1352 BCE  
The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, Egypt

# W is for Wadjet

Wadjet is the cobra goddess and protector of Lower Egypt, often associated with the lioness-headed goddess Sekhmet, symbolizing fierce royal authority and serving as one of the "Two Ladies" who safeguarded the pharaoh



Late Period  
Lioness-headed Goddess, c. 664-332 BCE  
San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, US

# X is for Xoïs

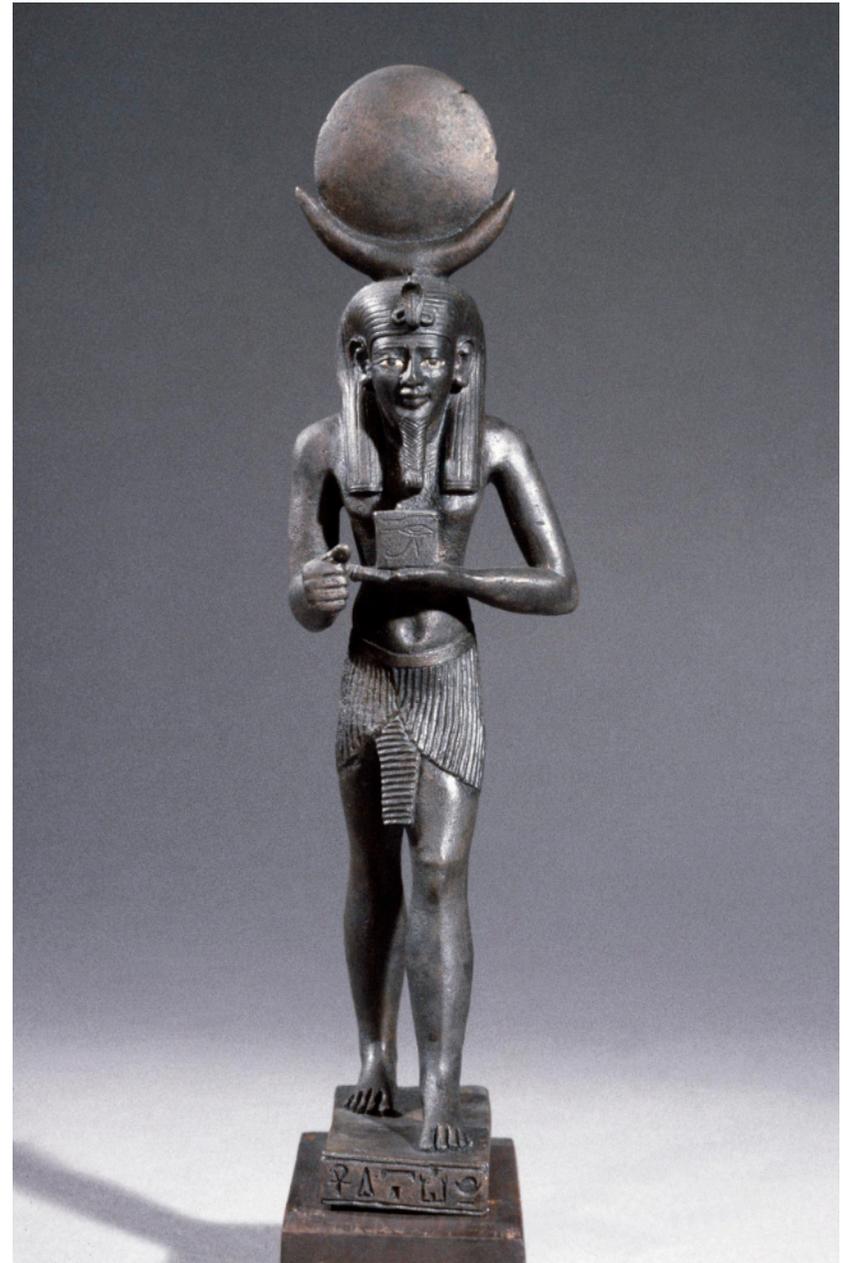
Xoïs, located in the Nile Delta, was closely linked to the goddess Neith. Revered as a goddess of creation, war, and hunting, Neith was seen as both a protector and the mother of the gods. Her martial and safeguarding attributes made her an essential figure in the religious and political life of Xoïs.



Late Period  
Statuette, Neith, c. 664–380 BCE  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US

# Y is for Yah

Yah is a lunar deity associated with the moon and time, sometimes linked with the deity Lah, symbolizing the phases of the moon and its role in regulating time and seasons



Late Period  
Bronze statuette of the moon god Lah, c. 664-332 BCE  
The British Museum, London, UK

# Z is for Zehuti

Zehuti is an alternative name for Thoth, the god of wisdom, writing, magic, and the moon, who played a key role as a mediator among the gods and a scribe of the divine



Late Period  
Striding Thoth, c. 664-332 BCE  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US