

# **Museum of World Treasures**

## **Ancient Egypt Vocabulary List**

- All entries pertain directly to artifacts or signs in our exhibits.

**Amun:** The supreme deity during the New Kingdom (1550-1069 B.C. E.)

**Amun-Re:** A combination of the two most powerful gods, the sun god Re of Heliopolis and Amun.

**Ankh:** The sign of eternal life or religion. No one knows exactly what the shape represents.

**Anubis:** A jackal god of mummification and the guardian of the cemetery. Helps prepare the mummy for the Netherworld.

**Atef Crown:** One of several crowns worn by gods and kings; similar to the tall white crown of Upper Egypt.

**Bastet:** Beloved cat goddess of the Delta.

**Book of the Dead:** An illustrated papyrus scroll placed in a tomb as a guidebook for the deceased to help with their journey to the Netherworld.

**Cartouche:** A magical oval that encircles two the pharaoh's five names. Named for the French word that means "cartridge."

**Cleopatra:** The last ancient ruler of Egypt and supposed living embodiment of Isis.

**Coffin:** A wooden container that holds a mummified body. Anthropoid coffins were made in the shape of humans.

**Faience:** A beautiful and prized ceramic made from quartz or sand, lime or natron, and water. Brilliantly colored. Used as good luck charms.

**Falcon:** Thought to be protectors for the king and manifestations of the sun god Re.

**Horus:** Lord of the Sky and symbol of divine kingship. One of the most important gods. Falcon-headed.

**Isis:** The great Egyptian mother goddess and manifestation of all that is feminine. Embodies all virtues and goodness of divine wife and mother.

**Khnum:** A ram-headed god who created man on the potter's wheel. He controlled the annual flooding of the Nile from the river's hidden caverns.

**Mummification:** A procedure to preserve the body so the deceased could resurrect and become one with Osiris.

**Osiris:** God of the dead and the best-known deity of the Egyptian gods.

**Ptah:** Creator god of Memphis, created the universe from his heart and tongue, spoke the word and fashioned the world.

**Sarcophagus:** Greek for "flesh eater." The outer stone coffin that holds the inner wooden coffin of mummies.

**Sistrum:** A kind of rattle shaken to honor the gods and ward off evil spirits.

**Ushabti:** Also called shawabti. Small figurines in the form of servants placed in the tomb of the deceased to come alive and serve.

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