

Ancient Egyptians

Learning Objective:

To investigate the inventions and achievements of the ancient Egyptians.

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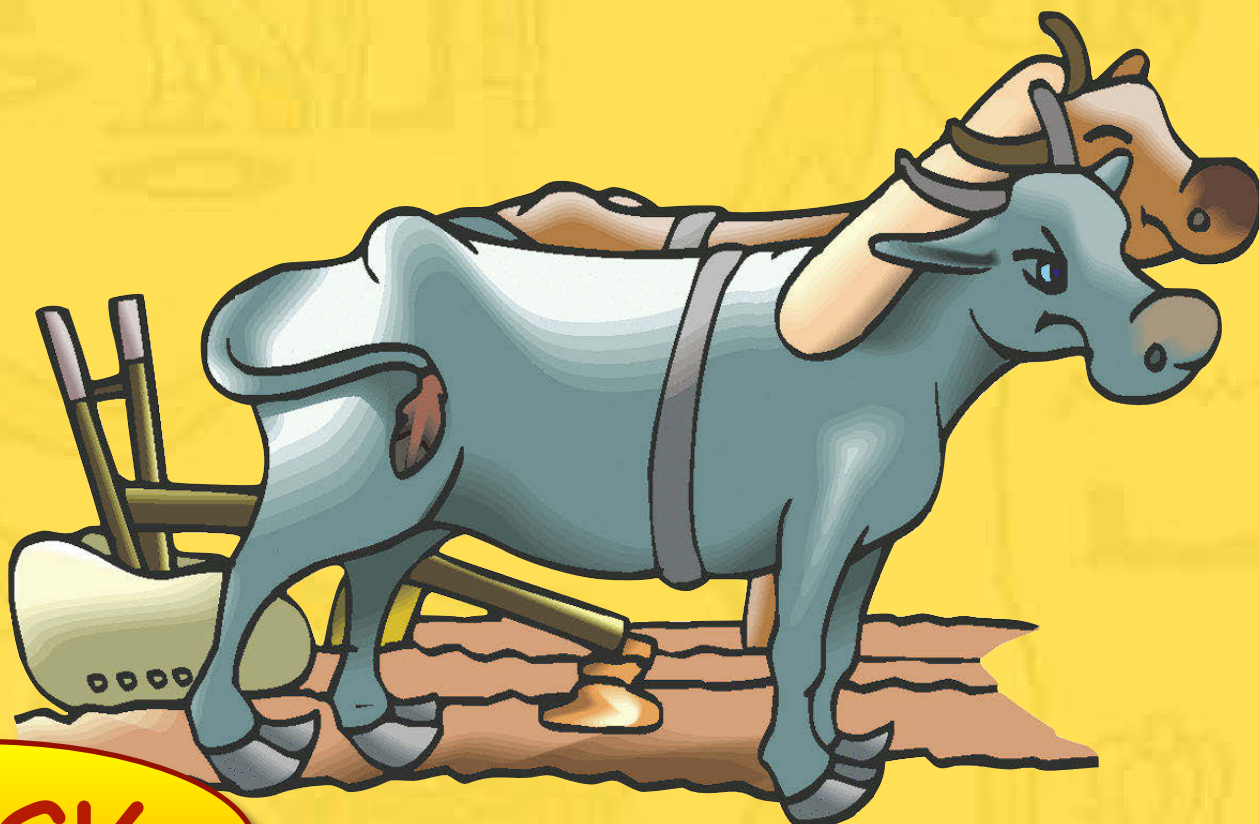
