

Themed Activities: **Ancient Egypt**

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A vibrant display bringing together many elements of life in Ancient Egypt

Learning Objective

To explore a variety of facets of life in Ancient Egypt.

Starting Points

Ask children to choose one area of Ancient Egyptian life that they want to investigate, such as Egyptian people, buildings, art, religion etc.

Give each child a pre-prepared project booklet (sugar paper is good for this). On the inside cover make an envelope for any work they print off so they can refer back to it. They can record information in any way, such as cartoons, drawings, copying and pasting text from the screen.

Make

- Turn an area of the classroom into an Egyptian Museum. Place a small table underneath the display board and drape in 'Egyptian' fabric. Use it to display textbooks on Egypt and models that the children have made.
- Back the display board. Use empty shoeboxes to recreate the sarcophagus tomb in a pyramid. Make 3-D square based pyramids and attach to the top of the shoebox and staple to the wall.
- Create headdresses of pharaohs and display above the board.
- Ask the children to write their names in hieroglyphs and display on cream paper with an explanation of the work.
- Make several large square based pyramids and attach to the display.
- Wrap a full-size skeleton in white toilet paper to act as a mummy to stand next to the display.

Activities

- Ask the children to use the Internet to find out about the life of a particular pharaoh. Pick out key features of their life and list on a flip chart. Ask the children to write a biography of the pharaoh. Describe why the pharaoh was so important, such as wars that were won, cities that were built, temples dedicated to particular gods.
- Develop a whole class hieroglyph/western alphabet table. Ask the children to write a simple message in hieroglyphs on the papyrus for their partner to decipher. Discuss how archaeologists unlocked the mystery of this ancient written language.
- Attach several sheets of A4 paper together to make a long scroll. Using a damp teabag, stain the paper to age it. Roll each end around a piece of dowling. On whiteboards, children should write down any questions they might like to ask on the theme of Ancient Egypt. Type these out and use as guides for children to research the answers. Write the answers underneath the questions and attach to the scrolls.
- Write a simple message to children in hieroglyphs. Have alphabet letters next to hieroglyphic symbols. Ask them to decipher this. Create messages using the alphabet/symbol code. The children could swap their messages with a partner.
- Visit the Pyramids! Produce an Egyptian tour brochure that tells holiday makers what they will learn about Ancient Egypt from visiting the ruins. Use holiday brochures and websites for inspiration.

Develop and Extend

HISTORY: Ask children to read the book, *How to Prepare a Mummy* by Jillian Powell (Literacy Land) or research it on the Internet – discuss what children have learned and why bodies were preserved. Look at evidence found in tombs such as Tutankhamen's. What does it tell us about what Ancient Egyptians expected the afterlife to be like?

ART: Make Egyptian tomb paintings. You could use the British Museum's artefact Nebamun Fowling in the Marshes or other fragments of Nebamun's tomb paintings as your starting point.

MATHS: Display a picture of a pyramid. Discuss how many sides, faces and edges there are in a triangle, and how many triangles in a pyramid. Use protractors to measure acute angles on a straight line. Transfer measurements to cardboard and build a pyramid. Draw lines to show bricks. Write down a description of how to build a pyramid out of triangles. Use mathematical words such as edge, face, angle and apex.

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Ancient Egypt

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Explore Aztec culture by making ceremonial



Greek Vase Painting

Paint vases in the style of the Ancient



The Streets are on Fire!

Make a dramatic collage of London

View On Display books



Belair On Display - The Essential Guide to Primary Display



Belair On Display - Projects Inspired by Stories



Belair On Display - Creative History

Useful Links

- www.historyforkids.org
- www.ancientegypt.co.uk
- <http://www.guardians.net/egypt/kids/index.htm#features>
- www.britishmuseum.org