

Name _____

The Enigmatic Sphinx: Guardian of Ancient Egypt

Short Answer Key

1. The Sphinx served as a guardian, protecting the pyramids and the pharaoh's burial complex from potential threats or intruders. Its imposing presence deterred tomb robbers and preserved the sanctity of the sacred site.
2. The riddle of the Sphinx symbolizes the stages of human life, from crawling as a baby to walking with two legs as an adult and using a cane in old age. Oedipus famously solved the riddle in Greek mythology.
3. The Sphinx has faced challenges such as erosion, weathering, and damage over the centuries. Sand and wind erosion have particularly affected its lower portions. Modern efforts have included conservation and restoration projects to stabilize the statue, clean its surface, and address structural issues.
4. The Sphinx symbolically represented the union of the human and divine in the pharaoh. It conveyed the pharaoh's divine right to rule and his connection to the sun god, Ra, emphasizing the importance of kingship and the afterlife in ancient Egyptian culture.
5. The Sphinx is believed to represent Pharaoh Khafre due to its proximity to his pyramid complex and the resemblance of its face to his likeness. Additionally, a statue of Khafre was discovered nearby, reinforcing the connection.

