

## GODS

Ra started out as a regional god reigning over Heliopolis but he eventually became really central to the entire pantheon of gods in Ancient Egypt. He was the god of the sun but also the god of creation. The thinking was that if humans did their jobs then the pantheon of gods would maintain cosmic order. And since the pharaohs became gods upon their death it made sense to please them even unto pyramids. Egyptian popular religion also embraced the belief in amulets, in magic, in divination and the belief that certain animals especially cats had divine power. And yes, I did bring that up just I could wall cat. Old Kingdom Egypt was also remarkably literate. They had 2 forms of writing. Hieroglyphics for sacred writing and the Demotic script for recording contracts and agreements and other boring stuff. The last thing I want to say about Old Kingdom Egypt it was ridiculously rich. But then around 2250 BCE there were a series a droughts and pharaohs started fighting over who should have power and we had an Intermediate Period. (classical music) Which was followed by the middle earth. The middle kingdom. Really? That's a bummer Stan. I want it to be the middle earth. How awesome would that be? It's like in the middle of Egyptian history they were hobbits. The Middle Kingdom which apparently had no hobbits restored pharaonic rule in 2040 BCE but with some distinct changes. First the new rulers were outsiders from Nubia. Second they fostered a new pantheon of gods the star of which was Amun which means "hidden." Here's a little lesson from history. Hidden gods tend to do well because they're omnipresent. Amun eventually merged with Ra to form the god Amun-Ra who is like the best god ever and all the Middle Kingdom pharaohs made temples for him and devoted all of their surplus to his glory.