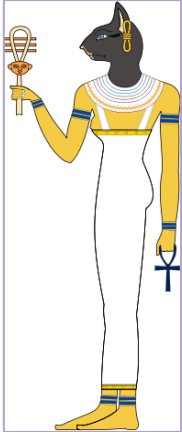


## Ancient Egypt and Bastet the goddess of cats

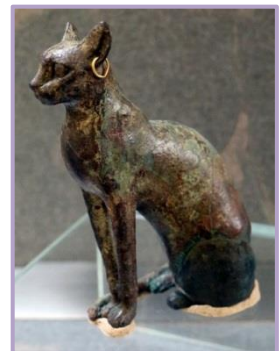
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Read through the following information about Bastet, who the ancient Egyptian's believed to be the goddess of cats.



Bastet is the protector of cats, lions, cheetahs, the home and women. She is depicted with a cat's head and a woman's body. Bastet was the daughter of Ra, god of the sun, and combatted snakes and rats.

Bastet was Ra's daughter and the sun disk shows her connection to him. When Bastet is fighting, she takes a lioness form. In her lioness form, she is the goddess of sunlight and fire. Her form is strong and powerful, and shows her readiness for battle.



Look at the image of Bastet to the right. Can you see the earring in her ear? This shows that she is a goddess and Ra's daughter. When Bastet isn't fighting, she takes the form of a domestic cat. In this form, she gives protection to Egyptians on Earth. She protects cats, the home and the family. When she is in her cat form, she is the goddess of the moon.

Cats were sacred in ancient Egypt. Pharaohs loved their cats. When a cat died in the royal palaces, they made them into mummies because they were sacred.



Cats were also seen as gods because they helped people. They killed dangerous snakes and they protected the food from rats. In ancient Egypt, they had a huge problem with rats invading public food stores, and the cats stopped the rats eating the people's food. Nowadays our food is wrapped thoroughly to protect it and we have fridges to help both store our food and keep it fresh.

Many people to this day love cats and keep them as pets. Some people don't like cats because they kill birds and damage plants.

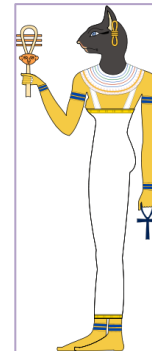


# Ancient Egypt and Bastet the goddess of cats

Now answer the following questions about Bastet.

1. Who was Bastet? Why was she special?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



2. Find two reasons why cats were appreciated in ancient Egypt.

- a. ....
- b. ....

3. Complete with words from the text.

**Bastet gives protection to** .....

**She has got a cat's** ..... **and a woman's** .....

**She was the daughter of** ..... **God of the Sun**  
..... **were sacred in ancient Egypt.**

4. Why did Egyptians turn their cats into mummies when they died?

.....  
.....



5. This is Bastet's name in Hieroglyphics.  
Copy her name.