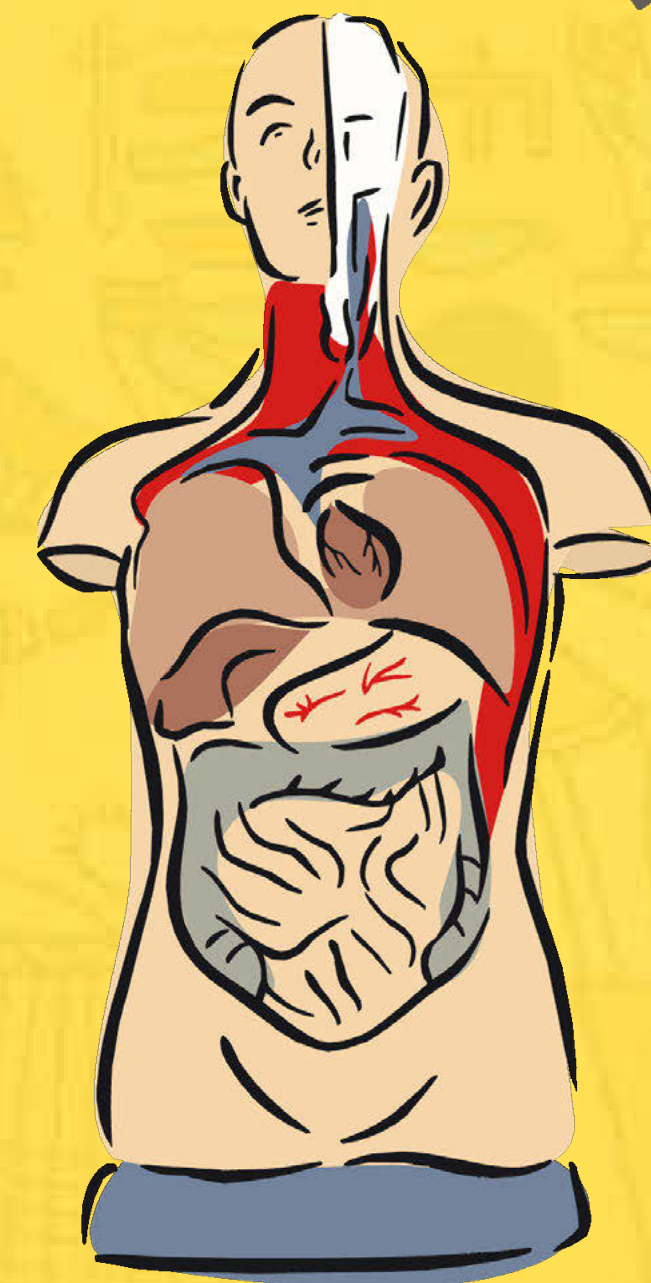
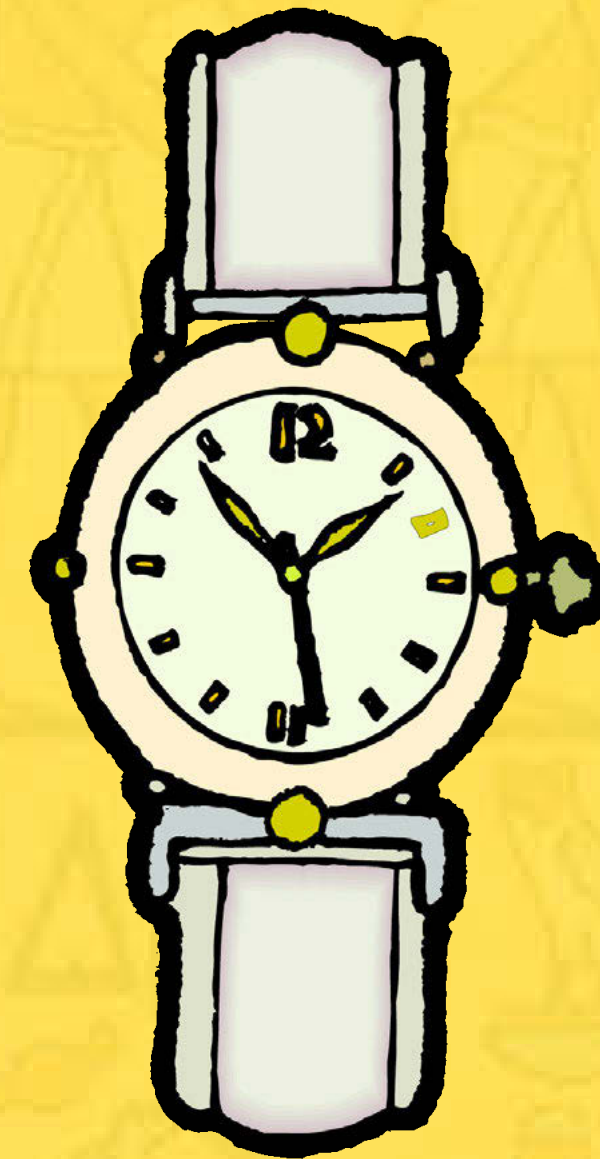


Can you think of
anything the ancient
Egyptians invented that we
still use today?

