

## An Egyptian Myth by Kate Ruttle

Before the beginning of time, water covered the earth. A solitary egg drifted on the water's surface. In time, the egg hatched and so the first Egyptian god, Ra, was born. Ra climbed up to the sky and became the sun.

As the sun, Ra shone on the water and gradually the earth separated into land and sea. Ra made himself a wife, and they had many children and grandchildren. His family were all gods like him, and they helped him to run the world.

Osiris was Ra's favourite grandchild. He was a good man, and Ra made him the first ruler – the first pharaoh of all of Egypt. Osiris married his sweetheart, Isis, and they had a son called Horus. Together, Osiris and Isis ruled Egypt happily.

Osiris also had a brother, Set. Set was jealous of Osiris – he wanted to be pharaoh. In a fit of anger, Set killed Osiris and threw him into the great River Nile.

When Ra found out what had happened he was furious. He banished Set and made him responsible for deserts and storms. Now dead, Osiris became the ruler of the land of the dead, which was the most important job of all, for souls are dead for far longer than they are alive.

When he learned of his father's death, Osiris's son, Horus, vowed to take revenge. He tracked his uncle Set down in the desert and slew him. As his reward, Ra gave Horus the responsibility of protecting all future pharaohs, as well as making him god of the sky.

Ever since that time, Isis has made a yearly trip to the Nile to remember her beloved husband. As she weeps, her tears fill the river until its banks can't hold the water and the Nile floods into the nearby fields. In this way, the Nile shares its lifegiving water with the land, and every year the people thank Isis for bringing life and wealth to Egypt.



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Class:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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1 Look at the first paragraph. **Find and copy five** words that explain when these events happened.

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2b  
  
 1 mark

2 In the first paragraph, what does the word “*solitary*” mean? Choose **one**.

private

quiet

single

unsociable

2a  
  
 1 mark

3 Why did Set kill Osiris?

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2b  
  
 1 mark

4 Why does the writer mention the god Ra in the first paragraph?

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2f  
  
 1 mark

5 Ra was the most powerful of the gods. Find **two** pieces of evidence for this statement. You do not have to use direct quotations from the text.

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2d  
  
 2 marks

6 Which of these would be the best title for this myth? Choose **one**.

Why Osiris Was the First Pharaoh

Why the Nile Rises Each Year

Why Set Killed Osiris

Who Are the Egyptian Gods?

2c  
  
 1 mark