

# EGYPT.....



.....land of Pyramids

# Costumes of Egypt

- Egyptian civilization emerged towards 4000 B.C. on the banks of river Nile.
- Pharaohs (the living gods) ruled the nation for 3000 yrs.
- They were producing stone vessels, decorated pottery, figurines carved of ivory or bone or modeled in clay and

# **Egyptian civilization can be divided into three parts—**

- Old Kingdom-( I TO X Dynasties) The gigantic pyramids were the product of this period.
- Middle Kingdom- (XI to XVII dynasties) This was the classic period of Egyptian history in which literature, poetry, sculpture and architecture flourished.
- New Kingdom- (XVIII to XXX Dynasties) This period had a brilliant beginning but not a glamorous end. Many temples were built but in 525 B.C. Egypt was defeated by Persians and in 332 B.C was conquered by Alexander the Great of Macedonia.

# FAMOUS FEATURES

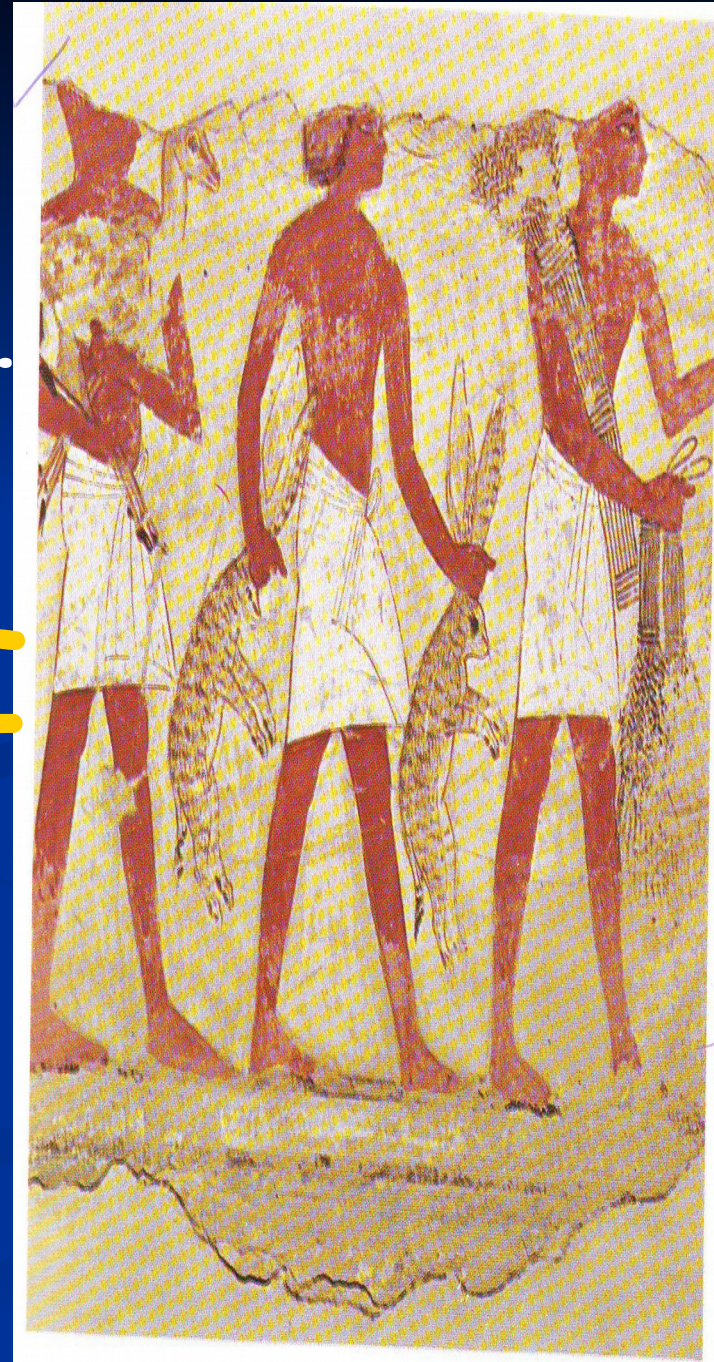
- MUMMIES-THE PRESERVED DEAD BODIES WITH MUMMIFICATION.THE EGYPTIANS BELIEVED IN LIFE AFTER DEATH AND THE NECESSITY TO PROVIDE THE DEAD WITH ALL THE COMFORTS HE HAD ENJOYED ON EARTH FOR HIS JOURNEY. THEREFORE A PERMANENT HUGE PLACE, THE TOMB WAS ERRECTED WHERE THE NOBILITY'S BODY WAS PRESERVED WITH MUMMIFICATION AND BURRIED WITH THEIR JEWELS,MAKE UP, CLOTHES AND FURNITURE(THINGS OF EVERYDAY USE). THESE TOMBS ARE A GREAT SOURCE OF INFORMATION
- PYRAMIDS
- CLEOPETRA-WAS THE LAST AND BEST KNOWN MACDONIAN QUEEN IN EGYPTIAN HISTORY

# Costumes of Egypt

a very short loin cloth..

