

# Egyptian Queens: Women Who Ruled Ancient Egypt



## 6 Egyptian Queens: Women Who Ruled Ancient Egypt

by Jane Goodall

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Ancient Egypt was a land of pharaohs, but there were also many powerful queens who ruled the kingdom. These women were responsible for some of the most important developments in Egyptian history, from building temples and pyramids to leading armies into battle.

Here are some of the most famous Egyptian queens:

### Hatshepsut

Hatshepsut was one of the most successful pharaohs in Egyptian history. She ruled for over 20 years and oversaw a period of great prosperity and cultural achievement. Hatshepsut was a skilled diplomat and military leader, and she expanded the borders of Egypt. She also built many

temples and monuments, including the Temple of Karnak, one of the largest and most impressive temples in Egypt.



## **Nefertiti**

Nefertiti was the wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten and one of the most famous women in ancient Egypt. She was known for her beauty and her role in

promoting the cult of Aten, the sun god. Nefertiti's bust is one of the most iconic works of ancient Egyptian art.



Nefertiti, the wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten.

**Cleopatra**

Cleopatra was the last pharaoh of Egypt. She was a skilled politician and diplomat, and she ruled for over 20 years. Cleopatra was known for her beauty and her relationships with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. She was eventually defeated by Octavian, and Egypt became a province of the Roman Empire.



### **Other Notable Egyptian Queens**

In addition to the three queens mentioned above, there were many other notable Egyptian queens. Here are a few of them:

- **Sobekneferu** was the first female pharaoh of Egypt. She ruled for about four years during the 12th dynasty.
- **Ahhotep I** was the mother of Ahmose I, the founder of the 18th dynasty. She was a skilled military leader and helped to drive the Hyksos out of Egypt.
- **Tiye** was the wife of Amenhotep III and the mother of Akhenaten. She was a powerful and influential queen who played a role in promoting the cult of Aten.
- **Tawosret** was the last pharaoh of the 19th dynasty. She ruled for about two years and was eventually defeated by Setnakhte, the founder of the 20th dynasty.

The Egyptian queens were some of the most powerful and influential women in ancient history. They ruled over a vast empire, built great monuments, and led armies into battle. Their stories are a testament to the strength and resilience of women.



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