

Hatshepsut: A Woman Rules Name: _____ Prd: ____ Score: ____ /25

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

She was one of the most remarkable women the world has ever known. It was not enough for her to rule Egypt as **Queen Hatshepsut...she ruled as a man & performed all the duties of a pharaoh!** Then *why* wouldn't she be called pharaoh? It had never been done before, *but that didn't stop Hatshepsut!* One day she claimed that Amen, the greatest of all Egypt's **deities** (another word for gods) spoke to her inside his temple at Karnak. From the lips of the gold idol, a voice said unto her, "Go, my daughter, *king of Egypt!*" This was c. 1500 B.C.

In ancient Egypt, the pharaohs often claimed that the deities spoke to them. There was nothing unusual about that. *But Hatshepsut was a woman, & she had powerful enemies!* They protested that her story could not be believed! It was in vain, however. In the presence of great nobles & priests, Hatshepsut *placed on her own head*, the double crown of upper & lower Egypt! She was the *first* woman ever to wear it! She also wore a gold beard that was attached to her chin as another symbol of her being pharaoh! This beard was a symbol of **divine** (given by god) male power & with that, she proclaimed throughout the land that *all must call her his majesty!*

Hatshepsut's story is told on the walls of her magnificent **mortuary temple** at **Thebes**, the capital of ancient Egypt. Memorial temples & pyramids were built by Egyptian kings as places *that their souls might return to after death.* Hers was cut deeply into a rocky cliff & was huge by even modern day standards. Even with the passing of some 3500 years, it still stands today in all its glory! On its inner walls, the best **artisans** (craftsmen & artists) of Hatshepsut's time carved & painted scenes depicting her life & successes. Others carved **hieroglyphics** (Egyptian written language) of Egypt's economic prosperity & peace during Hatshepsut's **reign**, *or ruling time in power.*

Hatshepsut was **unique** to the world **because** ____.

- a. she was Egyptian
- b. she performed duties as a pharaoh
- c. ruled as a man
- d. a & b only
- e. b & c only
- f. all the above

A **deity** is another word for _____.

- a. pharaoh
- b. king
- c. queen
- d. god

BONUS: What does the symbol "c." represent? _____



Hatshepsut was the 1st woman **to** _____.

- a. become a queen
- b. wear the double crown of Egypt
- c. rule Mesopotamia
- d. marry her own brother

Applying new vocabulary: The word **divine** means (taken / god-given / personally chosen ← circle 1).

Hatshepsut's **life story** is **carved in** her _____.

- a. pyramid
- b. agora
- c. mortuary temple
- d. cartouche

Artisan is another word for _____.

_____ is Egypt's **ancient written language**.

A **period of time** someone is in power is called a _____.

Hatshepsut claimed that she was of **divine** birth. In the first wall picture, the god Amen appears as her father King Thutmose I. The god-king tells her mother, Queen Amose, "Hatshepsut shall be the name of my daughter... She shall exercise the *kingship* in this whole land. *My soul is hers, my will is hers, my crown is hers.*"

Hatshepsut was obviously her father's favorite child, & he gave her the same training that was normally given to a royal *son*! As a young girl, she began *wearing boys' clothes* ~ a brief, pleated kilt that ended at the knees. On temple walls, she is *shown on a raft, spearing fish in the Nile*. In another picture, she *hurls nets to trap quail* in the marshes near the Nile River. She also *taunts a crocodile* that is swimming among the reeds.

Hatshepsut had an older sister & two younger brothers...but they died when they all were young. That left Hatshepsut as the sole **heir** (offspring) to her father's throne. Thutmose I was determined that she should succeed him, & so when Queen Amose died, Thutmose *placed Hatshepsut beside him on the throne!* He told the nobles & priests, "This is my daughter, Hatshepsut. Behold! I have appointed her my **successor** to the throne...She it is who shall lead you." Those who obeyed her, Thutmose said, would live & prosper. Those who spoke evil of her would be put to death by **Amen**, lord of all gods! *Hatshepsut was not yet 20 years old. She appeared as a slender, graceful young woman, but she still wore, as always, masculine clothes.*

After the death of Thutmose, Hatshepsut ruled Egypt alone for a while. She was the first woman to ever rule a major empire! However, the law ~ & the wishes of the people ~ *required* her to marry in order to produce an **heir**. The man she agreed to marry was a half-brother which was *acceptable* at that time in history. He was one of many children born to *lesser* wives of Thutmose I. In ancient Egypt, it was the custom of kings to have *more than* one wife. And it was also customary for kings to marry a sister or half-sister *to keep the "divine" blood line pure.*



Describe **3 ways** in which Hatshepsut *acted or was treated as a "royal son."*

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

(There are more than 3 answers...pick any 3.)