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Click on a picture to explore some of ancient Egypt's best inventions and achievements.

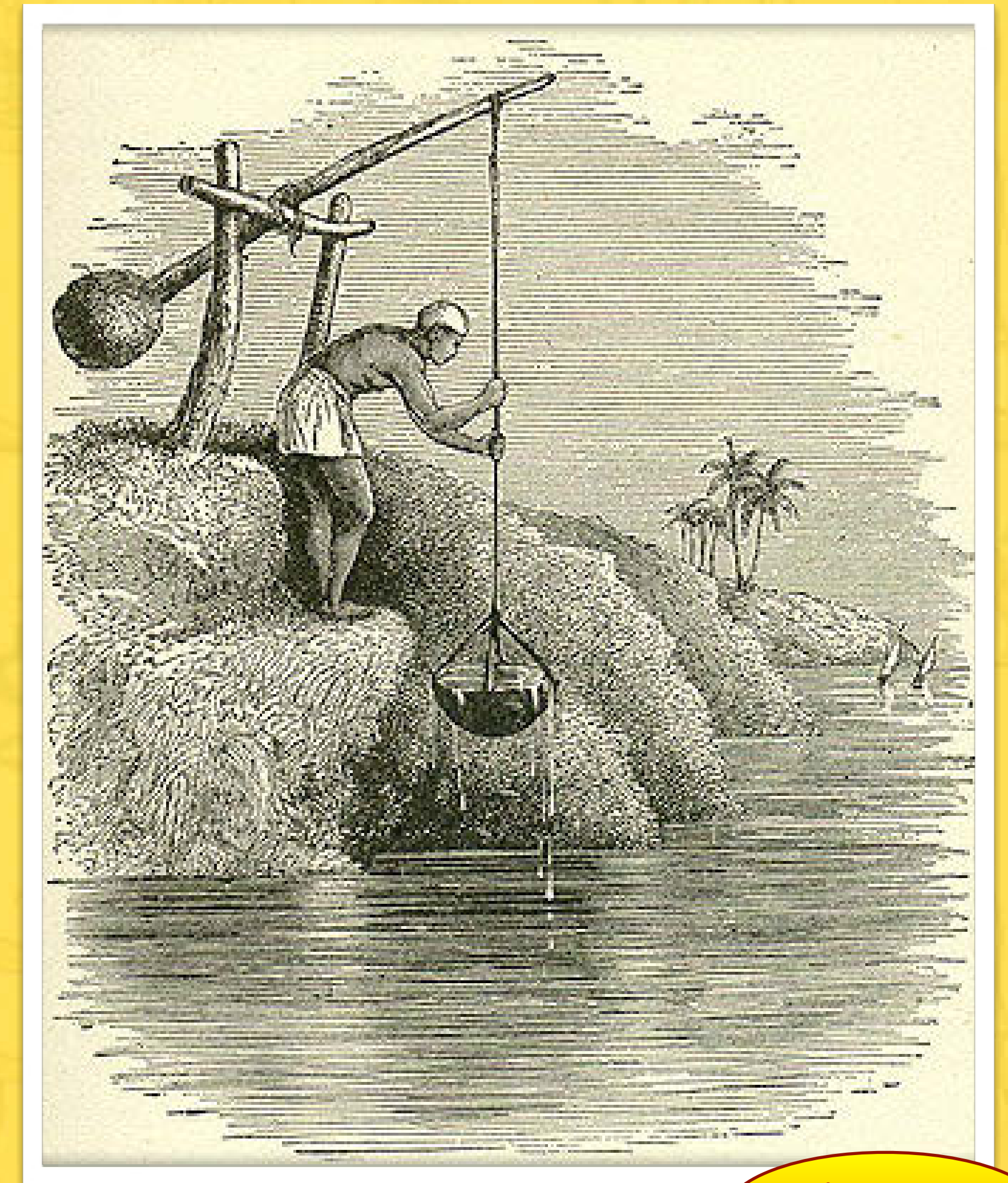


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Irrigation and Shadufs

Egypt is a hot and dry country. The River Nile flooded every year which helped the crops to grow but when the water receded the soil became dry again. The ancient Egyptians developed systems of irrigation to get the water from the Nile to their crops throughout the year. They dug canals and used a shaduf to lift water from the Nile to the canals.



