



Female figures pre dynasty period ancient Egypt

Statues of women are common in ancient Egypt. Often, these women are of a geometric shape, with full thighs and breasts. Others show elaborately arranged hair decoration. These statues were placed next to the dead, and are thought to represent a mother who gives birth to the deceased again in the afterlife. Other suggestions include these statues representing a wife for the deceased, with whom he enjoys companionship, or a maid who is preparing food for them in the afterlife. Many different forms have been discovered.



Nowadays, in Upper Egypt, a cloth doll is often placed next to a woman who has recently given birth to a child, to protect her from envy and to generate milk in her breasts. Other dolls made of paper are pierced with a pin and burned to protect a woman against evil.

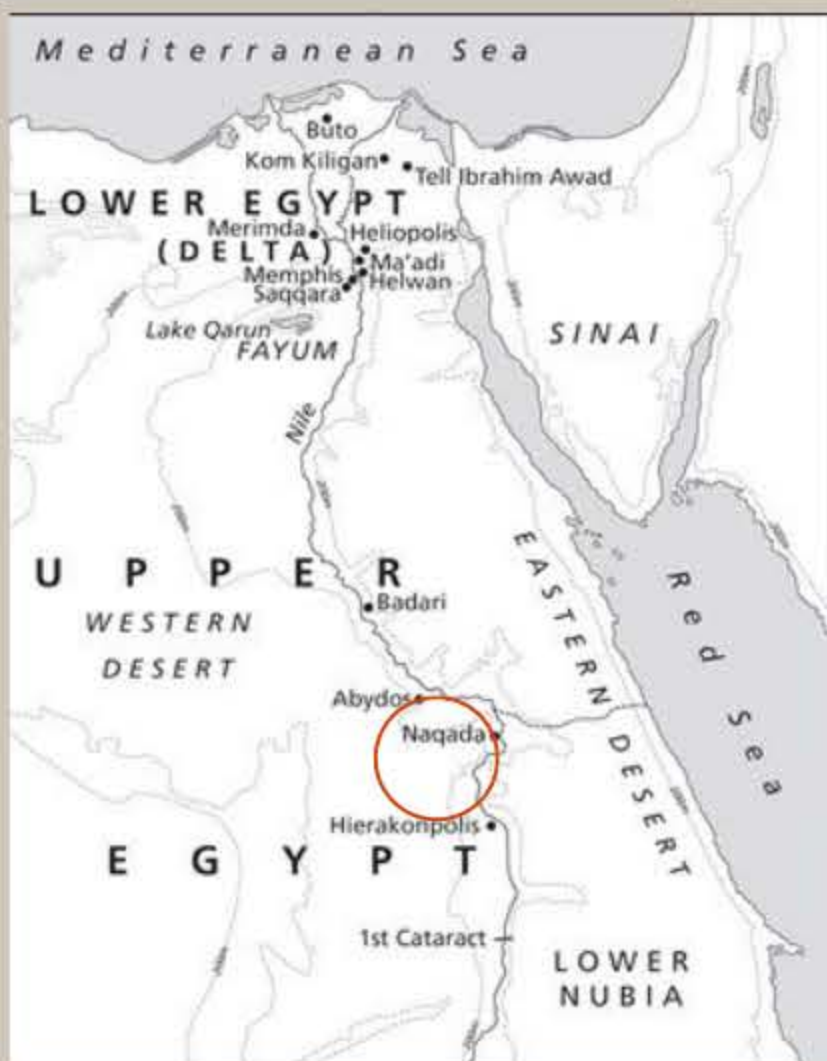


New dough doll from upper Egypt
by my friend Nagwa Bakr
ITP fellow 2019

Female figures pre dynasty period in Ancient Egypt

Naqada

It is a city located on the west bank of the Nile River in the city of Qena in Upper Egypt, far 640 km from Cairo, and is considered one of the most important prehistoric periods in Egypt.



Female figures

Motherhood statues spread all over the world in prehistoric times, where societies were matrilineal, the sacred mother that reflects fertility and the continuity of life by focusing on the female organs of breast enlargement, abdominal folds and the reproductive area, which emphasizes the ability of that woman to give birth.

Female statues appeared also in prehistoric era in Egypt, and were found buried in tombs with deceased (men) and there are many theories about the functions of the female figures such as :

- # Motherhood statues that the deceased wished born from their wombs in after world , so they reflecting fertility .

- # Protection from enemy.

- # Wives of deceased company to after world.

This unique figure decorated with motifs like (Tattoos) reflecting the surrounding environment like ; waves of river Nile , plants.

These motifs close enough to the decorations of pottery and stone vessels from the Naqqada period .

There are still many opinions about the interpretation of this objects and its functions , whether they were motherhood statues, or amulets for protection, fertility and continuity.



Where did I come from ?



Naqada

During the seventeenth century, the people living in the Naqada region spoke the Coptic language, and the name of the city, Naqada, is a distortion of its Coptic name Nik Addai, which means understanding or knowledge. It was also said that the name of the city is derived from the word Najada, meaning rescue.

