

Notes for the Parent or Teacher

This newspaper pack can be used in a number of ways. The pages can be printed on regular paper for drafting the articles and then printed on other various types of paper that give a more authentic feel. The images used in the pack are also repeated on extra pages at the end of the unit in case they are needed for other projects or formats.

“The Big Picture” provides students a very brief summary of events in order to help them understand how the events and people depicted were related, but it is meant only to serve as a springboard for further discovery as students investigate and complete their assignments.

Also, as explained in the student introduction, sometimes the artist’s rendition of an event does not match what history records happened. This is a great opportunity to help the student learn about investigating the facts of history and weighing conflicting sources and evidence.

In a classroom setting, you may wish to assign one article to each student and then create a class newspaper or presentation of the events studied.

The form consists of a large rectangular frame. The top portion of the frame contains a rounded rectangular area, likely for a drawing or illustration. The bottom portion of the frame is divided into five horizontal lines, providing space for text or a caption. A large, light gray watermark reading "SAMPLE" is oriented diagonally across the entire form.

Reporting From Ancient Egypt Instructions

It's time to go on assignment to ancient Egypt. You'll need a few tools to get started. First, read the section called "The Big Picture." This introduces you to the time period and helps you see how your assignments are connected to each other.

Next are your assignments. Each assignment includes a small picture that matches the large picture on a newspaper page you'll find in this pack.

The next tools you have been given are ten sets of pages for newspaper articles. Each set is made up of three pages. The first has a large picture. There is room at the very top for the name of your newspaper and space for the issue number and date beneath it. The large picture is a picture related to your assignment (but be careful—some of these field artists don't always depict the information accurately, so be sure to do your own research and determine what happened at the event). Write your incredible, eye-catching headline beneath the picture. Then you can start your news story. Fill the first page. Then, depending on how long your story will be, fill the next two pages or jump to the third page that has the small box in the corner. Finish your article on this page. In the small box, write something such as a short bio of the author of the article, an advertisement, a help-wanted ad, etc. But be sure to keep in line with the time period. You can't have an ad for a television before one would have been invented!

Write an article for each of your assignments. When you are done, you will have a great record of ancient Egypt!

Reporting From Ancient Egypt

The Big Picture

Ancient Egypt was an amazing civilization that grew in parts of modern-day Egypt centuries ago. Much of the civilization grew up around the Nile River because it provided transportation and irrigation for crops. When it flooded every year, it deposited rich soil on the land along its banks.

Land not reached by the waters and higher ground still needed to be irrigated. Shadoofs used a balanced beam and buckets to transport water to places that would have been hard to reach in other ways.

The people living in ancient Egypt spoke a language that was related to other languages of the area. Their written language was in a form called hieroglyphics, which was used for about three centuries. It was often used for religious inscriptions and to record important facts about royalty. Scribes were trained to do this writing. There was much to learn about making each hieroglyph. The symbols were written in columns and read from top to bottom. Sometimes the symbols were read left to right, but other times, they were read right to left, depending on which direction the hieroglyphs faced.

Hieroglyphics were written on walls, stone, and on a type of paper invented in Egypt. The Egyptians made paper from the papyrus plant that grew along the Nile. Part of the stem was cut into thin strips and arranged on a flat surface. Then another layer of strips was placed on top, going across the first layer. This sheet was then dampened, pressed together, and dried. While it was drying, the sap of the plant glued the pieces together. Then the sheet was hammered and dried again in the sun. This became a smooth surface to write on. To make a long roll to write on, the sheets could be glued together end-to-end, though they usually didn't glue more than twenty or so sheets together. The tips of the papyrus reeds were sharpened into a point to be used as a pen, and soot and water was mixed to make ink.

Over time, the art of hieroglyphics was lost. Modern scholars worked for hundreds of years to decipher the old symbols, but it was like a code that was almost impossible to break. In 1799, the Rosetta Stone was discovered and provided the key to hieroglyphics. A scholar was able to use the stone to decipher the language and published a work in 1822 that enabled

scholars to finally read the long-lost language.

The kingdom of ancient Egypt grew. During the early times, people walked or rode on donkeys. However, in the 1600s B.C., the Egyptians began using chariots. Over time, Egypt built a very large army. In the 1500s B.C., the archers in the army trained so that they could shoot accurately while riding in chariots drawn by horses. Egypt itself was invaded by armies in chariots who took control of the country. Over the years, the invaders were driven out. Egypt's army grew, and the use of chariots helped them conquer much more land.

