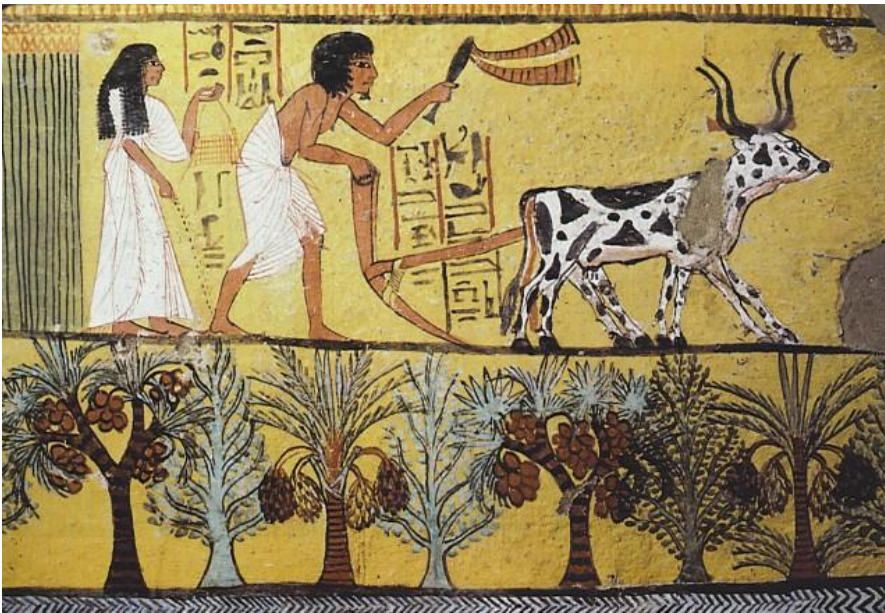


# About Egyptian Daily Life

## Fast Facts

- Most men were farmers. Other careers included craftsmen, priest, tomb builder, scribe, soldier, and many more.
- Most women worked at home. Others were anything from maids to priestesses.
- The drink of choice was beer – even for children!
- They used honey as a sweetener because they did not have sugar.
- Egyptians ate a lot of wild game – antelopes, gazelles, cranes, herons, and even hyenas!
- Most boys and girls married between the ages of 12 and 14.
- Children played with dills, balls, board games, carved ivory animals, and wooden houses on wheels with pull strings.
- Storytelling was very popular. One well-known story was similar to *Sinbad*. *Cinderella* is an Egyptian story too.
- The ancient Egyptians loved music and dancing. Musical instruments included flutes, clarinets, harps, and lyres.



Makeup. Board games. Pools. Adoption. These may seem like examples of modern cultures, but they all existed in ancient Egypt. In fact, ancient Egyptians were similar to the people of today in many ways. They had families, homes, schools, and jobs. Some were wealthy and some were not.

Commoners often lived in cramped villages, while the wealthy lived in estates on the outskirts. Rich or poor, Egyptians had little furniture, just a few stools and some small tables. Only the very wealthy had chairs. There were no cupboards. You would keep your possessions in a chests, baskets, or pottery jars. An ordinary family might have only one bed, or none at all. People slept on

the floor on mats. To keep cool in the summer, Egyptians – rich or poor-often slept on their roofs. People covered their doors and windows with mats to keep out flies, dust, and heat.

Women cooked in clay ovens or over open fires. The dishes of commoners were made of clay, while the nobility ate on tableware made of gold, silver, or bronze.

Family life was very important in ancient Egypt. Women and children were greatly respected, which was not the case in many cultures in ancient times. Although Egyptian women were expected to obey their fathers and husbands, they were treated equally in some ways. For example, they could own lands. In lower-class families. The mother was responsible for raising the children. In wealthier families, servants or slaves helped with child rearing.

In one notable way, males and females were not equal. At age seven, boys of wealthy families went to school to learn a trade, while most girls were required to stay at home and learn domestic skills from their mothers. Boys studied religion, writing, reading, and math. Sometimes, girls learned these skills at home as well, and even some became doctors.

Almost everyone-men and women, adults and children- wore makeup. It helped protect their skin from the sun. Most people went barefoot or wore sandals. Clothes were usually made of linen, Girls wore pigtails and boys had shaved heads, except for a braided tuft on one side. Egyptian art and fashion did not change much in its 3,000-year history.