

Akhenaten: Pharaoh Who Worshipped 1 God Name: _____ Prd: ____ Score: ____/25

Directions: Highlight the answers in the reading on the left for all questions asked on the right.

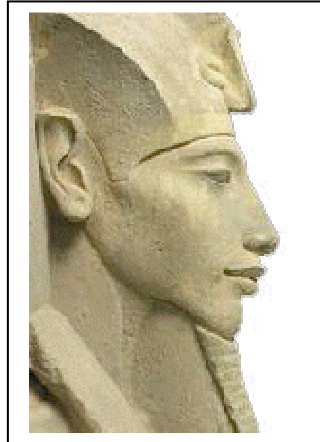
Egyptians could *not* believe what was happening! The pharaoh Amenhotep IV was *closing* the great temple of Amen at Thebes! **Amen** was the *supreme* god of Egypt ~ **the god of all gods**. Now the pharaoh wanted to *wipe out his name completely*. Throughout Egypt, the pharaoh's men *destroyed* the name Amen on temple walls, tombs, & stone markers. Amenhotep IV even had them destroy *any* mention of *any* of "the gods."

There was only one *true* god, he proclaimed... & this was the sun ~ the creator on whom *ALL* life depended!! The sun god was represented by a symbol ~ a radiant disc with rays of light that ended in little hands. In Egypt, the sun disc was the Aten. Amenhotep IV wanted Egyptians to worship *only* the Aten, "the great living disc, lord of heaven & earth." To show how serious he was, the pharaoh even *changed his name* to Akhenaten meaning "the glorified spirit of the Aten."

In the 14th century B.C., Akhenaten proclaimed a religious **revolution**, a type of rebellion amid religions. For 2000 years, the people of Egypt had worshipped *many* deities. At 1st, they took the shape of wild animals. Later, they created new gods that were part animal & part human. One such god was **Horus** who had the head of a falcon but the body of a man. Another was **Anubis** who had the head of a jackal & the body of a man. However, now Akhenaten was telling them that *all* their old **deities** (gods) were false! They must now instead worship *only* an all-powerful god...Aten!

At the time of Akhenaten's birth, Egypt was a very rich & powerful land. Gold poured into it from the mines of the Sudan in the south. **Tribute**, or payment, came from foreign princes in Egypt's empire to the north. Therefore, Akhenaten's father, **Amenhotep III**, & his mother, **Queen Ty**, lived in great luxury. Their palace at Thebes covered 80 acres with an artificial lake filled from water that flowed into it from the Nile River by means of a **canal**.

(Aten / Amen ← circle 1 was *god of all gods*.)



← Akhenaten, the heretic king

How did Amenhotep *show his* new god how dedicated he was to this new religion?

- a. closed the old temples
- b. took the name Akhenaten
- c. did away with all the old gods
- d. all the above

Making Inferences: What does it mean by a "religious revolution"? _____

Name *another deity worshipped* in Egyptian times: _____

Applying past knowledge: Egyptians originally worshipped **many** gods. That was called (monotheism / polytheism ← circle 1.) But to **only** worship **1** god, as Akhenaten required of his people, was called (monotheism / polytheism ↑ circle 1.)



Another word for **tribute** is _____.

Akhenaten's mother was known as _____.

Not much is known about Akhenaten's childhood. He does *not* appear on *any* of his father's monuments ~ *perhaps* because he suffered from a physical condition that *distorted* his body & head. But his looks did *not* hinder him *after* he became pharaoh. Akhenaten married a beautiful young woman named Nefertiti, whom he "*inherited*" from his own father. She had been a gift to Akhenaten's father from a faraway country. Nefertiti, meaning "the beautiful one is come," was considered *THE most beautiful woman to have ever walked on Egyptian soil*. And she & Akhenaten were madly in love! (Go figure, huh?)

Throughout their marriage, Akhenaten & Nefertiti were inseparable, it seems ~ even sharing the same religious inclination of worshipping 1 god ~ Aten! Where the young couple got their religious ideas is uncertain. The idea of a sun god, however, was nothing new. Egyptians had long worshipped **Re**, god of the sun, but *never exclusively, never all by itself*.

When Akhenaten rose to power, he took his religious beliefs one step further...he decided to move Egypt's capital *at Thebes* to a *desolate* area to the north & on the east bank of the Nile, *naming it Akhetaten*, meaning "the horizon of the sun disc." Today we call this ancient city in ruins Tel-el-Amarna.

