**Farmers**

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| |  | | --- | | http://www.pbs.org/empires/egypt/_graphics/non_gallery/farmer.jpg |   **Life for a farmer is governed by the sun. As it rises on another hot day in the Egyptian countryside, Shenti wakes up and throws off the rough linen sheet that was woven by his wife.**  He crawls out of bed to wash, shave and get dressed. Unlike people today, he doesn't have to think long about what to wear, because it's always the same - a coarse linen kilt and a pair of reed sandals.   After breakfast of bread and fruit, Shenti goes to work and his wife lights the fire and begins grinding the wheat to make bread - the main part of their daily diet.   Shenti doesn't have to worry about a long commute, because his workplace is minutes away, in the fields behind his house. This has been a good year and he's reaped a large harvest.   Some of this needs to be given to the temple as payment for use of its land. Today is that day. He fills several baskets and loads them onto donkeys, then delivers them to the temple with his two field workers.   **Afternoon**  On the way back to work, Shenti and his workers stop for a quick lunch of bread, meat and beer. They then work all afternoon through the hottest part of the day, in the fields, Shenti is working on his crops and tending his few cattle and ducks. He sees the sun slowly go down and, after a tiring day, makes his way home.   **Evening**  He arrives back to find supper's almost ready. Once again, he's eating bread, meat and beer - there's not much variety to be had. But Shenti isn't used to anything else and, anyway, he's hungry and thirsty, so is happy enough.   As the sun goes down and night sets in, Shenti lights the small oil lamp. He and his wife put their children to bed. It's thousands of years before the discovery of electricity, so there's little to do except go to bed and get some much needed sleep before another hard day's work. |

<http://www.pbs.org/empires/egypt/special/lifeas/farmer.html>