...SCHENTI

source: a wall painting  
from the tomb of  
Mebana at Thebes, c.1400



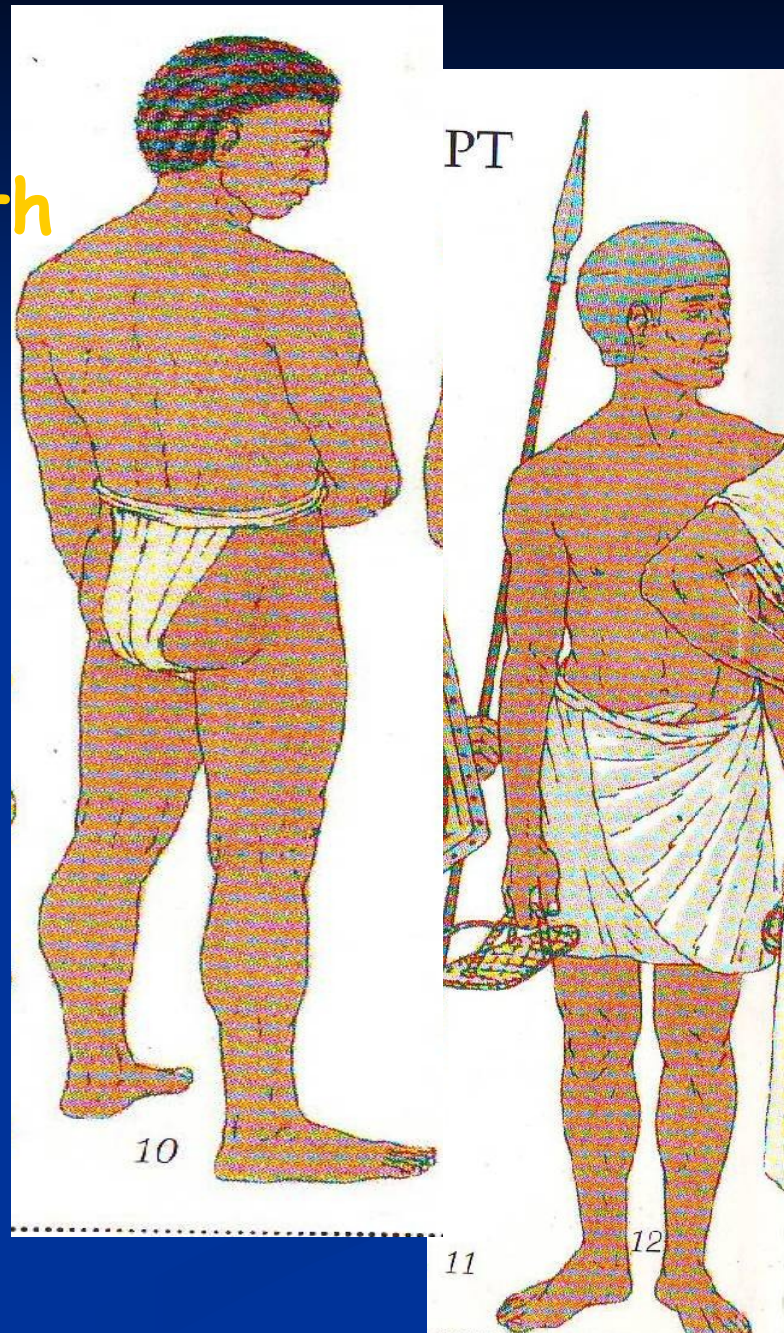
## **MEN**

**Egyptian costume for both sexes were extremely scanty in the beginning of the dynastic period.**

**During the old kingdom (before) 1500 BC, the male garment was the SCHENTI-a piece of woven material used as a loin cloth and kept in place by a belt.**

**It was worn by all classes but for pharaohs, the material used was finer and was pleated and sometimes embroidered.**

Slave: loincloth



Slave: loincloth  
(shenti)

**In the new kingdom the schenti was abandoned and a skirt made from single rectangle of linen was worn and it varied in length from mid thigh to calf .**

**The simplest form was tight across the back & gathered in a single box pleat at the front. But it was much more elaborate for high class in which the surplus material was gathered at the waist and a series of arranged pleats fanned out..**





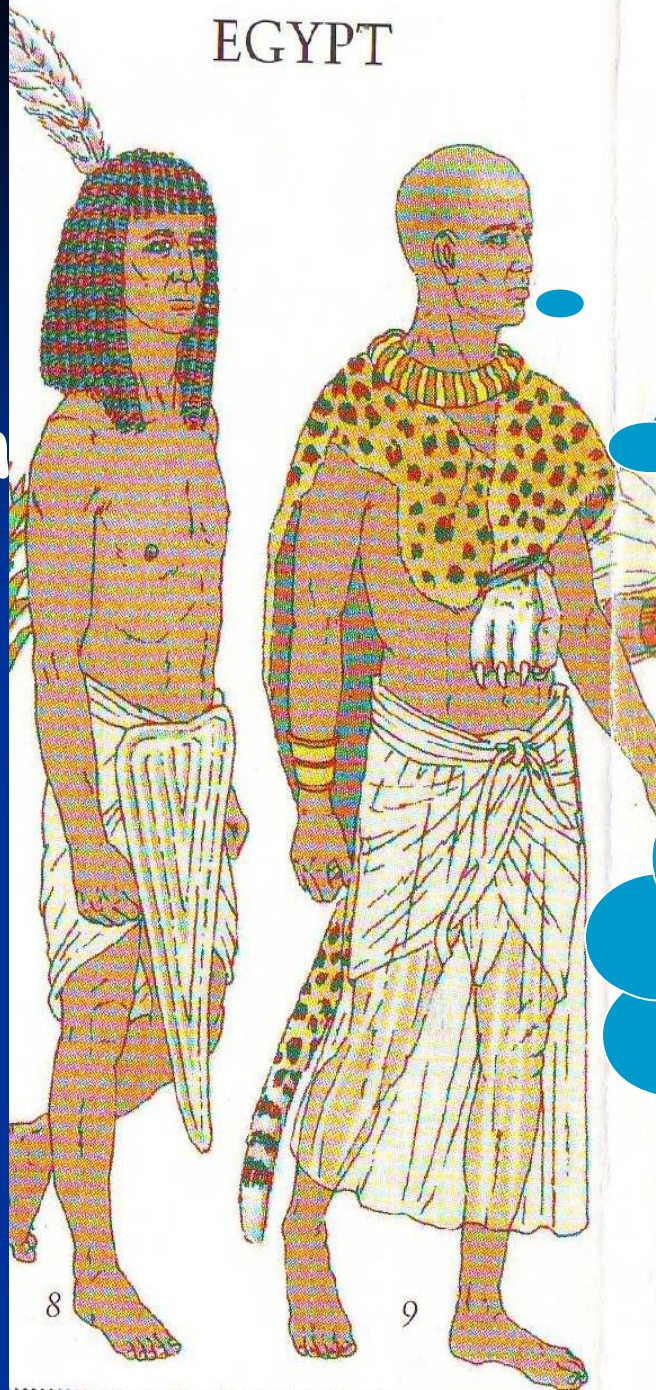
**Source:**  
painting  
from a  
Noble's  
tomb  
at  
Thebes,  
dated  
about  
1300 B.C

eventually **schenti** was replaced by a **skirt**  
made from single piece of linen  
drawn tight across.....gathered into a  
.....**pleat at the front**

**This arrangement was held in place by a decorated belt. The belt had a suspended wedge shaped apron embroidered and set with precious stones (shown at the back of throne of Tutan Khamman) in Cairo museum. The apron was also adopted by lower classes but there was no decoration.**

EGYPT

Apron  
without  
decoration



Transparent  
skirt over  
Schenti



Schenti the loin cloth  
and  
loincloth with girdle  
having studded gems

EGYPT



Pharaoh;  
decorated apron



**Kalasisiris-another garment worn was the sleeved tunic which resembled a short sleeved night shirt. It's length varied from knee to ankle. In case of pharaohs it was very fine transparent linen and was worn over the schenti or embroidered apron which could be seen underneath because of transparent material.**