Applying English skills to social studies:

What is a **synonym** for "offspring"?

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| a. boy | c. brother |
| b. girl | d. heir |

Making Inference: By reading the word **successor** in the context of this sentence & the sentence after...**what** do you think the word "**successor**" means?

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. to come <i>before</i> | c. to rule <i>jointly</i> |
| b. to come <i>after</i> | d. none of the above |

Hatshepsut is credited with being the **1st woman to** _____.

- a. be forced into marrying her father.
- b. produce an heir.
- c. ever rule a major empire.
- d. marry her half-brother

Why was it **acceptable** for brothers & sisters **to marry** in Egyptian times? _____

The half-brother whom Hatshepsut married became Thutmose II, & she, then, became the Great Queen & Great Royal Wife. But the records indicate that Thutmose II was a passive king & that Hatshepsut was still in control.

While Thutmose II lived, Hatshepsut's title remained Great Queen...but soon after his early death, she *stunned* Egypt by assuming the double crown & the role of pharaoh. *Why did she do it?*

She & Thutmose had 2 children, but both were girls. However, Thutmose also had a son by a lesser wife, Isis, who wanted her son to become king. She finally persuaded Thutmose II to name the boy (Thutmose III) as his **successor**. The son, himself, had dreamt of becoming a great warrior-king & could not wait to take power! *But Hatshepsut had other ideas...*

Hatshepsut was not about to share the throne with her young stepson. *To strengthen her position, she crowned herself King Hatshepsut!* For years she kept him from the throne & limited his role to commander of Egypt's armies.

King Hatshepsut used her power well, however. While she was on the throne, Egypt enjoyed a "golden age" of peace, trade & prosperity. Its cities were alive with the construction of new temples, **obelisks** (4-sided stone monuments with the shape of a pyramid on top), & other buildings. Artists were put to work depicting Hatshepsut & other great people of the time. Hatshepsut had 100s of statues created in the form of a sphinx ~ her head united to the body of a lion! It made no difference to her that sphinxes were royal *male* images. She would *not* be outdone by any male pharaoh!

When Hatshepsut died (suspiciously) c. 1468 B.C., some say her stepson finally *took his revenge*. He ordered his soldiers *to destroy every reminder of her*. Armed with axes, soldiers *smashed* every statue made of her! They *vandalized* the wall pictures in her temple & *chiseled out* her name from the hieroglyphic writings on the walls! *In place of her name*, he instructed his scribes to write his ~ Thutmose III!

*Why was Hatshepsut **still** able to be **in control** even after she married Thutmose II?* _____

Making Predictions: *Why do you believe Hatshepsut **took back** the role of pharaoh?*

What did Hatshepsut *do to ensure she*, not her stepson, **became Pharaoh?**

- a. banished the boy c. had the son killed
b. crowned herself king d. sent him to school

During Hatshepsut's reign, **Egypt enjoyed a "golden age"** of _____,

_____, & _____.

A _____ is a **4-sided stone monument**.

- a. temple c. obelisk
b. pyramid d. monument

What examples were given here showing how Hatshepsut's son **took his revenge on her?** _____

_____ turn over...



Fortunately, Hatshepsut's temple itself was spared, probably because the soldiers feared desecrating (ruining) a building dedicated to Amon! Later, the *temple was buried by sandy landslides* & disappeared for centuries.

When it was finally dug up in our present century, historians were able to reconstruct her life's story. It is the story of a fearless & courageous woman who dared to rule Egypt as a man. She was a woman ahead of her time...

Making conclusions: *How* was it that **Hatshepsut's mortuary temple** was *left undiscovered* for so many centuries?

Hatshepsut's Mortuary Temple ↓

