

Before-reading questions

1-4 *Reader's own answers.*

During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 The god Ra is born.
- 2 From his secret name.
- 3 Because the river Nile floods every spring and makes the fields good for farming. There is enough food for everyone, there is peace and men do not fight.
- 4 Sekhmet is a goddess with a lioness's head. She was sent to kill the evil people. Ra tricks her by mixing red earth from the island of Elephantinē with beer, then putting this red beer over the fields. Sekhmet drinks it because she thinks that it is blood. She becomes very tired, and she cannot kill any more.
- 5 The power of love.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 Nut is the goddess of the sky, and she is sad because Ra says she "shall not have a child on any day in any year".
- 2 Thoth helps Nut by winning enough of the moon's light from the Moon-god, Khonsu, to make five extra days in the year.
- 3 Osiris is Nut's first son, and Isis is her daughter.
- 4 Thoth teaches them all his knowledge. Khonsu teaches Isis about the moon, and also about magic.
- 5 Isis uses her magic to make the first cobra, and it bites Ra and poisons him. He becomes very ill, and he tells Isis his secret name so that she will help him. She puts it into a spell, and the poison leaves Ra's body.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 Set is the younger brother of Osiris and Isis. He wants to take power from Osiris and become the Pharaoh.
- 2 He kills Osiris by inviting him to a meal, then getting him to lie inside a box that is really a coffin. Set closes the coffin with Osiris inside it, then throws it into the Nile.
- 3 A wave carries the coffin on to a beach and into the middle of a young tree. The tree grows around the coffin, and many people come to see it. The King of Syria's men take the tree to the palace and make it into a pillar.
- 4 So that she can bury it, because his spirit cannot go to the Duat without a funeral.
- 5 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* To help Diktys get stronger and to turn him into a god, so that she will have some power over King Malcander and Queen Astartē. Then, they will help her to get Osiris's body back.
- 6 Set cuts Osiris's body into fourteen pieces and throws them across the land of Egypt. Isis looks for all the pieces of Osiris's body and finds thirteen of them. She uses her magic to make a body from each piece, then buries each body, and there is a funeral in each place. In another story, she uses magic to make one body from all the pieces and secretly buries it on the island of Philae.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 He builds Egypt's first great pyramid – the Step Pyramid. It is a tomb for Pharaoh Zoser's body to lie in when he dies.
- 2 The river Nile does not rise and does not flood the farms. This is a problem because not much barley grows.

- 3 That there is a god of the Nile, called Khnemu, and he is not happy because Zoser and the people of Egypt do not worship him enough.
- 4 He tells Imhotep to build a great temple for Khnemu, and he also gives Khnemu all the land around it. He tells the people of Egypt to worship Khnemu and bring him gifts.
- 5 The Nile rises again, and the water floods the fields. The barley grows and fills the granaries.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 Because it has the words of power on it, and these words help to guard the pyramids from the evil Set. Hemon is building the Great Pyramid at Giza for Pharaoh Khufu, and he wants it to be safe.
- 2 Teta can do lots of magic. If someone cuts off a head, he can put it back on the body. Wild animals follow him like they are his dogs.
- 3 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* Maybe it is because his spell is a trick, and he does not want to do it on a person. Or maybe it is because he is a good man, and he does not want to hurt a person.
- 4 The papyrus roll is in a stone box in a secret place in Ra's great temple at Heliopolis. A child called User-Kaf finds it.
- 5 Yes, they did. We know this because the three great pyramids still stand at Giza today.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 One of the funerals is for a very rich man. His body lies in an expensive coffin, and many men carry it. The other funeral is for a poor man. His coffin is not expensive, and only his two sons carry it.

- 2 Se-Osiris draws a magic circle round them and does a spell. Their souls leave their bodies, and they turn into birds, then fly into the Duat.
- 3 It is very dark, and there is a river. There are tall walls on each side of the river, and huge snakes guard big doors with fire and poison. There are several regions, and each region has its own doors.
- 4 A pivot from one of the doors goes into the eye of one of the souls on the boat.
- 5 Anubis, the god of death, puts each soul's heart on some huge scales. There is a feather on one of the scales. If the heart comes from an evil person, the heart goes down because it is heavier than the feather. If the heart comes from a good person, the heart goes up because it is lighter than the feather.
- 6 The poor man's heart is lighter than the feather, and he goes to live in the Fields of Peace.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 An old, rich Greek man.
- 2 A beautiful slave girl.
- 3 An eagle flies down and takes it.
- 4 To find the girl with the other red slipper because he thinks she is as beautiful as the slipper, and he wants to marry her.
- 5 Because she puts the slipper on her foot and it is the right size.
- 6 She marries Pharaoh Amasis and becomes Queen of Egypt.