Ancient Egyptians made many grand monuments out of stone. They erected obelisks at the entrances of temples. Each obelisk was carved from one stone, usually red granite from the quarries near Aswān. Many obelisks have hieroglyphics inscribed on them. Obelisks could be different heights, from 10 feet (3.3 meters) to one at Karnak that was 97 feet (30 meters) tall. It took quarry workers seven months to cut the stone out of the quarry. Then workers had to polish the stone. It was transported down the Nile on a barge.

During the reign of Ramses IV, from 1156-1150 B.C., the quality of life in Egypt declined. In order to try to keep Egypt as prosperous as it had been in the past, Ramses IV came up with a huge building plan for the kingdom. He opened the quarries in the Wadi Hammāmāt and had building stone quarried in ever-increasing amounts. He arranged for the royal tomb to be cut. He increased the number of quarry workers to as many as 8,368 men who all worked at one time to get stone for the many building projects. He started two temples, one of which would have been the largest ever built if it had been completed. However, he had many problems during his reign. Some of these officials committed criminal acts and gave favors to family members. Ramses IV died after ruling only six years, leaving many projects unfinished.

Pharaoh was the term used to refer to the king in ancient Egypt. The people of Egypt believed their king was actually a god in human form, which helped the pharaoh have more power and control over the people. The pharaoh owned a large portion of land and was responsible for the well-being of his people. The position of pharaoh was passed down from father to son, though there were times when daughters claimed the right to inherit the throne if the father had no son. There were at least four women who

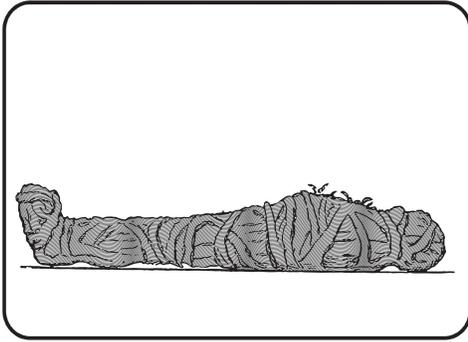
became rulers in ancient Egypt. The pharaohs were mummified and buried in luxurious tombs, often filled with beautiful paintings and other works of art.

Mummification is a way of preserving a dead body. In ancient Egypt, bodies were mummified as part of the religious beliefs of the people. First, all the moisture had to be removed from the bodies. Then it was treated with different substances that would keep the moisture out of the body. The body was often stuffed after this to make it look more lifelike. Then, it was wrapped in many, many linen bandages and placed in a coffin. Sometimes one coffin was placed inside another.

A sarcophagus was a type of coffin used by the people in ancient Egypt to bury their dead. In the early kingdoms, the sarcophagus was simply a boxlike coffin. Around 1630 B.C., the coffins were made to look more like a person. One end was carved and even painted to look like the head of the dead person. When a sarcophagus was to be used for royalty, it could be made from solid gold or silver. Many sarcophagi have decorative artwork on the outside, showing the great skill of the people of the time. The artwork also often tells something about the person being buried, which helps preserve history. The mummy of the person being buried was placed inside the sarcophagus, along with things that were important to that person.

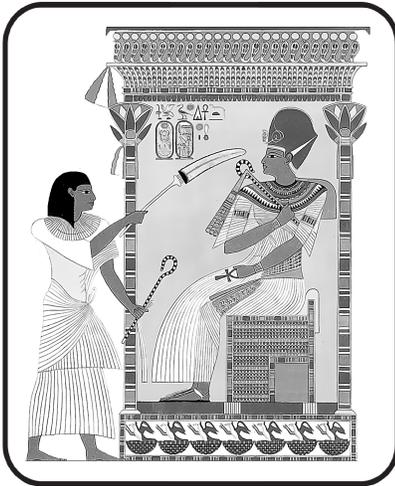
In the ancient Egyptian funeral ceremony, canopic jars were used to hold the embalmed internal organs of the person who had died. These organs were removed from the body and placed in canopic jars when the body was mummified. Early canopic jars had plain lids, but about 1938 B.C., artists started decorating the jars with human heads or the heads of Egyptian deities. As time passed, the funeral customs changed, and the internal organs were not placed in canopic jars but returned to the body. The jars were still used, but they were made without a space to hold anything inside.

Because of the many ways of preserving evidence of their way of life, we have been able to learn much about the ancient Egyptian civilization.



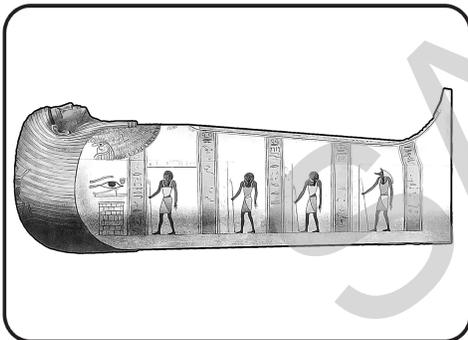
On Assignment: Mummification

You're following the preparation of the body of Ramses IV for burial. Write an informative article telling people what stage of mummification the pharaoh is in and what is happening to the body. You may choose any stage you wish to write about.



