

# Hatsheput: A Female Pharaoh

Pharaohs were the rulers of Ancient Egypt. They were in charge of the Ancient Egyptian Empire. Over a 3000 year period, there were 170 pharaohs. Most of them were men, but a small number of them were women. Hatshepsut was one of these women. She was a very important leader and the most successful woman to rule Egypt.

Hatshepsut was married to the pharaoh Thutmose II. This made her the Queen of Egypt. However, Thutmose was only pharaoh for a few years. He became sick and died. Thutmose had a child from a previous marriage named Thutmose III. Thutmose III was Hatshepsut's stepson and also her nephew. Even though he was the heir to the throne, he was too young to be a pharaoh. Everyone wondered who the next pharaoh would be. Hatshepsut decided that it would be her, at least until Thutmose III was old enough.

Usually, pharaohs were men. Some people were surprised that a woman was in charge. Hatshepsut was a very powerful leader. She proved that she was the right person to rule Ancient Egypt. She had a lot of good ideas and helped to make Ancient Egypt even stronger.

Before Hatsheput was in charge, Egypt was at war. They were fighting to become more powerful. Hatsheput wanted to make Egypt more powerful in other ways. She didn't send her soldiers into battle. She sent them on trading missions. They travelled far and wide. They came back with precious things, including gold, ivory and ebony. They also returned with lots of exotic animals, including apes, panthers and giraffes. This made Egypt very rich. Hatsheput became very popular.

Hatsheput also built many buildings and monuments around Egypt. Statues of her were placed next to buildings. She wanted



everyone to know that she was a great pharaoh. Hatsheput dressed exactly like the male pharaohs. She even wore a fake beard. In paintings and statues, she was also given a man's body.

Hatsheput died after being pharaoh for 22 years. Her nephew, Thutmose III, replaced her as the next pharaoh. He was jealous of what a great job she had done. He removed her from the list of kings. She was forgotten for over 3,000 years. Archeologists have only recently found out about her life. Now she is remembered for being a strong female leader.



# Questions

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- 1 How many pharaohs were there in total?

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- 2 Who was Hatshepsut married to?

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- 3 Why did people wonder who the next pharaoh would be after Thutmose's death? (tick)

- ☐ Thutmose had many children.
- ☐ Thutmose only had a daughter.
- ☐ Thutmose could not decide who it should be.
- ☐ Thutmose's son was too young to become a pharaoh.

- 4 Why were some people surprised that Hatsheput became a pharaoh? (tick)

- ☐ They thought that Hatsheput would be too sad after the death of her husband.
- ☐ They expected the pharaoh to be a man.
- ☐ Hatsheput did not want to be pharaoh.
- ☐ She was not a very powerful leader.

- 5 Which fact is true? (tick)

- ☐ The pharaohs that ruled before Hatsheput sent their soldiers into battle.
- ☐ Hatsheput wanted to make sure that Egypt won the war.
- ☐ Hatsheput's army was not strong enough to go to war.
- ☐ The pharaohs that ruled before were more focused on trading than fighting.

- 6 Name the exotic animals that the traders returned with.
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- 7 Why did Hatsheput become very popular? (tick)

- ☐ She was very rich.
- ☐ Everyone loved the exotic animals that the traders returned with.
- ☐ She won many wars.
- ☐ Through trading missions, Egypt became very rich.

- 8 What does the text tell us about Hatsheput's appearance? (tick)

- ☐ She wore lots of eyeliner.
- ☐ She wore a fake beard.
- ☐ She grew a beard to look like a man.
- ☐ She wore large gold earrings.

- 9 For how long was Hatsheput a pharaoh?
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- 10 Who became pharaoh after Hatsheput's death? (tick)

- ☐ her godson
- ☐ her daughter
- ☐ her nephew
- ☐ Thutmose II

Score:

# Answers

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170
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Thutmose II
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☒ Thutmose's son was too young to become a pharaoh.
- 4 Why were some people surprised that Hatshepsut became a pharaoh?

☒ They expected the pharaoh to be a man.
- 5 Which fact is true?

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apes, panthers and giraffes
- 7 Why did Hatshepsut become very popular?

☒ Through trading missions, Egypt became very rich.
- 8 What does the text tell us about Hatshepsut's appearance?

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22 years
- 10 Who became pharaoh after Hatshepsut's death?

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