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Papyrus



The banks of the River Nile were covered in a weed called papyrus. The ancient Egyptians developed many uses for this weed.

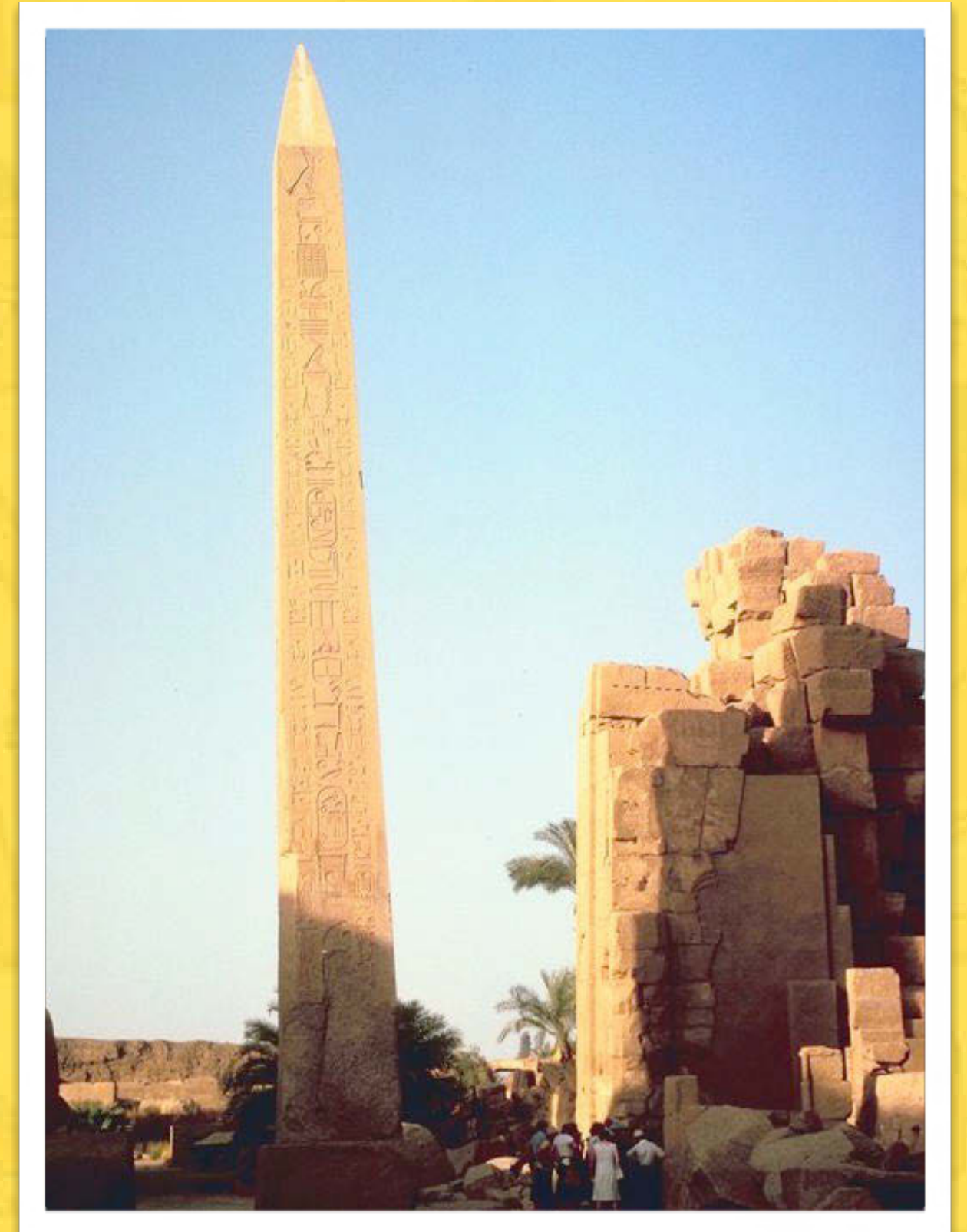
They made shoes, boats, rope and many other things by soaking the papyrus before cutting it into fine strips and weaving the strips together. Papyrus was also the first form of paper. In fact, the word 'paper' comes from the word 'papyrus'.

