



(plural lotuses or loti | Lotus | low-tuhs | 'ləutəs)

The Lotus, or *Nelumbo Nucifera*, is an aquatic plant and is a significant symbol in many religions. It is often used to symbolise new beginnings and life and has deep roots in Ancient Egyptian culture. In ancient Egypt, it was used to represent creation and rebirth and as a sun symbol. Its symbolism was given that the flower closes and goes beneath the water at night and climbs up and reopens during dawn.

**NATIONAL FLOWER:** The lotus flower is the national flower of India, Vietnam and Egypt

**LGBTQIA+ FIRSTS:** A tomb was discovered from the Ancient Egypt period of 2400 BCE which belonged to two men, Khnumhotep and Niankhkhnum, who are believed to be the first recorded same-sex couple in history

