

Jobs in Ancient Egypt

Week 5 • Tuesday • Farmers, Builders, and Bakers

Reading Time

Everyone in ancient Egypt had a job to do! Most people were **farmers**. They planted seeds after the flood, watered the fields, and harvested wheat and barley. During flood season, when fields were underwater, many farmers helped build temples and pyramids instead.

There were many other jobs too. **Bakers** made bread and sweet honey cakes. **Potters** shaped clay from the river into jars and bowls. **Fishermen** cast nets into the Nile. **Carpenters** built boats and furniture. **Doctors** mixed medicines from honey and plants.

Egyptians usually did not use money. Instead, they **traded**! A fisherman might swap fish for a farmer's bread, or a potter might trade a jar for some cloth. This kind of swapping is called **bartering**.

Reading Questions

1. What job did most Egyptians have?

2. What did farmers do during flood season?

3. How did Egyptians get things without money?

Match the Worker to the Job

Write the letter that matches each worker: A = bakes bread, B = shapes clay jars, C = catches fish, D = grows crops, E = builds boats.

Worker	Job (A-E)
Farmer	
Fisherman	
Baker	
Potter	
Carpenter	

Fill in the Blanks

farmers barter clay flood trade

- Most ancient Egyptians were _____.
- During the _____ season, farmers helped build big projects.
- Potters made jars from river _____.
- Instead of money, Egyptians would _____ goods.
- Swapping fish for bread is called _____.

Hands-On: The Trading Game

You need: a family member and some small items (toys, snacks, crayons).

Give each person 3 items. Now barter like Egyptians! Try to trade for something you want. No money allowed — only swapping. Write your best trade below.

What I gave	What I got

Think About It

1. Which ancient Egyptian job would you pick? Why?

2. Was bartering easy or hard in your trading game? Why?
