



Year 3 Spring A Art of Ancient Egypt

Lesson Series:

1. The Art of Ancient Egypt—Introduction
2. The Great Sphinx
- 3/4. The Bust of Nefertiti
5. Making papyrus
6. Ancient Egyptian gods

Name: _____

Class: _____



1. The Art of Ancient Egypt—Introduction

The Ancient Egyptians created many different pieces of artwork including: sculptures, wall paintings and architecture. Pharaohs who were great rulers, would show how powerful they were by commissioning vast building projects, grand sculptures and artwork to adorn beautiful buildings.

The artwork was sacred and detailed, using expensive materials such as gold. Paintings found in tombs told stories or showed people of great importance. They were always shown in profile (side view) with hieroglyphics describing the scene.

Historians have been able to translate these wonderful works of art to help us understand how the Ancient Egyptians lived thousands of years ago.



Book of the Dead

2. The Great Sphinx

The Great Sphinx is a large sculpture of a mythological creature built by the Ancient Egyptians. It is the oldest statue in the world and was created about 5,000 years ago in Cairo, Egypt.

The word Sphinx means **creature of dread** and no one is certain why it was created. Some people believe it may have been commissioned to watch over the great pyramids it sits in front of. It has been carved from rock and appears to have a human head with the body of a lion.

Over the years, the Great Sphinx has suffered much damage.



3/4. The Bust of Nefertiti

Queen Nefertiti was believed to have been very beautiful. Her name means **'the beautiful one has come.'** She was the wife of Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaten. Nefertiti is usually shown in artworks wearing this distinct crown.

The bust (sculpted head and shoulders) was created by the royal sculptor Thutmose, who used limestone. Originally one of her eyes was made from quartz and the other left blank. No one is exactly sure why.



Bust of Nefertiti

5. Making papyrus

Papyrus is a type of weed that grew wild along the river banks of the Nile during ancient times. The Ancient Egyptians used it to make paper, weave baskets, make clothes, mattresses and many other essential items.

The Ancient Egyptians were the first people to make paper. They would write and draw important documents which would then be rolled into scrolls. Some of the Book of the Dead is drawn/written on papyrus.



Papyrus growing alongside the river Nile.

6. Ancient Egyptian gods

The Ancient Egyptians used art to show what they believed in. There are over 2,000 Gods mentioned in Ancient Egyptian writings and works of art. Many of the gods are portrayed in the Book of the Dead which has pictures and hieroglyphics in it. The Ancient Egyptians often portrayed their gods with human bodies and animal heads.

There were some gods and goddesses that were more important than others. Here are some of the more important ones:

Ra - Ra was the sun god and the most important god to the Ancient Egyptians. Ra was drawn as a man with a hawk head and a headdress with a sun disk. At one point Ra was combined with another god Amun and the two made an even more powerful god, Amun-Ra. Ra was said to have created all forms of life and was the supreme ruler of the gods.

Isis - Isis was the mother goddess. It was thought that she would protect and help people in need. She was drawn as a woman with a headdress in the shape of a throne.

Osiris - Osiris was ruler of the underworld and god of the dead. He was the husband of Isis and father of Horus. Osiris was drawn as a mummified man with a feathered headdress.

