



Ancient Egyptians

All about the artist

The Ancient Egyptians decorated the walls of the pyramids and palaces with images depicting their way of life. They often created artwork on papyrus (made from the reeds that grew on the banks of the River Nile).

Humans and animals are always drawn showing a side view of their faces and black ink is used to highlight each feature as a border. Inks made from a variety of sources in nature were used to create the colour palette of red, yellow, green, blue, browns and black. Gold leaf was also used to show wealth.

Different colors had symbolic meanings, like blue and green for growth, black for royalty, and gold for gods. The size of figures in artwork also indicated their importance



Styles and Techniques

The style of the Ancient Egyptians can be described by:

Symbolism and Ceremony:
Art served to maintain cosmic order and was deeply intertwined with religious beliefs, often creating a symbolic language to convey power and beliefs, according to Egypt Tours Portal.

Hieroglyphs:
Hieroglyphs, a complex form of writing, were used extensively in art and architecture to express stories and convey meaning.

Stylized Figures:
Figures were often depicted in a stylized, non-naturalistic manner, with heads and legs shown in profile and torsos from the front, as described by RSC Education and Wikipedia.

Symmetry and Balance:
A strong sense of symmetry and balance was used to reflect the harmonious order of the universe.

Size Hierarchy:
The size of figures indicated their relative importance in the social order,



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Key Vocabulary

Portrait

Side-profile

Symmetry

Relative sizes

Position

Palette

Dark tones

Layer

Ink

Proportion

Shades

tone

Significant Works

Death Mask of King Tutankhamun



One of the most notable pieces of art is a death mask found by Howard Carter (archaeologist) within a hidden tomb of a Pharaoh called Tutankhamun.

The boy king (as he was known) died at the age of 12 years but was buried with a huge fortune. His death mask was made of solid gold and encrusted with gems.

Queen Nefreteri



This is a picture on a tomb wall of Queen Nefertari, wife of Ramses the Great.

The tombs of Pharaohs (Kings and Queens of Ancient Egypt) would be decorated with images of them from life that would show their value to those in the Afterlife.

The images would be symbolic of their life, their ideals as well as their importance.

What will be outcome?

Step 2: Draw in pencil a side profile of a man/woman with shoulders and tops of the arm in the style of Ancient Egyptians.

Step 3: Add a headdress and neck wear, adding in details (using repetitive patterns and symmetry.)

Step 1: Paint an ochre background to mimic style of papyrus/use papyrus style backing paper.



Things you'll need: Papyrus printed/thick paper, ochre paint, black ink, 2B pencil

Step 4: Use ink to go over the image and create strong black lines.

Add in hieroglyphics to name the image.