Naqada civilization

Historians have divided the Naqadan civilization into three eras, dated about 1500 years before the Unification of Egypt.

Naqada I (from 4500 to 3500 BC)

Naqada II (from 3500 to 3200 BC)

Naqada III (from 3200 to 3000 BC)



Pottery from Naqada I



Pottery from Naqada II



Pottery from Naqada III

The Naqada civilization is one of many cultural groups that existed in Predynastic Egypt

Modern Naqadan craftsmanship

The manufacture of the Naqadian Farka (a type of scarf) is an important craft that has developed in the region today. These scarves are exported to Sudan, and are believed to bring blessings to the wearer; hence they have become an most important decoration for Sudanese brides. Newborn babies are also wrapped in the 'Farka' because it is believed that it will bring them a happy life.



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Ceramic female statuette

Egypt - Naqada I - Early Predynastic Period

Ceramic figurine, showing female anatomical features, with a bird's head. This statuette shows geometric drawings of water and plants that may represent the Nile River and the fertility of the Nile valley, including a hippopotamus figure on her stomach. Her eyes are decorated with malachite-green kohl.

This type of statuette appeared in abundance in the Predynastic period. Perhaps this figure symbolizes a priestess or a deity who performed ceremonies or rituals, due to the bracelets, anklets, and several red necklaces that she wears.

On her back, a scene of collared dogs hunting antelope perhaps represents the control of dangers and evil in the desert.

BM: EA58064



Front



Back

KWL

K

What I know

A large, empty rectangular box with an orange border, intended for writing what the student knows about the topic.

Topic: female figures

W

What I wonder

A large, empty rectangular box with an orange border, intended for writing what the student wonders about the topic.

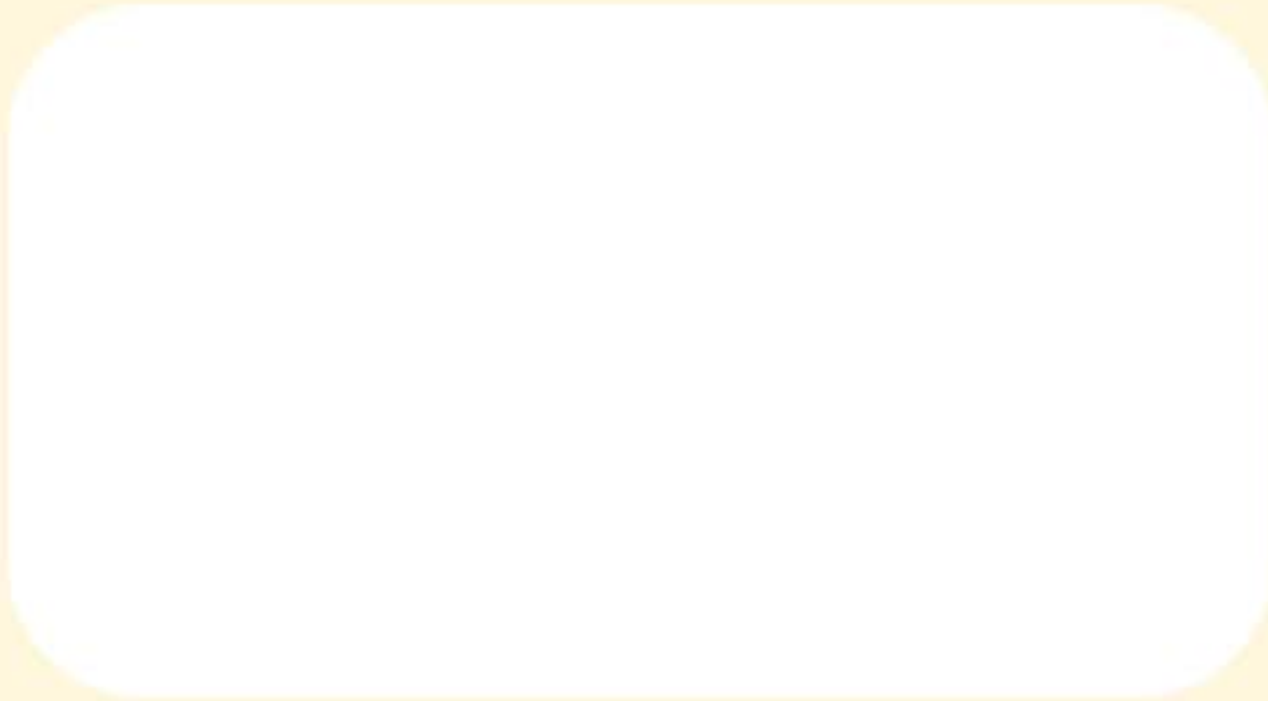
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What I learned

A large, empty rectangular box with an orange border, intended for writing what the student learned from the topic.

Name:

DRAW WHAT ARE YOU SEEING



Use art as the way to express your skills



Name, age :