**Similar tunic was worn by merchants and the middle class -which was made from thicker, opaque linen and was tied at the waist with a girdle.**

**The most elaborate and unusual style of dress adopted by Egyptians from another civilization (Asia Minor) was a robe made out of a single rectangle piece of linen of twice the height of the wearer, folded with a slit cut for the head and edges sewn from hem to waist.**

**The fullness of material formed voluminous sleeves and the skirt section was gathered at the waist in a knot.**

# Egyptian robe..



....a **semi transparent** rectangle of material, pulled at the waist in a knot, forming **cape-like bodice**



**WOMEN-Women's costume varied very little from men's with emphasis on scantiness and usually veils rather than concealing the body (transparent).**

**In the old kingdom-tight tunic from under the breast with straps at shoulders was worn and the breast was bare.**

**Slaves and dancers were naked or had a simple wrap around skirt gathered at the waist with a cord. A tight tunic with 1 or 2 straps was worn but the breast was bare.**

**Women of upper class also wore the same simple type of skirt with a cape covering the shoulders and the upper part of the breasts**

tunic with straps  
exposing breasts



EGYPT



Pharaoh; double  
crown. collar.  
decorated apron  
and phrygian cap  
Royal snake



Queen : transparent  
robe over close-  
fitting tunic.



Long tunic  
with straps  
And bare  
breast



Robe  
Knotted below bust  
, jeweled wig,  
precious collar

**Kalasisiris, the simple night shirt tunic was also worn by women either loose or belted and sometimes decorated with an embroidered apron. The fabric was like transparent as in men's costume.**

**Another style worn by women was a long skirt, starting just below the bust and reaching the ankles. The skirt was supported by two broad shoulder straps (like a pinafore of present day).**

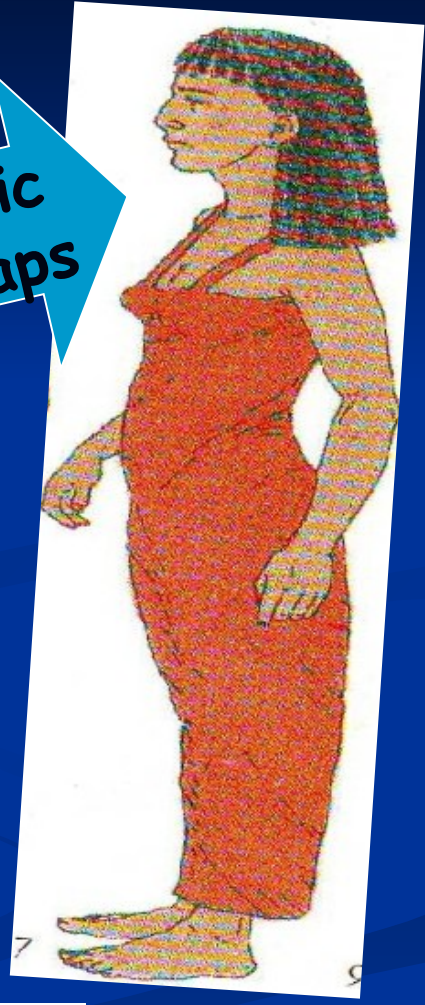
**The robe adopted by women from east was draped in the same way as by men but the material was gathered and tied in a higher position, just below the bust.**



**Kalasisiris**



**Long tunic with straps**



**Short tunic with straps, exposing the breasts**

## **FOOTWEAR**

- **Men and women were barefoot and wore the similar footwear –simple, open sandal of leather or plaited papyrus held in place by a thong between the big and second toe with a strap passing over the top of the foot.**
- **More elaborate jeweled sandals were worn for ceremonial occasions by the high class.**
- **They also wore sandals with picture of enemy on inside of sole and felt happy by treading on the enemy while walking.**
- **Mourners did not wear sandals. They usually carried the footwear and put them on after arrival at the destination**

# HEADDRESS

The hygiene conscious men shaved their heads and wore wigs. The wigs were used as a medium of display of their wealth. They wore wigs threaded with short gold tubes in a chequered effect.

Various headdresses were common –

Men

Toque-close fitting cap

Feather or plumed headdress was worn

Pshent-was state headdress

Badge- was an emblem worn by a prince on side of the head extending to the shoulder.

Clajt-was a head covering of heavy material falling backward loosely over the shoulder.



Horus lock-braid of false hair worn behind the right ear.

Headdress sometimes was very elaborate with a band of gold inlaid with a floral design in blue faience (fine richly coloured glazed earthen ware) with cobra's head protruding at the front uraeus, asp, royal snake-symbol of royalty were worn on headdress by rulers.

Fillet was worn by common people both men and women and it was a simple band worn around head.

Fillet in the form of a circlet of gold was worn by royalty

# Women

**Vulture cap, Cone, Cleft were common.**

-  
**Vulture cap-headdress topped with outspread wings of a vulture and was worn by royal women.**

**Cone- ornament containing perfume worn on top of the head by women.**

**Cleft trimmed with lotus flowers or decorated with gold was also worn by women.**

**Women also shaved their heads and they often wore wigs**

## •JEWELLERY

Jewelled collar was a broad collar and was most widely used form of jewelry throughout the period. It was a series of strings of precious stones or faience (glazed earthen ware) arranged in parallel rows and tied at the back of neck forming a deep, semicircular chest ornament.(two such collars can be seen on the throne painting from Tutan Khaman's tomb).

Pectoral -was a rectangular Plaque of gold open work, set with precious stones, faience and was suspended at chest level from a decorated chain. It was worn by royalty and other important people.

Other forms of jewelry for both sexes were necklaces, bracelets for the wrist & upper arm, finger rings and anklets in gold and precious stones. Earrings were not very popular.

Other forms of jewelry for both sexes were-

**\_Necklaces**

**Bracelets for the wrist & upper arm**

**Finger rings**

**Anklets in gold and precious stones.**

**Earrings were not very popular.**

# ACCESSORIES

- Walking sticks ornamented with colour & gold, inscribed with owners' name.
- Apron decorated with feathers, asp, lion's head.
- Women had hair comb of wood or ivory.
- Parasol was also used by women.
- Women carried cane like men, mirrors of bronze with handle forming a design of a flower or human being.
- Fan made of dyed leaves and feathers with 5-7 ft. long handle was common.

