



Teacher's Pre - and Post - Program Visit Guide

Program	Uncovering Egypt
Grade Level	4 - 8
Time	50 minutes
Location	Museum of Natural History & Science Classrooms

Program Objectives

- Students will learn basic components and procedures of an archaeological excavation and its lab work.
- Students will explore the time period and lifestyles of ancient Egypt.
- Students will identify and classify findings and form a hypothesis from the site evidence.

Program Description

Archaeology is a science that allows us to unlock the secrets of past civilizations. Participate in a hands-on demonstration of archaeological techniques as students explore a mock excavation site from Egypt and learn to identify a culture based on the artifacts discovered.

Major Vocabulary

Amulets	Djed Pillar	Pharaoh
Ankh	Egypt	Pyramid
Archaeology	Excavate	Sarcophagus
Artifacts	Hieroglyphs	Scarab
Cartouche	Hypothesis	Scribe
Classify	Mummification	Symbol
Crook and Flail	Papyrus	Wedjat Eye

Activities

Activity # 1: *Sifting through Time*

Students work as teams of junior archaeologists to sift through bins of sand, representing "test pits," to uncover replica artifacts from an ancient Egyptian "dig site."

Activity # 2: *Pharaoh or Faux?*

Using deductive reasoning skills and resources provided, students will piece together information about an Egyptian person represented in their "test pit".

Activity # 3: *Archaeological Announcements*

Each team of junior archaeologists will present their findings to their peers.

Suggested things to do in your classroom before the program:

- The ancient Egyptians believed that their Gods and Goddesses were responsible for everything that occurred in their daily lives. Imagine that you were one of the ancient Egyptian Gods or Goddesses. What God or Goddess would you prefer to be and what special abilities would you have?
- Pretend that you are an archeologist making an exciting new discovery of an artifact that was believed to be lost to history. Write a journal entry describing the artifact and its discovery. Make sure to record a clear description of the artifact itself for your research notes!

- Make a 3-dimensional model of a pyramid. Introduce the math topics of how to make a triangle and square to construct the pyramid. Draw or cut out pictures to represent examples of your favorite food, sport, TV show, clothing, pet, books, recreational activity, etc. Use the pictures to decorate your pyramid. Write a brief explanation of the significance of each picture and place it inside your pyramid.
- Use the hieroglyphic alphabet to write your name.
- Egyptians would often barter for goods they wanted or needed. Write a description of how your life would be different if you had to barter for video games, clothes, food, and other supplies. What would you use to barter with to make purchases?
- Write a newspaper article about the recent discovery of an Egyptian tomb. Describe the excavation site, artifacts unearthed and the methods used to determine their time period. Include how the artifacts will provide clues to understanding the daily life of the Egyptian culture.

Suggested things to do after the program:

- Shabti figures were an important part of an ancient Egyptian burial since they were believed to come to life in the afterlife and do your bidding. Write a story, poem or play about the experiences of a Shabti figure coming to life and the adventures and challenges that it faces.
- Draw a picture of yourself using the “Frontalism” technique that is used throughout ancient Egypt in one of your everyday activities, such as playing a sport, studying in school, playing a musical instrument, or doing a chore. Include as many details as possible to record your daily life. Share your picture with a classmate.
- Create a Venn diagram or chart that compares the ancient Egyptian method of making papyrus with today’s paper making process.
- Research one of the following Gods and Goddesses. Write a story about how they used their special abilities to solve a mystery.

Anubis
Amun
Bastet
Hathor

Horus
Isis
Ma’at
Osiris

Ra
Heket
Thoth
Seth

Curriculum Standards Addressed

Ohio – History, People in Societies, Social Studies Skills and Methods

Kentucky – Culture and Society, Historical Perspectives

Indiana – History

Related Exhibits and Features

- *Umi Exhibit* in the Museum of Natural History & Science
- *OMNIMAX Secret of the Pharaohs*

Resources

- *DK Eyewitness Books: Mummy* by James Putnam, 2009.
- *DK Eyewitness Books: Pyramid* by James Putnam, 2004.
- *DK Eyewitness Books: Ancient Egypt* by George Hart, 2008.
- *The Ancient Egyptians: Dress, Eat, Write, and Play Just Like the Egyptians* by Fiona MacDonald, 2008.
- *Gods and Pharaohs from Egyptian Mythology* by Geraldine Harris, 1993.
- *Nile & Egyptian Civilization* by Alexandre Moret, 2001.
- *Temples, Tombs & Hieroglyphs: A Popular History of Ancient Egypt* by Barbara Mertz, 2007.
- *In the Daily Life of the Ancient Egyptians* by Henrietta McCall, 2001.