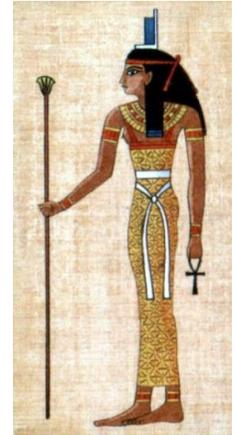


## The Worship of Isis

### 1. What are the attributes of the goddess Isis?

Isis was a goddess of rebirth, having brought her brother Osiris back to life and was credited with the new life which followed the yearly flooding of the Nile. She offered life after death to her followers.



*Isis*

### 2. When was her most important holiday and what was it like?

March 15, when a statue of Isis was brought down to the harbor in a procession. At the harbor a ship with its stern shaped like a goose's neck was loaded with treasures and set afloat out to sea. Her statue was then taken back to her shrine and the population made merry for the rest of the holiday.

### 3. What was a "sistrum"?

A metal rattle which was shaken by priests and priestesses in honor of Isis.



*a sistrum*

### 4. What were followers of Isis called?

**Isiaci.** Initiates had to repent past sins and were then taught her secret mysteries which they were forbidden to ever reveal.

### 5. What famous novel tells of a follower of Isis?

"The Golden Ass" by Apuleius .

### 6. How popular was the worship of Isis?

The worship of Isis spread all around the ancient world from England to the Black Sea.



*The Golden Ass*

## 7. Who was Osiris?

Osiris was the brother of Isis who came to earth in the form of a man and was murdered, cut up into pieces and scattered all over the world.

## 8. Who was Horus?

Horus was the son of Isis and her brother Osiris.

## 9. What was a “cella”?

The inner shrine of a temple.



*Seth*

## 10. What was the first thing someone had to do to be initiated into the cult of Isis?

They had to perform an act of repentance.

## 11. Who was “Seth”?

Seth was the god of storms and the enemy of Isis and Osiris. He was associated with the hippopotamus.

## 12. What happened to the “Isiaci” at Pompeii?

They tried to escape but left too late. Their bodies were found scattered along the route out of Pompeii surrounded by the sacred objects they were trying to save.

## 13. What is an “ankh”?

The Egyptian symbol of life.



*an Ankh*

**\*\*\* This is not all you need to know. Re-read the reading. \*\*\***