# MAKE UP

**Women had elaborate make-up & exaggerated lips were painted red.**

**Eyes were shaded with blue and stibium was used to colour eyelids and kohl was used in the form of a solid black outline which extended far way.**

**Finger and toe nails were dyed red with henna.**

**Wigs were dyed in extraordinary colours.**

# **MATERIALS**

**Wool considered unclean by priests, was worn by common man.**

**Fine transparent Linen by high class.**

**Leopard skin by priests in ancient Egypt.**

**Coarse cloth was used for peasants.**



royal garments....

...surplus material

gathered at the waist placed by

....ornate **belt**, beautiful

**sash**, .....exquisite worked

..... **collars** & fabulous

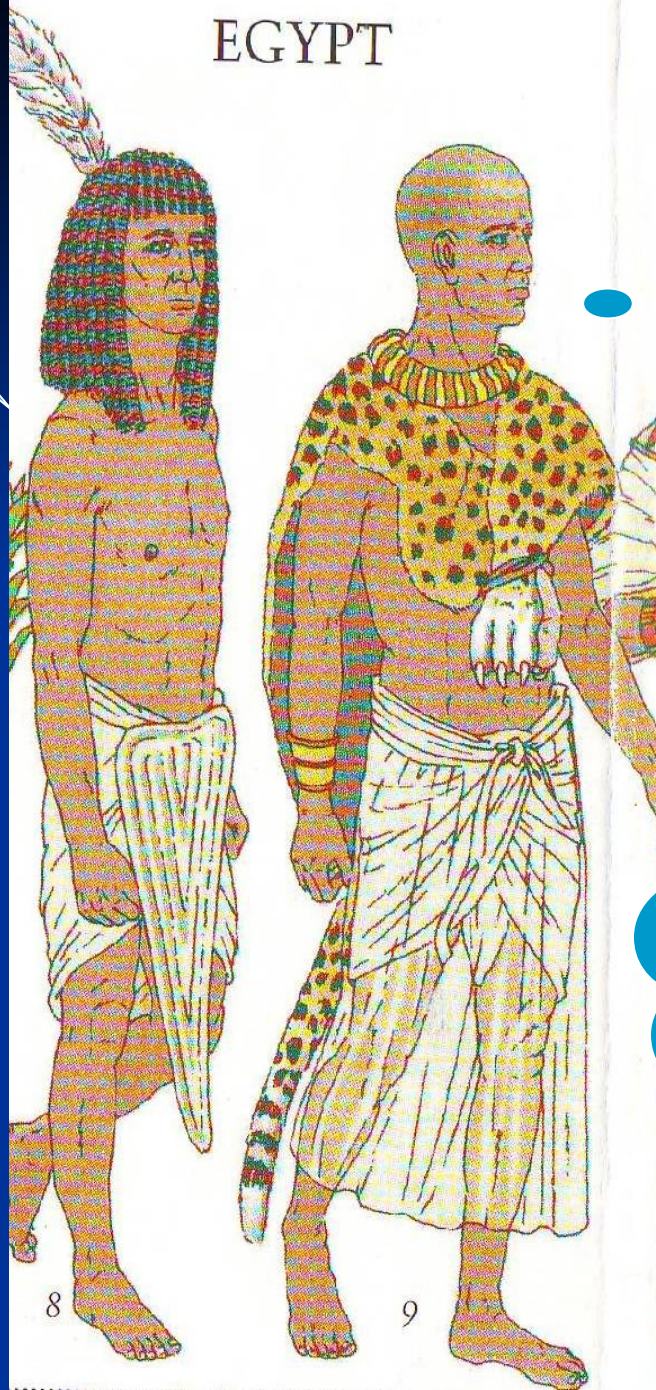
ornate **headdresses**....

**Source:** Tutankhamun tomb discovered in 1922



slave

## EGYPT



Priest:

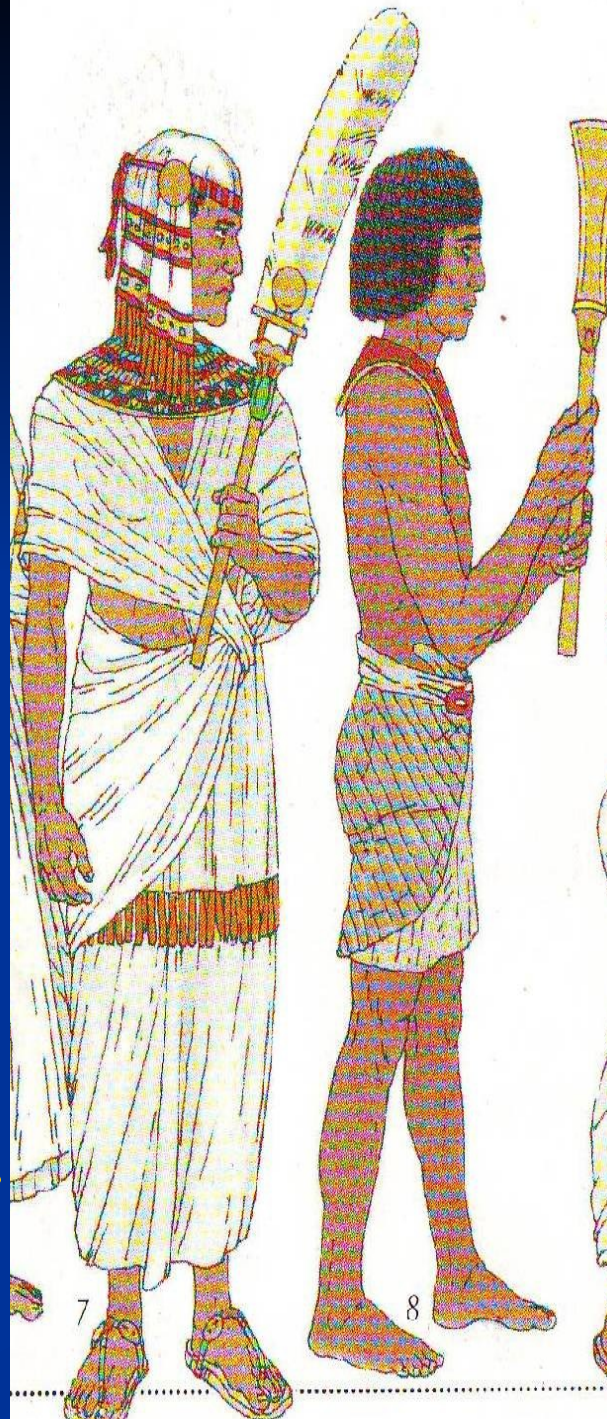
Leopard skin  
to indicate  
status

EGYPT

Pharaoh; double crown. collar. decorated apron and Pshent Royal snake



Queen : transparent robe over close-fitting tunic with collar, fillet and cone

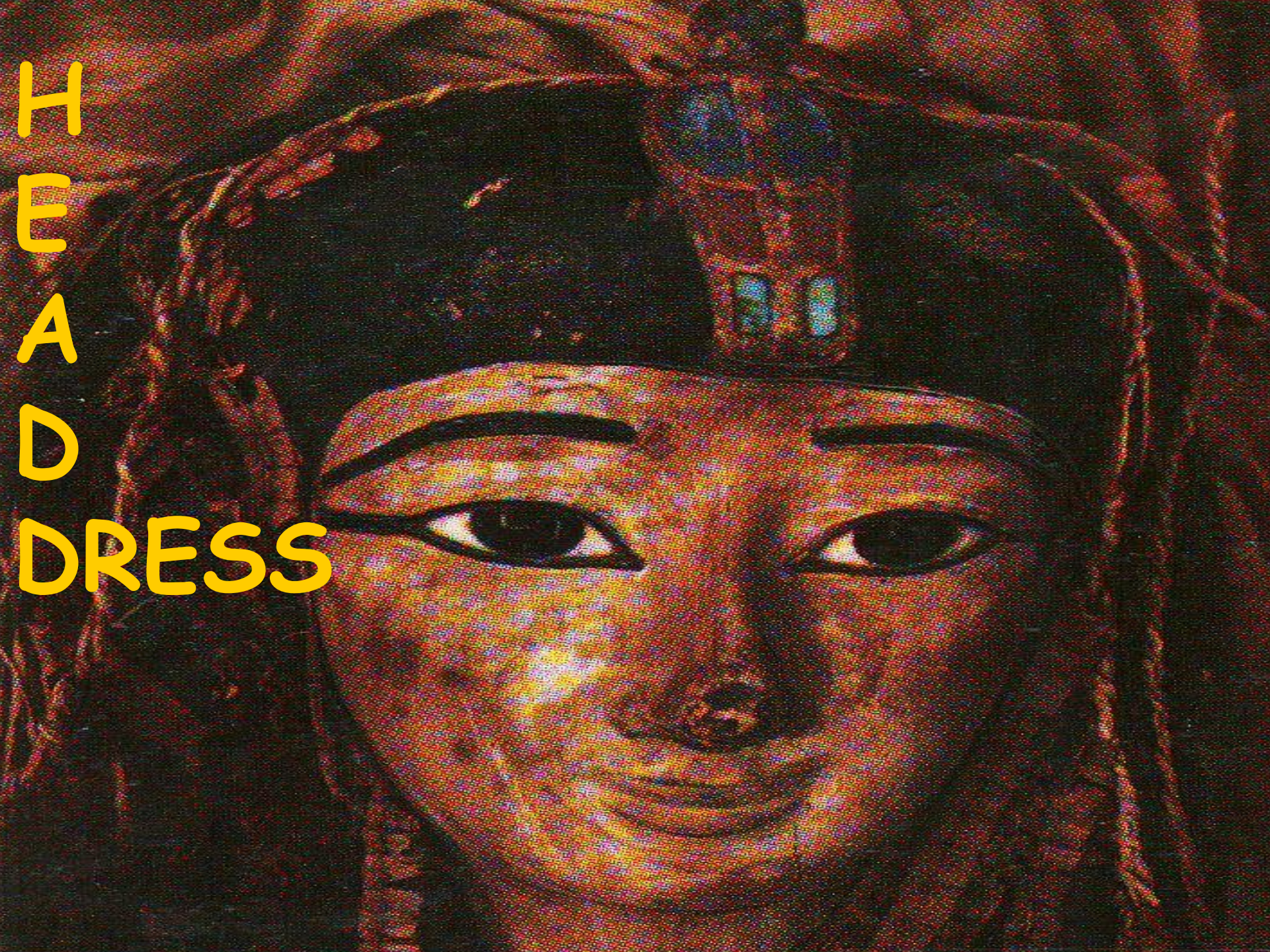


Pharaoh  
standard-  
bearer



High official :  
insignia of rank  
Badge, collar &  
Footwear

H  
E  
A  
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D  
R  
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S  
S