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Clocks

The ancient Egyptians developed two types of clock. The first were obelisks. These were tall monuments that acted like a sundial – you could tell the time by looking at the shadow made by the obelisk.



They also invented water clocks. These were devices that allowed water to drip through a pot at a regular speed throughout the day. Markers showed how much water had dripped out and therefore showed what the time was.



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Calendars

Before the ancient Egyptians, people had used the moon to record the cycles of the year. The ancient Egyptians were the first people to use the sun to separate the year into twelve months. Each month had thirty days and there were five extra days at the end of the year. A similar way of separating the years and months has been used ever since.

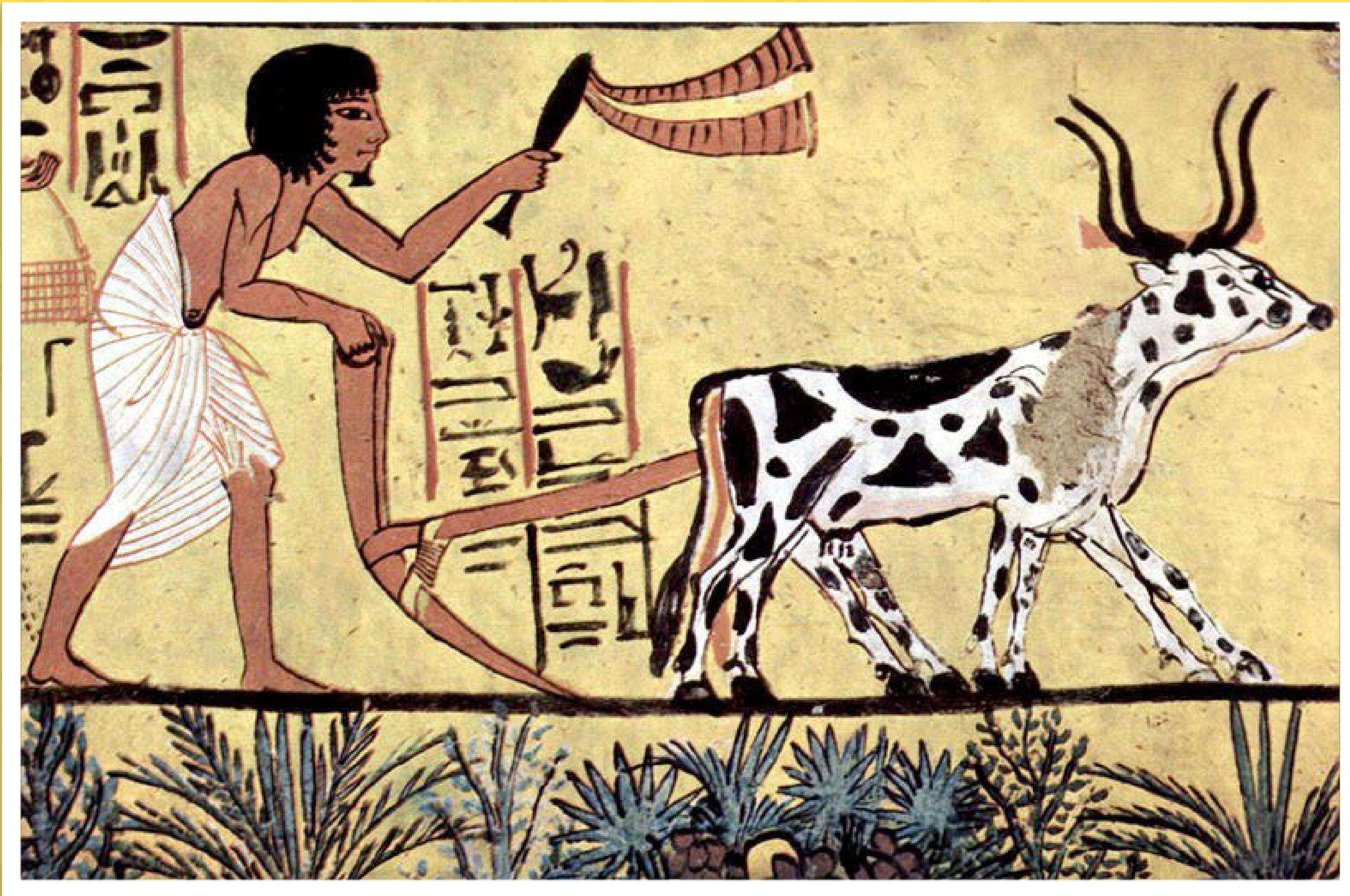


An ancient Egyptian calendar

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Ox-Drawn Plough



The ancient Egyptians were the first people to use oxen and other strong animals to help them plough their fields. This made loosening the soil much easier than digging or using humans to pull a plough.

