

# Cats Long Ago

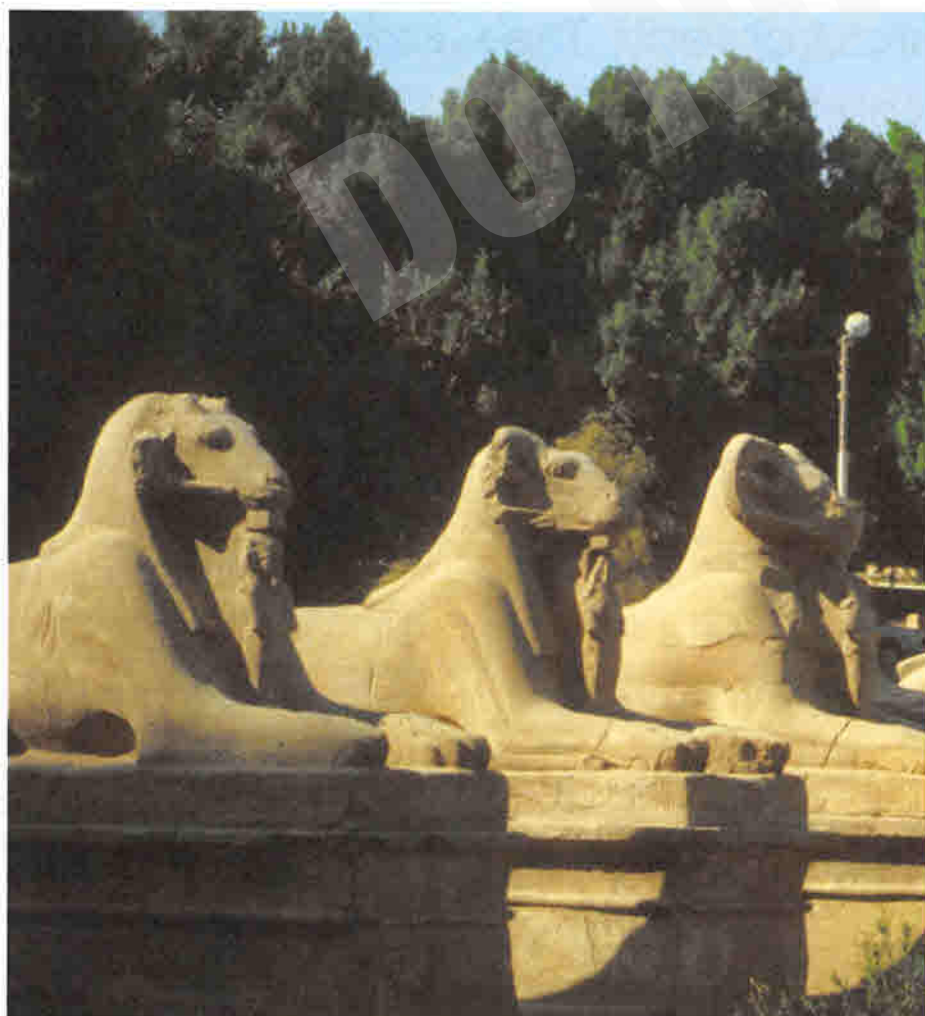
*Read to learn part of the history of cats.*

<sup>1</sup> Imagine that it is three thousand years ago. You are visiting Egypt. You see a statue of a cat. You go into a building, and there are cats everywhere! People are feeding them and taking care of them. Everyone seems to like cats.

<sup>2</sup> “Why so many cats?” you wonder. To answer that question, we have to learn a little bit about Egypt.

<sup>3</sup> The Egyptians grew grain for food and to trade with other people. They stored their grain in huge buildings. Rats and mice, in particular, also liked to eat grain. Cats, which eat rats and mice, were the best way to protect the grain.

<sup>4</sup> Cats became the most respected animal in Egypt. When a family’s cat died, the family members shaved their eyebrows to show that a sad and important thing had happened.



1. The author wrote "Cats Long Ago" mostly to

\_\_\_\_\_ give information.

\_\_\_\_\_ make you laugh.

2. Compare what you know about cats in Egypt with what you know about cats today. One idea is written for you.

**In Egypt** cats were respected

**Today** cats are usually well cared for

3. What is one difference between us and the people in Egypt long ago?

4. What did Egyptians do when a family cat died?

5. How were cats helpful to Egyptians long ago?

Use the text to fill in the blank in each sentence below.

6. Rats and mice ate the \_\_\_\_\_ that Egyptians stored.

7. Cats were the most \_\_\_\_\_ animals in Egypt.

8. Cats helped to \_\_\_\_\_ the grain.