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Ancient Egypt

Activities



Generic Activity

Create a Newspaper: Create a newspaper about the civilization(s) that you are studying. Make sure your paper includes news; fashion, food and entertainment stories; a word search or crossword puzzle; a comic strip; and a classified section.

Note to Teacher: If possible, students should use computers.



Brief #1—The Nile River Valley

- **Make a Poster:** Ancient Egyptians made paper from the papyrus plant. Find out all the steps involved in this type of papermaking and then create an informational poster which illustrates the process.
- **Make a Map:** Ancient Egyptian civilization developed along the banks of the Nile River. Make a map of the Nile River Valley. Make sure your map marks the locations of the cataracts, major tributaries, source, and mouth.

Keywords: papyrus and paper making, Nile River Valley map



Brief #2—Ancient Egyptian Society

- **Make a Time Line:** Make a time line of ancient Egyptian civilization. Make sure your time line shows the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms, along with important events, reigns of pharaohs, and conquests.
- **Write a Narrative:** Pretend that you are a child living in Ancient Egypt. Write a first-person narrative that tells what your daily life is like.
- **Design a Social Pyramid:** Ancient Egyptian society was highly ordered. Design an ancient Egyptian social pyramid that illustrates this social hierarchy. Make sure to include: pharaohs and other nobles, priests, scribes, soldiers, merchants, farmers, artisans, servants, and slaves.

Keywords: Ancient Egyptian time line, daily life in Ancient Egypt, social hierarchy in Ancient Egypt



Brief #3—Pyramids

- **Build a Model:** Using sugar cubes, build a model of a step pyramid.
- **Create a Cartouche:** A cartouche is an ancient Egyptian nameplate that was placed on the tombs of important people. Find out how to write your name in hieroglyphs and then create a personalized cartouche.
- **Write a Poem or Rap:** Write a poem or rap about the life and death of Tutankhamen. Try to include information on some of the items that were found in his famous tomb.
- **Create a Pamphlet:** Write a pamphlet about the Great Sphinx. Tell where the giant statue is located, its dimensions, its meaning, and other information that you find interesting and relevant. Make sure to include illustrations.

Keywords: step pyramid, cartouche, Egyptian hieroglyphs, Tutankhamen, Great Sphinx

Ancient Egypt

Activities (cont.)



Brief #4—Mummies

- **Make a Flowchart:** Create a flowchart that shows the mummification process that the ancient Egyptians used.
- **Write an Obituary:** The mummies of Tutankhamen, Seti I, Ramesses I, and Ramesses II have been found by archeologists. Select one of these pharaohs and research his life. Then write an appropriate obituary.

Keywords: flowchart graphic, Ancient Egypt and mummies, Tutankhamen, Seti I, Ramesses I and Ramesses II



Brief #5—Hieroglyphs

- **Make a Booklet:** Create a booklet of ideograms for things that did not exist during the time of the ancient Egyptians. **For example:** telephones or radio.
- **Write a Newspaper Account:** Pretend it is 1799 and that you work for a newspaper. Write a news article about the discovery of the Rosetta Stone. You may include quotes from Jean Francois Champollion.
- **Create a Modern Rosetta Stone:** Create a Rosetta Stone for future scholars that will help them to decipher emoticon and text-messaging abbreviations.

Keywords: Rosetta Stone, Jean Francois Champollion, emoticons, text-messaging abbreviations



Activity Center

Ancient Egyptian Gods and Goddesses—(*Teacher Note:* Stock an activity center with information on some Ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses and a variety of art materials: paint, crayons, markers, poster board, etc.) The ancient Egyptians worshipped hundreds of different gods. Each one had a specific purpose. Select a particular ancient Egyptian god or goddess and draw/paint him or her in the style of ancient Egyptian art. Include the name of the god or goddess and a description of his or her purpose.

Keywords: Ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses



Internet Resources

<http://www.thebanmappingproject.com/>

This is the Theban Mapping Project site about the Valley of the Kings. It includes a video.

<http://www.kingtut.org/home>

This is the official site of the Tutankhamen exhibition.

Ancient Chinese Thinkers

Brief #2

Focus

Philosophies from ancient China still influence the world today.

The ancient Chinese made important contributions to philosophy. Philosophy is a system of thought and belief that helps explain the world to people.



Confucius

Confucius is probably the most famous Chinese philosopher. He was born in 551 B.C. He was a strong believer in the value of education and self-improvement. Confucius believed in honesty and in living a life of virtue. He believed that people should respect their leaders, but that leaders must be fair and just to the people. He also believed that people should lead by example.

Confucius is famous for his sayings which reveal his philosophy. These sayings are collected in a book called the *Analects*. They were written down by his many students. The advice that Confucius gave thousands of years ago can still be applied today. Here are some examples:

- Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it.
- Forget injuries, never forget kindness.
- Respect yourself and others will respect you.

Vocabulary

1. Confucius
2. *Analects*
3. Taoism



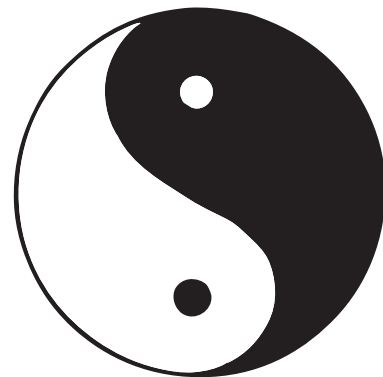
Taoism

Taoism is another influential ancient Chinese philosophy. **Taoism teaches that the world is made up of opposite forces: sun and moon, good and evil, hot and cold.** The opposing forces in the world are called *yin* and *yang*. Taoism teaches that all people should try to live in harmony with nature.



Legacy

Confucius and Taoism have had a major influence on the development of ancient China. Even today, Confucius is revered in China and other parts of Asia. In many places his birthday or the anniversary of his death are celebrated as *Teacher's Day*, as many Chinese consider him to be the world's greatest teacher.



Ancient Greece

Map of Ancient Greece

Name: _____ Date: _____

In this unit, you will learn about ancient Greece. Look carefully at the map. Put an X on Athens. Put a Y on Sparta. Put an O on Mount Olympus.

