Hatshepsut was considered to be a successful female pharaoh. She lived between 1508 and 1450 BC. She came to power after her husband, Thutmose II, died. Hatshepsut took on all the practices of a great pharaoh including wearing a beard and traditional Egyptian kilt. Her statues show her in more female clothing sometimes as well.

During her reign she built and expanded trade routes with neighboring countries that brought in new luxuries like myrrh trees.

Hatshepsut’s tomb, at Deir el-Bahari, is considered very unique for its shape and design, as are the tall obelisks she had constructed in other parts of Egypt.

What do you think?

Why do you think she wore masculine garments?
Do you think it was necessary for her to rule?

Vocabulary Terms

Myrrh - A plant that is found in Africa prized for its sap.
Obelisk - A tall 4 sided stone monument with pointed top.
Royal - A family that rules an area often over a long time.