



Ancient Egypt Riddles



31 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

- 1 I have a square base and four triangle sides that meet in a point at the top. The biggest of me were built as tombs for kings. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 2 I was wrapped from head to toe in strips of linen, dried with salt, and laid in a painted coffin so my body would last forever. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 3 I'm one of the longest rivers on Earth, and I flow north through the desert. Without my yearly floods, Egypt would have been little more than sand. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 4 I wore a double crown, ruled all of Egypt, and people believed I was the link between them and the gods. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 5 I have the body of a lion and the head of a man, and I have been lying beside the pyramids of Giza for about 4,500 years. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 6 Egyptians loved me so much that killing one of me was a serious crime, and the goddess Bastet was shown with my head. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 7 I grow as a tall reed along the Nile. Slice me thin, press me flat, let me dry, and you can write on me. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 8 I'm a kind of writing made from little pictures: owls, feet, snakes, eyes and water. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 9 I'm a beetle that rolls balls of dung across the ground. Egyptians thought I looked like the god who rolled the sun across the sky, and they wore charms shaped like me. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 10 I lurk in the Nile with a long snout full of teeth, and the god Sobek was shown with my head. What am I?
ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

- 11 I have the head of a jackal, and I watch over the people who turn the dead into mummies. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

- 12 There are four of us, and our lids are often shaped like heads. We hold the lungs, liver, stomach and intestines of a mummy. What are we?

ANSWER _____

- 13 I'm a broken slab of dark stone with the same message carved on me in three different scripts. Thanks to me, people learned to read hieroglyphs again. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 14 I'm an oval loop drawn around a group of hieroglyphs. If you see me, the name inside belongs to a king or queen. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 15 Every day I sail my boat across the sky, and every night I travel through the underworld. Egyptians saw me in the sun itself. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

- 16 I became pharaoh when I was about nine years old and died about ten years later. I wasn't very important in my own time, but my almost untouched tomb made me the most famous pharaoh today. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

- 17 Ancient Egyptians called their own country Kemet, "the black land". Was it named after the night sky, people's hair, or the soil?

ANSWER _____

- 18 When embalmers made a mummy, they left the heart inside the body, but they pulled out and threw away one organ they didn't think was worth keeping. Which one?

ANSWER _____

- 19 I look like a cross with a loop on top, and gods hold me in paintings. I stand for life. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 20 I was a woman who ruled Egypt as pharaoh for well over a decade, and some statues show me wearing the false beard that kings wore. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

- 21 I'm a long pole on a pivot with a bucket on one end and a heavy weight on the other. Farmers used me to lift water from the Nile onto their fields. What am I?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★ ★

- 22 Which famous Egyptian queen lived closer in time to the first Moon landing than to the building of the Great Pyramid?

ANSWER _____

- 23 After death, Egyptians believed their heart was weighed on a scale. If it balanced, they went on to the afterlife. What sat on the other side of the scale?

ANSWER _____

- 24 In ancient Egypt, "Upper Egypt" was in the south and "Lower Egypt" was in the north. Why is it upside down compared with most maps?

ANSWER _____

- 25 I'm a tall, thin, four-sided stone pillar with a tiny pyramid on top. Two of me, one in London and one in New York, are nicknamed after a queen who lived more than 1,000 years after we were carved. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 26 A builder stacks stone blocks into a small pyramid: 1 block on top, 4 blocks in the layer below, 9 in the layer below that. How many blocks does a pyramid with 4 layers need?

ANSWER _____

- 27 Hundreds of us small figures were buried with the dead, so that when the gods called on the dead person to farm in the afterlife, we could do the work instead. What are we?

ANSWER _____

- 28 The Egyptian farmer's year had just three seasons, not four: Growing, Harvest, and a third season that came first. What was it?

ANSWER _____

- 29 Why didn't the mummy take a vacation?

ANSWER _____

- 30 Hieroglyphs could be written left to right, right to left, or top to bottom. How can you tell which way to start reading?

ANSWER _____

- 31 I'm a board game with 30 squares in three rows of ten. Egyptians played me for more than 2,000 years, and several boards were buried with Tutankhamun. What am I?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Ancient Egypt Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. A pyramid
2. A mummy
3. The Nile
4. A pharaoh
5. The Great Sphinx
6. A cat
7. Papyrus
8. Hieroglyphs
9. A scarab beetle
10. A crocodile
11. Anubis
12. Canopic jars
13. The Rosetta Stone
14. A cartouche
15. Ra, the sun god
16. Tutankhamun
17. **The soil.** The flood left a layer of dark, rich mud on the fields, while the desert around it was called "the red land".
18. **The brain.** It was often pulled out through the nose with a hook.
19. An ankh
20. Hatshepsut
21. A shadoof
22. **Cleopatra.** She died in 30 BC, about 2,000 years before 1969, while the Great Pyramid was built around 2560 BC, about 2,500 years before her time.
23. A feather
24. **The Nile flows from south to north.** Upper Egypt is upstream, and Lower Egypt is downstream, where the river meets the sea.
25. An obelisk
26. 30. That's $1 + 4 + 9 + 16$.
27. Shabtis (also called ushabtis)
28. **The Flood (Akhet), when the Nile rose and covered the fields.**
29. He was afraid he'd unwind.
30. **Look at which way the people and animals face.** They face the start of the line, so if they look left, you read from left to right.
31. Senet

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/ancient-egypt-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.