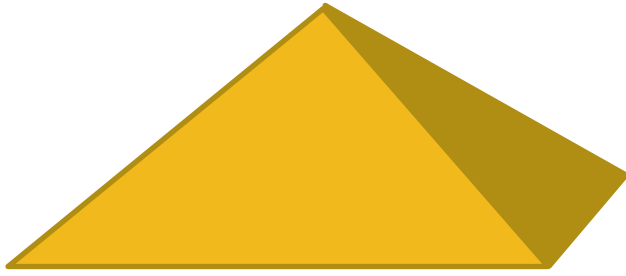


## Life in Ancient Egypt

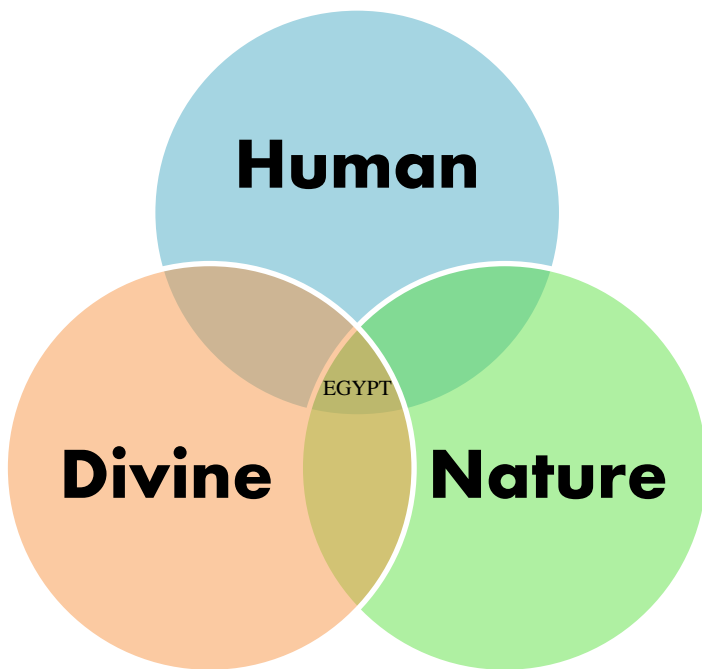


The middle of the nineteenth century marked the beginning of modern excavations of Egypt. With its rich history and culture, ancient Egypt has fascinated historians, archeologists, and the general public since the dawn of the early Egyptian dynasties.

There were some key differences for those living in ancient Egypt in contrast to other ancient societies.

For one, the treatment of women was fairer, as Egyptian women maintained equal rights to men, including in marriage and property ownership. The equality seen in men and women can be observed, in part, in some portrayals of ancient women in sculpture. Take the figure shown below, **The Royal Descendant, Hetepheres**, from the Worcester Art Museum's own Egyptian gallery. This figure, depicting a woman draped in a thin dress, shows the woman with one foot walking forward. In many ancient cultures, a woman's feet would have been parallel and set together. Did the left foot forward suggest the woman's strength?

One other key difference for ancient Egyptian society was the emphasis on family. Ancient Egyptians were exceedingly proud of the family unit and emphasized respect for parents and other older family members.



Egyptian life emphasized a relationship between humans, the natural world, and the divine; these three elements helped establish ancient Egypt as a culturally diverse place.