After-reading questions

- 1 a** The sun is important in Chapters One and Six. In Chapter One, Ra becomes the sun, then travels across the sky each day. In Chapter Six, Setna and Se-Osiris travel into the Land of the Dead when the sun is going down in the west. Every night, Ra has to fight against the evil spirit Apophis in the Duat. This is the only way for Ra to be born again in the east, and for the sun to rise the next morning.
- b** Rivers are important in Chapters One, Three, Four, Five and Six. In Chapter One, life is good for the people of Egypt because the Nile floods the fields and makes the earth good for farming. In Chapter Three, Set and his men throw the coffin with Osiris in it into the Nile. The river carries it out to sea. In Chapter Four, the Nile does not rise for seven years, and the barley does not grow. People become hungry and die. Then, Pharaoh Zoser builds a great temple to the god of the Nile, and the river rises again. In Chapter Five, Hordedef travels to Teta's village by boat, and Hordedef and Teta and Teta's men and book of spells travel back to Memphis along the Nile. In Chapter Six, Setna and Se-Osiris see the Mesektet Boat on the River of Death.
- c** Magic is important in Chapters Two, Three, Five and Six. In Chapter Two, Isis learns about magic from Thoth and Khonsu, and she becomes a great magician. In Chapter Three, Isis uses her magic to make the island of Chemmis move so Set cannot find her son Horus. She also uses it to change into an old woman, and to bury all the parts of Osiris's body and give him a funeral. In Chapter Five, Teta uses magic to find the papyrus roll. In Chapter Six, Se-Osiris uses magic to fly into the Land of the Dead with his father.

d Birds are important in Chapters Three, Five, Six and Seven. In Chapter Three, Isis changes into a bird at the palace at Byblos and flies around the pillar with Osiris's body in it. In Chapter Five, Teta uses magic to put a bird's head back on to its body. In Chapter Six, Setna and Se-Osiris's souls turn into birds. The god Thoth sometimes has the head of a bird. In Chapter Seven, an eagle flies into the garden and takes one of Rhodopis's slippers. The god Horus is often an eagle.

- 2** *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* The Egyptians worshipped lots of gods to help them to understand the world around them. The gods helped them to understand things like the sun, the night and the weather, and life and death.
- 3** *Reader's own answer.*
- 4** *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* In "Chapter Two – Ra's secret name", Isis learns Ra's secret name, and because of this she has more power than him. This is like the story of Rumpelstiltskin, who tricks the Queen and takes her baby. Then, he will only give her baby back if she can say his secret name. She learns his secret name, and she gets her baby back.
- 5** *Reader's own answers.*

Exercises

CHAPTER ONE

- 1** The god Ra **ruled** in Egypt for thousands of years.
- 2** Every spring, the river Nile **flooded** the fields.
- 3** Because of this, the earth **became** good for growing barley.
- 4** Ra **sent** the lioness Sekhmet to kill the evil people.

- 5 Sekhmet wanted to kill all the people, so Ra **tricked** her.
- 6 Sekhmet **drank** all the red beer on the fields because she thought that it was blood.

CHAPTER TWO

- 2 1 f 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 a 6 e

CHAPTER THREE

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 3 1 bury | 2 priest |
| 3 funeral | 4 worship |
| 5 treasure | 6 great |
| 7 wine | |

CHAPTER FOUR

- 4 1 Pharaoh Zoser wanted his body to lie in a great **tomb** when he died.
- 2 Imhotep was the world's first great **architect**.
- 3 Imhotep built Egypt's first **pyramid**.
- 4 In the tenth year of Zoser's **rule**, the Nile did not rise.
- 5 Zoser decided to **pray** to the gods for help.
- 6 If the Nile did not rise, the people of Egypt had to make greater **sacrifices** to Khnemu.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 5 1 d 2 c 3 b 4 f 5 e 6 a

CHAPTER SIX

- 6 1 Setna and Se-Osiris went **into** the Temple of Osiris.
- 2 Se-Osiris drew a magic circle **round** them.
- 3 Se-Osiris took their souls **out of** their bodies with words of power.
- 4 A group of gods pulled the Mesektet Boat **down** the River of Death.
- 5 The boat went through some big doors **into** the First Region of the Duat.
- 6 If the person was good, the scale with the heart on it went **up**.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 7 1 The men were selling a beautiful slave girl.
- 2 Charaxos thought that she was the most beautiful girl in the world.
- 3 He gave her a wonderful house to live in.
- 4 An eagle flew into the garden and took a slipper.
- 5 The eagle flew to the palace at Memphis.
- 6 Pharaoh Amasis sent his men all over Egypt to look for the girl.

Project work

Reader's own answers.