This *enraged* the priests of his father's time, but there was nothing they could do. This is what their *living god*, Pharaoh Akhenaten, had ordered! So, all of Akhenaten's people *packed up & moved* their possessions northward.

At Akhenaten's new site, worship of the Aten took place in *open* courtyards rather than in enclosed temples. God's presence was supposed to be felt in the rays of the sun, so what better setting than out in the open with the sun's rays → beating down! Large crowds attended services, but *only* Akhenaten & his family were allowed to take part in these...Akhenaten prayed directly to the sun disc, but everyone else had to pray to Akhenaten! He was their *only* means of communicating with Aten...



Akhenaten married

- Queen Ty
- Re
- Aten
- Nefertiti

How did Akhenaten come to marry her?



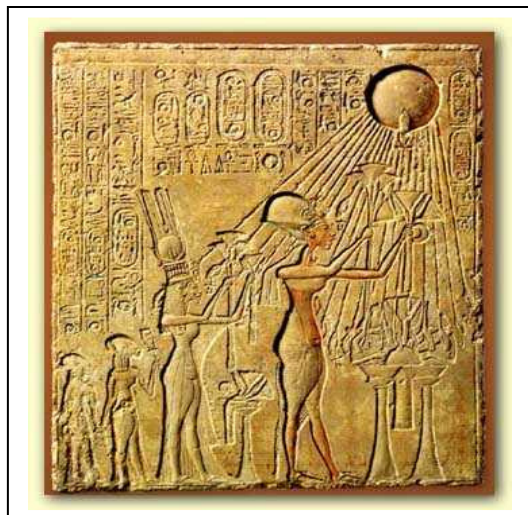
Akhenaten moved his capital from _____ to _____

(Name these 2 cities.)

The name **Akhetaten** meant _____

The priests of Egypt reacted to Akhenaten's change in religion by _____.

- welcoming the change
- becoming infuriated
- willingly packing up & moving their possessions
- only a & b
- all the above



Akhenaten was an *unusual* pharaoh in many ways but most of all, *because of his looks*. It is believed that he was a **hydrocephalic** suffering from a condition of 'water on the brain.' This caused a number of physical problems including an elongated head, narrow shoulders & chest, thin legs, large hips & a protruding stomach.

However, Akhenaten's appearance did not appear to have bothered him. During his marriage, he & Nefertiti had 6 beautiful daughters & celebrated each day in their lush gardens. Here, *instead of* taking care of his country's matters (war, tribute, protection of the borders,) Akhenaten preferred to sit in his gardens & write poetry to Nefertiti. He even went so far as to have himself painted (*exactly as he appeared* in life) with his family on the walls *in loving embraces ... that* had never been done before! Today we call the art illustrated during this time period the "**Amarna style**."

But as time passed, Akhenaten's religion *never* really caught on with his countrymen...*nor* by the priests. In his 17th year of reign, he died *mysteriously*. His tomb has been discovered, but his mummy was *never found*. Within a year or two of his death, Nefertiti also disappeared. *Neither* was her mummy found.

Worship of the sun disc did not last very long after his death. Later it was ordered that all evidence of Akhenaten's reign be **obliterated** (wiped out) from history. The next pharaoh to ascend to Egypt's throne was his 9 year old son, **Tutankhamen**, "the boy king." With the assistance of his advisor & counsel, King Tut *restored* the old **deities** & life in Egypt returned to its ancient ways...but by then, the empire of Egypt was already in decline.

There may not be many reminders of Akhenaten's reign as pharaoh, but there is some speculation that he *may have been* the *first person to ever believe in 1 god...* however, *he had ignored the gods*, & they, in turn, abandoned him. For centuries no one *spoke of Akhenaten nor of his **heretic** ways*.

Describe some of the **unusual** physical characteristics of a **hydrocephalic**:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Applying science knowledge:

hydro = _____

cephalic = _____

Akhenaten & Nefertiti produced

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. a male heir | c. only a & b |
| b. 6 daughters | d. no children |



The "art" of Amarna: **How** were Akhenaten & his family **represented** (painted) on stone walls?

And this **style of art** was called _____ style.

Making Predictions: **How** do you believe Akhenaten & Nefertiti **really died**?

Another word for "wiped out" is _____.

What did King Tut do **to please** his people once he became King?



Applying new vocabulary: Akhenaten was a (polytheist / monotheist ⇄ circle 1).

Why would the Egyptians have abandoned Pharaoh Akhenaten? _____

T or F: Heretic is another word for rebel.