This completely changed the way farmers worked in ancient Egypt. Many farmers in the world today who cannot afford mechanical ploughs still use a similar method.

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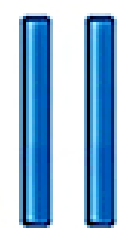
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Decimal System

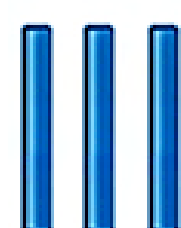
The ancient Egyptians invented a number system using symbols to represent different amounts.



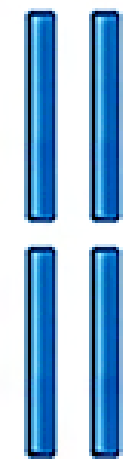
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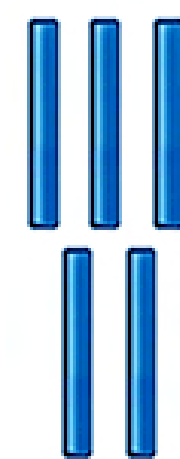
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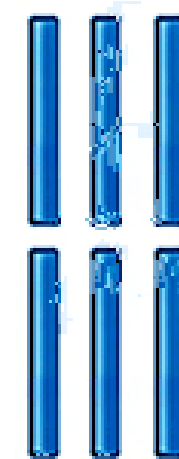
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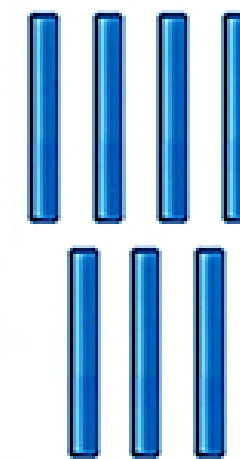
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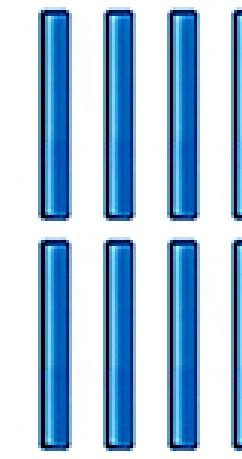
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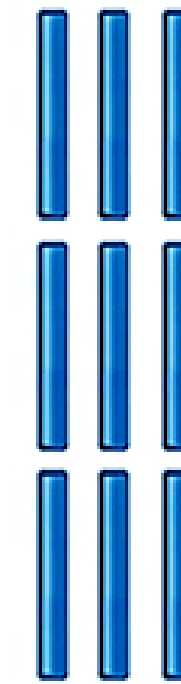
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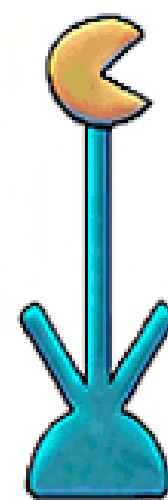
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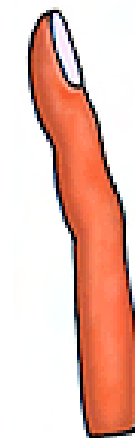
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100



1,000



10,000



100,000



1,000,000

Can you work out what the number below would be?