exquisitely painted

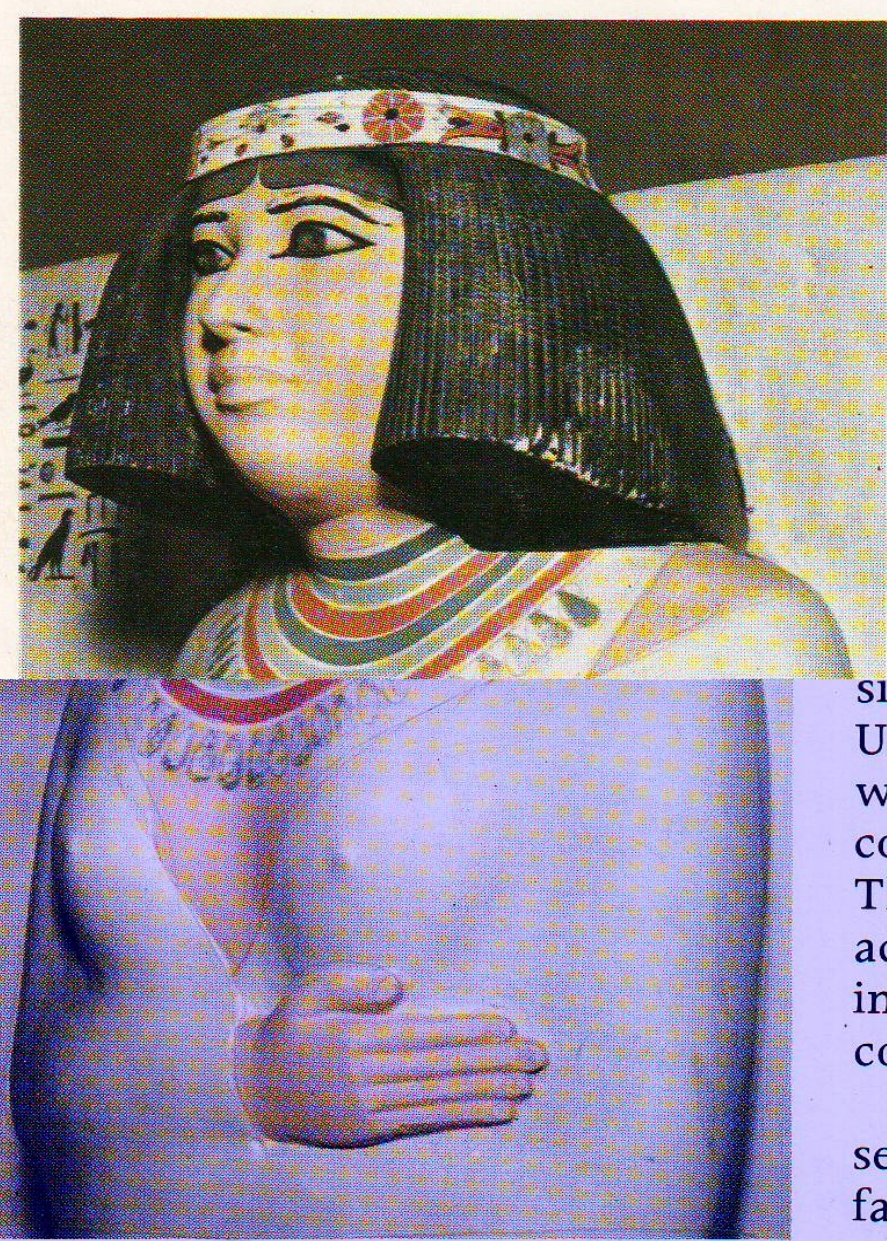
limestone head thought to

be that of **Queen**

**Nefertiti**.....wears **cone-**

**shaped**

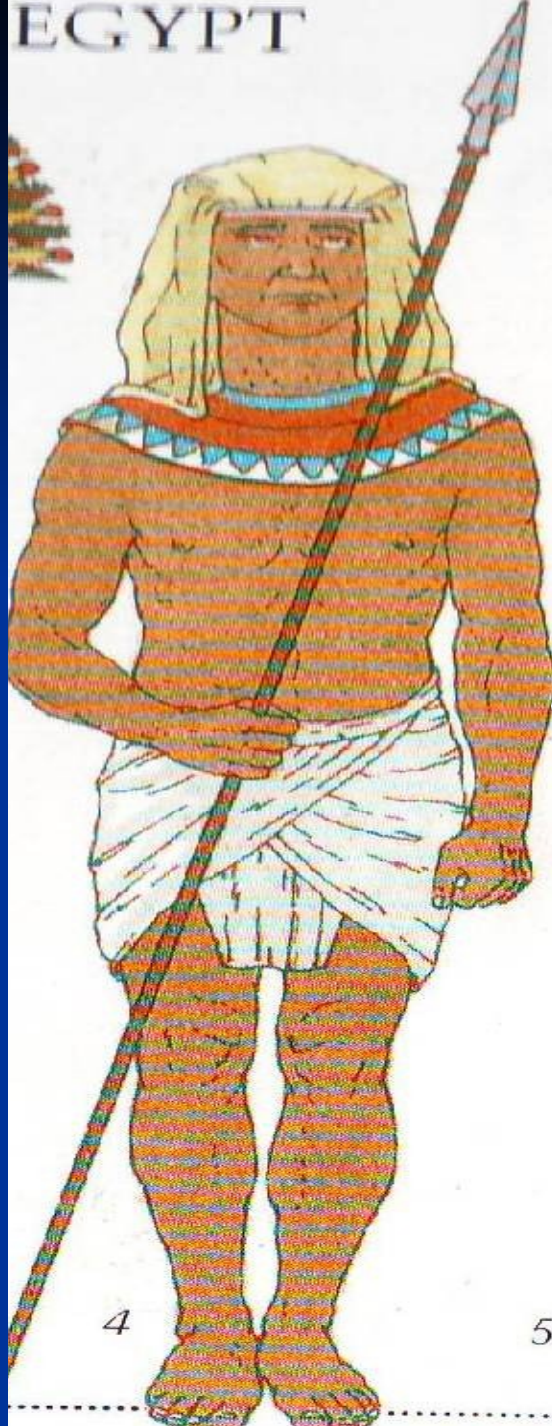
**headdress**



Short square-cut  
wigs, held **with**  
**Fillet**  
**Collar**

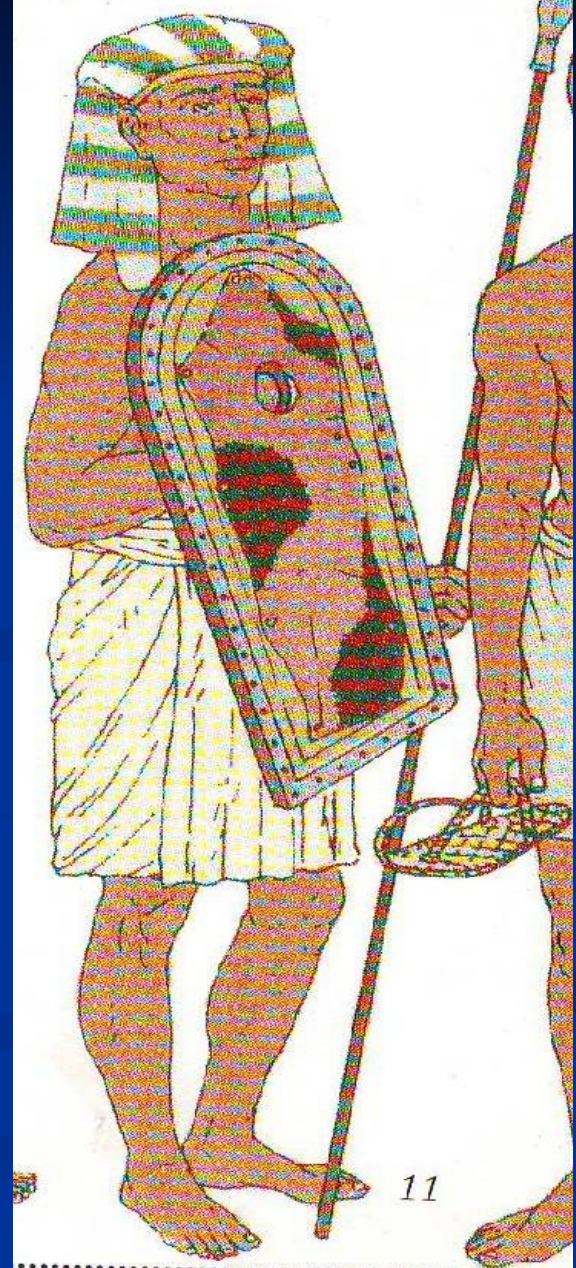
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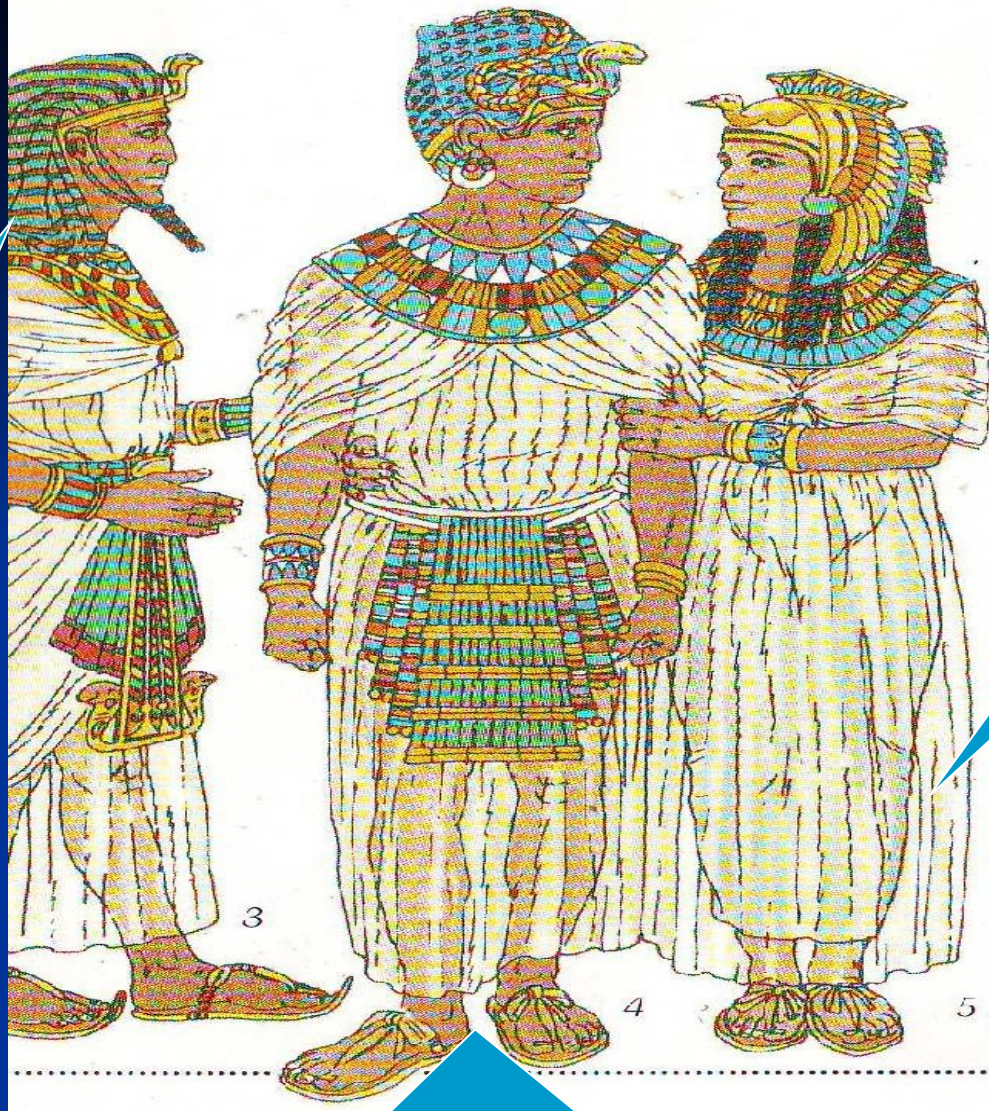
EGYPT



Claft: head covering  
of heavy material  
falling  
backward

EGYPT





Queen;  
crown of  
vulture  
feathers

Pharaoh:  
cloth head-  
dress with  
cobra  
emblem

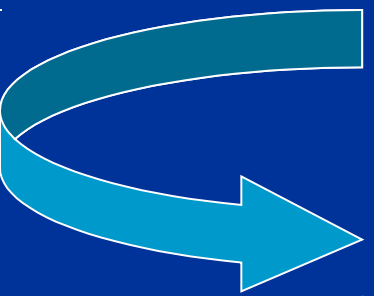
Pharaoh: cloth head-dress  
with cobra emblem, wide  
