

Name _____

Queen Nefertiti: The Radiant Ruler of Ancient Egypt

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Queen Nefertiti played a pivotal role in the religious reforms of ancient Egypt during the Amarna period. She actively promoted the worship of the sun god Aten alongside her husband, Pharaoh Akhenaten. Her actions included participating in religious ceremonies and helping establish Aten as the central deity. This contributed to a significant shift in Egyptian religious beliefs, moving away from the traditional polytheistic practices.
2. Nefertiti's famous bust is a masterpiece of art and represents her unparalleled beauty and elegance. It is significant because it provides a glimpse into the artistic and cultural achievements of ancient Egypt. The sculpture is a testament to the skills of ancient Egyptian artisans and has become an enduring symbol of Nefertiti's place in history and her timeless allure.
3. Queen Nefertiti faced several challenges during the Amarna period. One of the main challenges was resistance to the religious reforms initiated by her husband, Pharaoh Akhenaten. Many people adhered to traditional Egyptian polytheism and were reluctant to accept the changes. Additionally, Nefertiti had to navigate the complex political landscape to maintain her position and influence in a time of significant religious and cultural transformation.
4. The Amarna period is considered significant in Egyptian history because it marked a major religious and cultural shift. The introduction of the worship of the sun god Aten and the establishment of a new capital, Akhetaten (modern-day Amarna), were key developments during this time. These changes had a lasting impact on Egyptian religious beliefs and artistic expression. The period is often referred to as the "Amarna Revolution" and represents a distinctive chapter in Egyptian history.