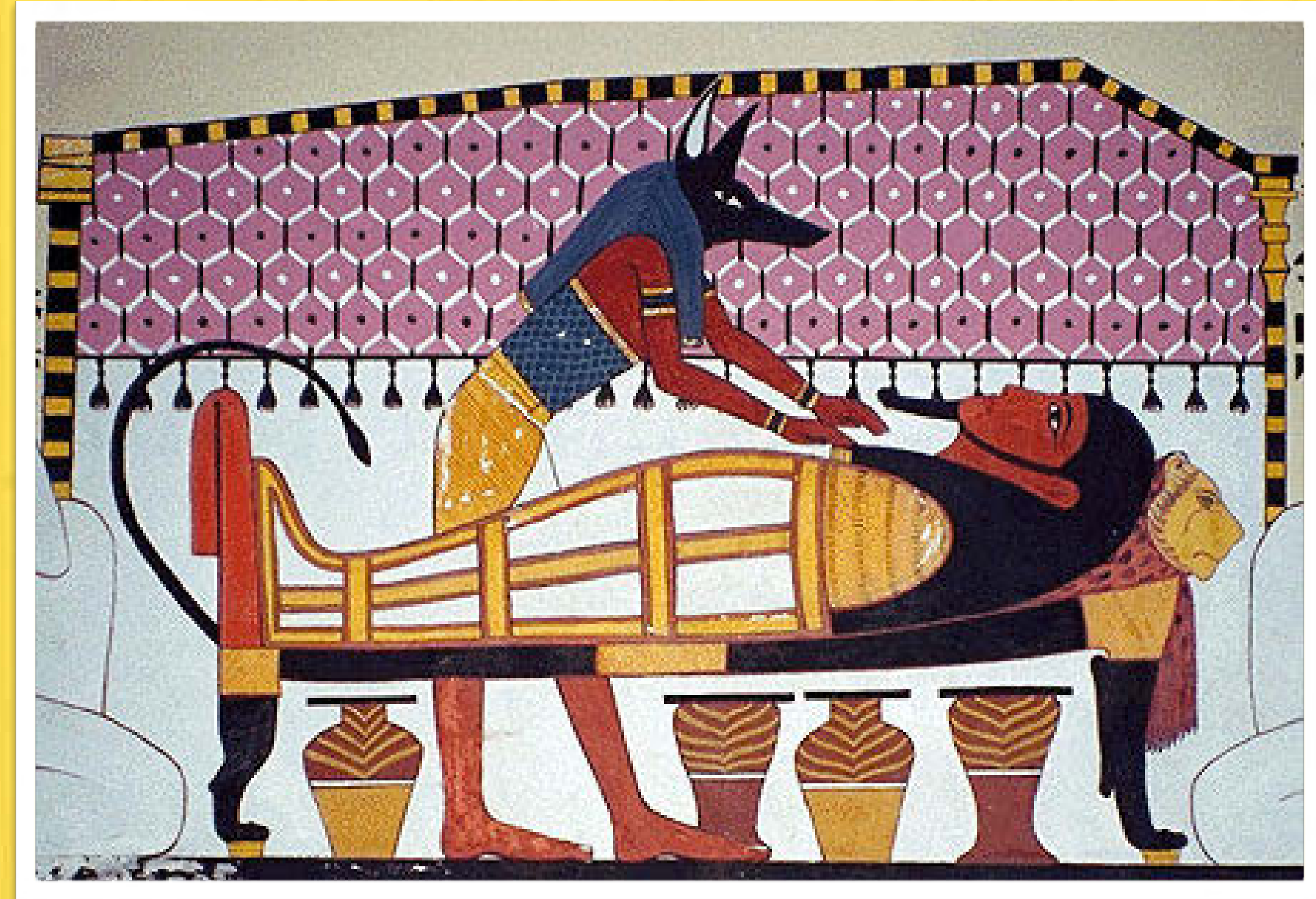


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Knowledge of the Body

The process of mummification meant that the ancient Egyptians learnt a lot about the inside of the human body. They began to recognise the internal organs of the body, such as the heart, liver and lungs, and they know that the pulse was related to the heart.



The ancient Egyptians were the first to start treating illnesses with medicines instead of just praying to the gods for a cure. They performed surgeries and used lots of different herbs as medicines.

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Which of these inventions do we still use today?

Which have been modified and changed over the years?

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