collar, stylized apron



6. Queen: crown of vulture feathers

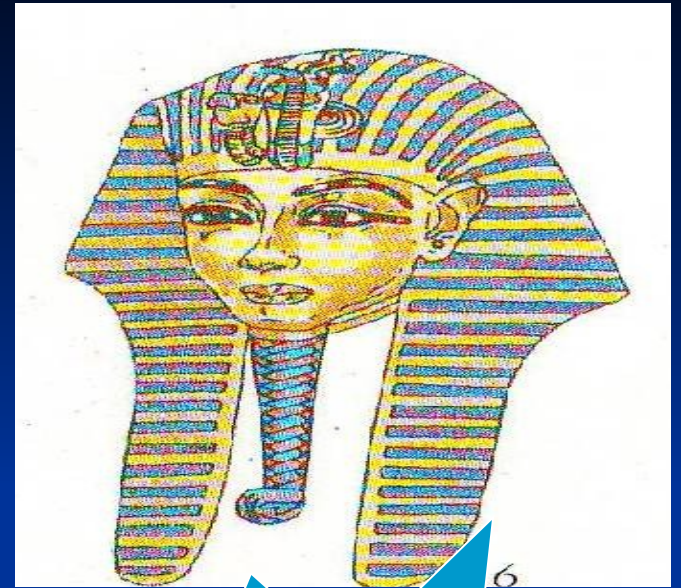


7. Princess





Pectoral-  
ornament  
a with a  
cut out design  
Hung on  
breast length gold  
chain worn by royalty



Funerary mask  
of Tutankhamun



Pshent  
false beard  
crown, sceptre, walking  
sticks, collar, stylized  
loincloth with girdle  
having studded gems

# EGYPT



wig, perfumed

cone, precious necklace,  
Bracelets Robe tied in a  
knot

E

Collar, sash  
and  
jeweled wig



Ornamental staff  
used by King



Mirror

Sandals





Pectoral-  
ornament  
a with a  
cut out design  
Hung on  
breast length gold  
chain worn by royalty



