



Ancient Egypt & The Pyramids

Lesson Overview

Students will explore the history of Ancient Egypt through an engaging podcast episode, learn about the pyramids, pharaohs, mummification, daily life, and Egyptian gods, and participate in interactive activities to reinforce their understanding.

Overview	<p>Grade Level: 3rd-6th (Ages 7-12)</p> <p>Lesson Duration: 90 minutes</p> <p>Subject Area: History/Social Studies</p>	Icon Key	<p> Script – Say the script that is displayed next to this icon.</p> <p> Teaching Notes – Notes for that activity.</p>
Lesson Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio setup for playing the podcast episode (laptop, speakers). • Supplies for activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Craft materials (construction paper, markers, scissors, glue) ○ Salt, small containers, gauze for the mummification activity and old dolls/figurines. ○ Large cardboard pieces (for pyramid construction) • Large chart paper or whiteboard and markers for group discussions. • A map of ancient Egypt and the Nile River. 	Learning Intention	<p><i>Select the most relevant to your curriculum and intensions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For students to understand how ancient civilisations were different to current societies. - For students to compare ancient technology with current technology. - For students to discover historical figures and their impact on their civilisation. - For students to gain a deeper understanding of ancient civilisations, their ways of life, important historical figures, beliefs and culture.

10mins	Introduction	<p>Briefly introduce Ancient Egypt and ask students what they already know about it. Optional: Record the answers on a chart/whiteboard.</p> <p>how a large map of Egypt and point out the Nile River, Giza (where the pyramids are located), and other key sites like Luxor.</p> <p>Explain that the class will listen to a podcast that will take them on a fun journey through Ancient Egypt.</p>
20mins	Listen to Podcast	<p>Play the podcast episode: *The Secrets of Ancient Egypt and the Pyramids*.</p> <p>Encourage students to take notes or draw pictures of what stands out to them (e.g., pyramids, mummies, gods, and daily life).</p> <p>Pause at key moments to ask questions or engage the class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Who remembers how big the stones used to build the pyramids were?" - "Can anyone explain why Egyptians made mummies?"
10mins	Class Discussion	<p>Lead a class discussion on the podcast. Ask comprehension questions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who were the pharaohs, and why were they so important? - How did ancient Egyptians build the pyramids? - What role did the gods and the afterlife play in their daily lives? - How did regular people in Egypt live? What did they eat and wear? <p>Write students' answers on the board or chart paper. Optional: Add to original knowledge chart from introduction.</p>
20mins	Activity 1: Build your own pyramid.	<p><i>Objective: Understand pyramid construction and teamwork.</i></p> <p>Divide students into small groups. Provide each group with cardboard pieces, markers, scissors, and glue. Each group will work together to build their own "pyramid," deciding how many levels (or layers) they can make with the materials they have.</p>

		<p>As they build, they must problem-solve how to make the pyramid stable (just like ancient Egyptians did with their ramps and stone blocks).</p> <p>Activity Wrap-up: Once finished, have each group present their pyramid to the class and explain their construction process and difficulties they experienced and how they overcame them.</p>
15mins	Activity 2: Mummification Process	<p>Pair up students and give each pair a small toy figure or doll.</p> <p>Hand out small containers of salt, gauze, and markers.</p> <p>Students will go through the steps of mummifying the "body" by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pretending to remove the insides (ask them to imagine this step!). 2. Covering the body in "salt" (which will be the natron they learned about). 3. Wrapping the body in gauze to finish their "mummy." <p>Activity Wrap-up: Discuss how this activity relates to what they heard about King Tut's mummy in the podcast. Ask them why Egyptians believed mummification was important.</p>
20mins	Activity 3: Egyptian Gods memory Match	<p><i>Objective: Reinforce knowledge of key Egyptian gods in a fun and interactive way.</i></p> <p>Brainstorm the Egyptian Gods discussed in the podcast: (e.g., Ra with the sun, Anubis with a jackal head, Horus with a falcon head). Remember what they were described as looking like and discuss.</p> <p>Students then create their own interpretation of the god: they will draw 2 x Ra, 2 x Anubis, 2 x Horus on small cards. The two matching cards should be the same.</p> <p>Play a memory game where students have to take turns to find the two matching cards. Alternative Version: Use the image of the God and their corresponding hieroglyphics.</p> <p>Extension: You can also have students take turns acting out the god's characteristics, while their peers guess which god they are.</p>

5mins	Conclusion	<p>Recap the main points of the lesson: What they learned about pyramids, pharaohs, mummies, daily life, and the Egyptian gods.</p> <p>Ask students to share their favourite fact or moment from the lesson.</p> <p>Explain how Ancient Egypt continues to fascinate us because of its incredible accomplishments, like the pyramids, and how they've helped shape our understanding of history.</p>	
Homework Ideas		Assessment	Extension
<p>Ask students to choose one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw a picture of what they think an ancient Egyptian house looked like and label parts of the house based on what they learned. 2. Write a short "diary entry" from the perspective of an Egyptian child living near the Nile. 3. Create a mini-poster about their favourite Egyptian god or pharaoh, including fun facts and illustrations. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group Pyramid Presentation: Assess students based on their teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving as they construct their pyramids. 2. Class Participation: Note how engaged students are during the podcast and discussion segments. Do they ask questions and share ideas? 3. Mummification Activity: Evaluate how well students can recall and demonstrate the mummification process and its importance in Egyptian culture. 4. Memory Game: Check for understanding of Egyptian gods and their roles in mythology through the interactive game. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create Your Own Hieroglyphics: Give students a handout of hieroglyphic symbols and have them write their names or a short message using the symbols. 2. Field Trip (Virtual or Real): Take students on a virtual field trip to a museum exhibit about ancient Egypt or a digital tour of the Pyramids of Giza using online resources.