

TEACHER RESOURCE

LIFE ART MIND



Social Sciences

The Arts (Dance, Music)

LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Permanent Programme

Year 4 - Year 8

Students will gain an insight into life in Ancient Egypt through participation in a mock festival including music, dance, food, and other activities. Students will view original artefacts and discuss the different roles that people have in society.

Supported by the Ministry of Education

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Te Manawa
MUSEUM GALLERY SCIENCE CENTRE
LIFE ART MIND

INTRODUCTION

This programme provides an exciting opportunity for students to view authentic Egyptian objects and then work in groups to recreate an Ancient Egyptian festival.

ABOUT THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

This programme is a two hour session and is designed to give students from Year 4 – Year 8 the opportunity to gain a real understanding of some aspects of life in Ancient Egypt.

The students view artefacts related to the jobs of certain people living in Ancient Egypt. Students will decide what each artefact was used for, who would have used it and what job it represents. These jobs will then form the basis of group preparations for a recreation of the festival of Khunum, which celebrated the flooding of the Nile. Bastet, the cat god, is also included in the celebrations.

The group work will involve priests, scribes, musicians/dancers, artisans and bakers. The students are divided into these five groups to make the appropriate preparations for their part in the festival. The programme culminates in a recreation of the festival.

Priests

This group will make banners for the festival parade, prepare mirrors as an offering, lay the table that will receive the offerings during the festival and organise themselves for the parade.

Scribes

This group will use hieroglyphics to write an historical account of the festival. They will also set up a water clock, draw up a calendar and solve some maths problems using Egyptian counting and measuring systems.

Musicians and Dancers

This group will be given costumes and musical instruments. They will create music to accompany the other groups as they participate in the festival parade, and dances to entertain during the festival feast.

Artisans

This group will prepare amulets and charms to wear at the festival, a necklace for the head priest and other bead jewellery as an offering.

Bakers

This group will make cakes and fruit baskets, some of which will be offerings and the rest will be consumed at the festival feast.

Special Requirements:

Some prior knowledge of students' level of understanding within this subject area would be appreciated, and can be provided by filling out our pre-visit questionnaire or contacting mary.sheridan@temanawa.co.nz. This will mean that your students' specific learning needs will be better catered for.

CURRICULUM LINKS

Social Sciences (Level 2- 4)

Social Studies

The Arts (Level 2-3)

Dance

Communicating and Interpreting

Music – Sound Arts

Developing Ideas

Communicating and Interpreting

Key Competencies

Thinking

Students will use creative, critical, metacognitive, and reflective processes to make sense of and question information and experiences covered within the programme.

Using language, symbols and texts

Students will learn and become familiar with the specialist language, symbols and text associated with the Ancient Egyptians.

Participating and contributing

Students are encouraged to contribute appropriately as a group member, to make connections with others and to create opportunities for others in the group while undertaking festival preparations and procession.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

We are learning to:

- Use objects to gather information about some of the work of people in Ancient Egypt.
- Work together in groups and as a class to create an ancient Egyptian event.

We know we have achieved this when we can:

- Explain the tools used for certain jobs in Ancient Egypt.
- Recreate an Ancient Egyptian festival.

PRE AND POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

- Discuss the natural resources available to the Ancient Egyptians in terms of food, clothing and shelter.
- Teach your students how to play some Egyptian games such as Senet and Snake.
- Use paper mache to create such objects as mummy cases, cat mummies, hippos, heads of gods, canopic jars and statues of gods.
- Build models of:
 1. Egyptian houses: Then discuss what life would have been like living in such a house. Why did they have flat roofs?
 2. Pyramids: Consider all the people involved in building a pyramid, their individual roles and the social organisation involved in working together.
- Investigate their monetary system.
- Choose an unusual job, such as a Birdnetter, and discover the skills needed to complete it. How did this job contribute to the survival of the society?
- Read (and re-enact) stories about the Ancient Egyptian gods.
- Study other Egyptian festivals and compare them with a New Zealand celebration.
- Make a list of some of the jobs people did in Ancient Egypt and then see if there are equivalent jobs in society today.
- Contact the Ethnic Council and see if they can assist you to contact any Egyptian people presently living in Manawatu.
- Use an Egyptian recipe book to prepare some food from that country.

RESOURCES

BOOKS:

Crafts from the Past- The Egyptians
Gillian Chapman
Harper Collins, 1997

The Shipwrecked sailor: an Egyptian tale with hieroglyphs
Tamara Bower
Atheneum Books, 2000

Collins Eye Witness Guides - Ancient Egypt
A Dorling Kindersley Book
Harper Collins, 1990

Voices of Ancient Egypt
Kay Winters
National Geographic, 2003

Ancient Egyptian Jobs
John Malam
Heinemann, 2002

The Encyclopedia of the Ancient World
Ancient Egypt
Philip Steele
Anness Publishing Ltd, 2000

Check out the Palmerston North City Library catalogue online at www.citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz

WEBSITES:

http://www.civilization.ca/civil/egypt/egypt_e.html

A look at the civilization of ancient Egypt.

<http://members.aol.com/Donnclass/Egyptlife.html>

Has many links to Ancient Egypt for children.

<http://touregypt.net/kids/>

Information for students and teachers alike.

<http://www.virtual-egypt.com/>

Photo's, galleries and interactive activities.

<http://www.show.me.uk/games/games.html>

Activities and games from British museums. Some are based on Ancient Egypt, including the chance to play the Egyptian game called senet. There are lots of history based sites here.

NATIONAL LIBRARY SCHOOLS' SERVICE

For books, videos and CD roms:

<http://www.natlib.govt.nz/>

0800 171717 or fax 0800 907000

Palmerston North

Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Thursday 8.30am - 6.00pm (during term time)

Online request form: <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/cis-online-request>

Egyptian Gods

The following is some information about the gods for whom the festival will be celebrated.

Khnum

Khnum is the ram headed god. The native sheep of Egypt were tall with long, spiral horns that grew horizontally from their heads. Sheep were seen as the reincarnation of Khnum.

Khnum was thought to have been the creator of man. He had done this by using clay and a potter's wheel.

His main temple was on the island of Elephantine in southern Egypt. This was the region of the Nile's cataracts from which the annual flooding of the Nile began.

Khnum was worshiped as the god who controlled the annual flooding of the Nile, without which the people would not have had silt in which to grow food crops.

Bastet

This goddess was in the shape of a cat. Cats were revered in Egypt as they hunted vermin such as rats. Once wild, they gradually became domesticated and an integral part of every Egyptian home. They were considered sacred and it was a serious offence to kill a cat. Cats were mummified and given burial rights the same as humans.

Bastet was thought to be a daughter of the sun god Ra. She would accompany Ra when he descended to earth, so she represented the power of the sun to ripen crops.

Her main temple was in the city of Bubastis, in the northern delta area of the Nile.