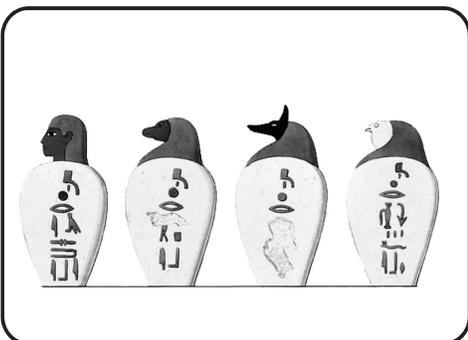
On Assignment: The Pharaoh's Speech

Pharaohs didn't have to give campaign speeches like many modern leaders today, but they did spend a lot of time reminding the people what a great job they were doing and why they thought the people should honor them. Choose a pharaoh from history and write the speech he might have given to remind the people of all his great deeds.



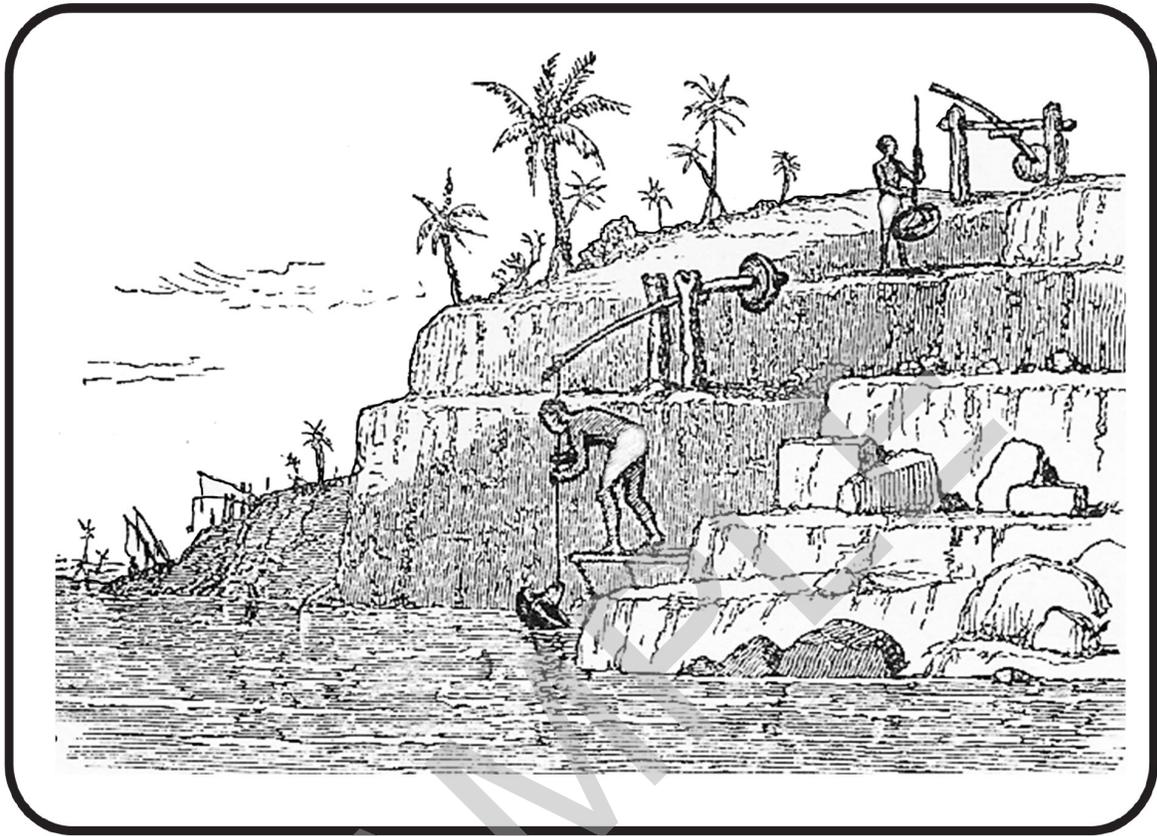
On Assignment: Interview with Craftsmen Who Make Sarcophagi

Interview the craftsmen working on a sarcophagus for an upcoming funeral. Describe the detailed work that goes into preparing the sarcophagus.



On Assignment: Interview with Craftsmen Who Make Canopic Jars

Interview the craftsmen who make canopic jars. Describe the materials used to make them and how they will be used.



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