Funerary mask  
of Tutankhamun



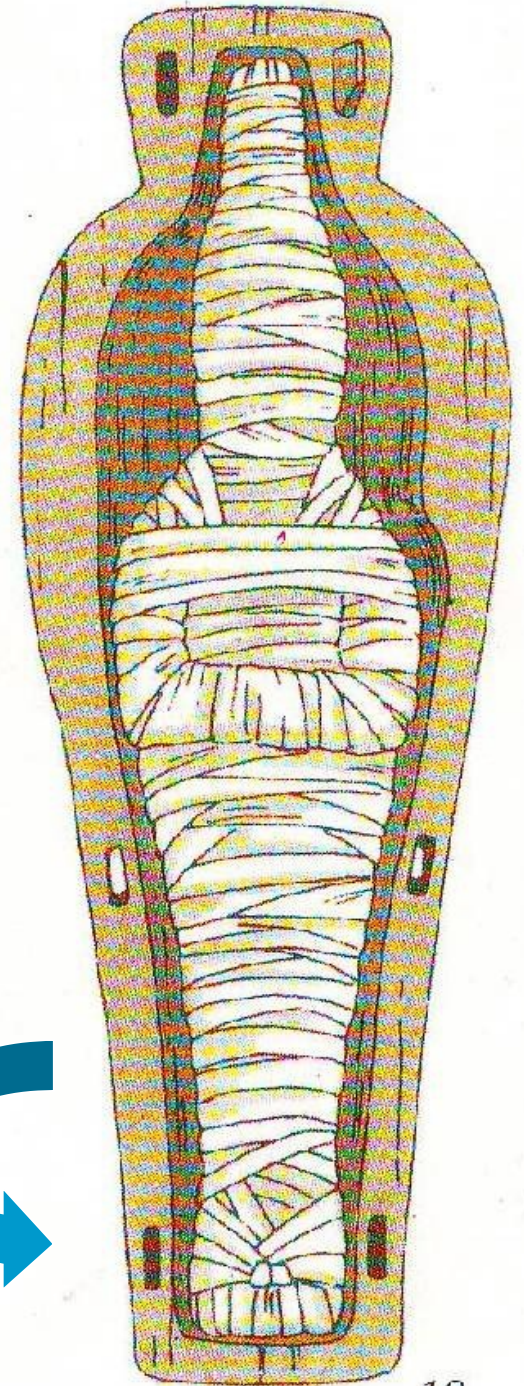


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Royal Insignia

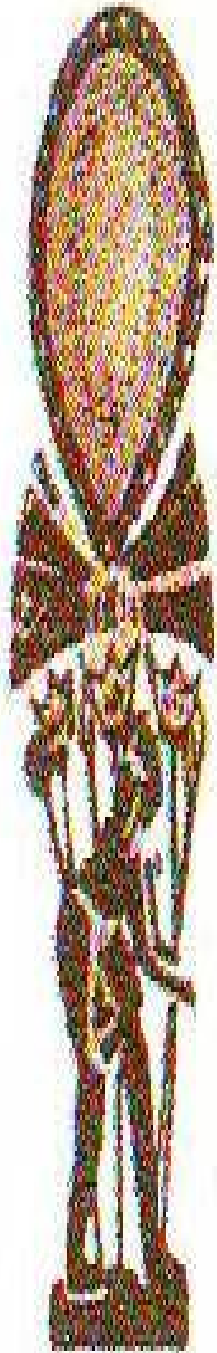
Mummy in  
sarcophagus



10



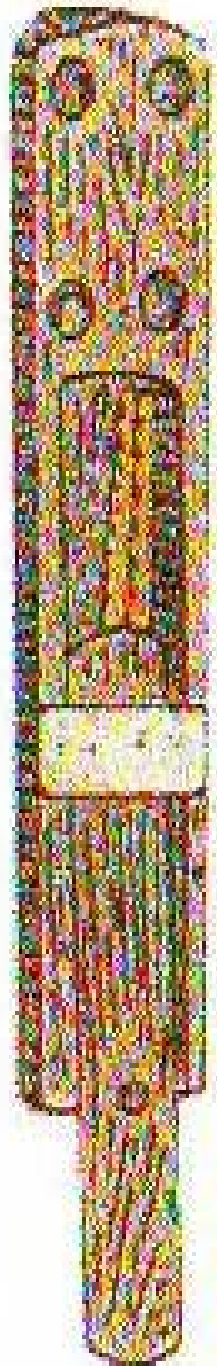
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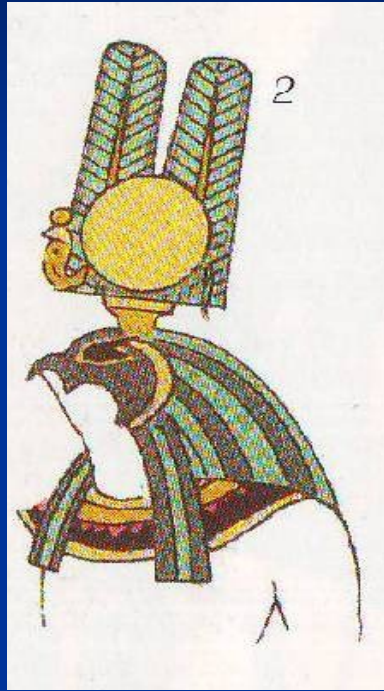
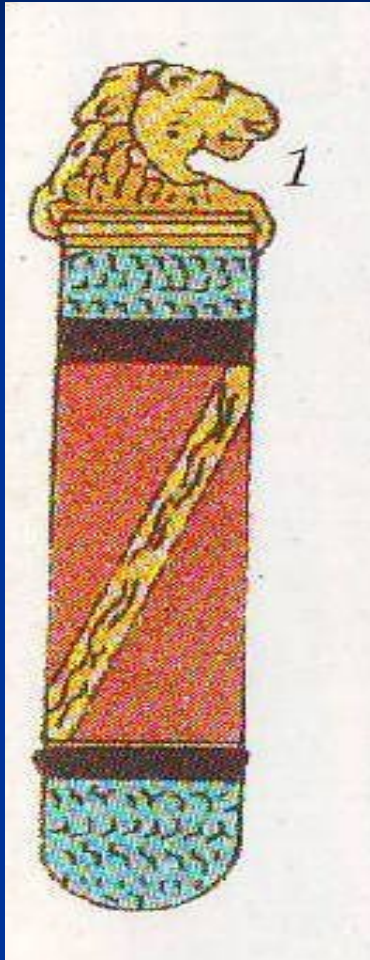
Spoons for ointments



Box with writing materials



Dagger



Mask  
representing  
the falcon -  
god Horus

Bow

