

Yale 2013 PIER Summer Institutes

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Mummification in Ancient Egypt

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School: Three Rivers Community College

Subject Area: Egypt/Archaeology/Primary Sources/modern technologies in the practice of history

Grade Level (s): 13-14

Time Frame to Allow for Unit: one 50 minute class period

Introduction: Brief Description of unit: Students will listen to a lecture on mummification and the use of modern technologies in order to ascertain new discoveries. Students will then use the case of Tutankhamun to expand their knowledge in order to explain the importance of funerary practices to ancient Egypt and how the keys of modern science can explain the past. A detective lesson will focus on artifacts found with mummies and their true meaning and significance. Students will also trace the idea of “mummy mania” over time, utilizing parts of the “Echoes of Egypt” exhibit at the Peabody Museum.

Geographic Connections: Related to Summer Institute Themes

This lesson is related to the themes of the “Echoes of Egypt” Summer Institute in the following ways: It directly relates to presentations by Colleen Manassa and Tasha Dobbin-Bennet, as well as items found in the “Echoes of Egypt” exhibit at the Peabody Museum. Specifically, mummification and funerary practices, as well as the reception of mummies in more recent times are the most germane topics that will be focused on in this lesson.

Vocabulary: Terms, Concepts and actors

Mummification, funerary rituals, Egyptoscopy, Tutankhamun, Akhenaten, Nefertiti

Stage 1 – Desired Results
Historical Knowledge/Understanding General Education Requirements: Students will study the interrelatedness of various realms of human experience from multiple historical perspectives.
1. Interpret and differentiate types of historical sources including popular, academic,

<p>primary, and secondary.</p> <p>2. Recognize ever-changing interpretations of history.</p> <p>3. Examine the development of societies in national and/or international contexts.</p> <p>4. Explain the influence and agency of race, class, gender, and other perspectives on historical events.</p> <p>5. Describe the impact of the past on subsequent events, including the present.</p> <p>6. Examine the complex, dynamic, and interrelated nature of change.</p>	
<p>Understandings/ Goals: Students will understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing interpretations of ancient Egyptian history and funerary practices • The impact of ancient Egypt on later societies 	<p>Essential Question Related to Theme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did mummification practices change over time and what evidence do we have for these changes? 2. What techniques are used today to help us better understand Egyptian funerary practices?
<p>Student Objectives (Outcomes): Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work individually and in groups to better understand Egyptian funerary practices and their meanings • Use analytical skills to make connections between the different historical stages of Egyptomania. • Research and write an essay comparing and contrasting mummification between cultures over time 	
<p>Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence</p>	
<p>Performance Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a research essay comparing and contrasting mummification across cultures 	<p>Other Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual and small group tasks (centered around inquiry based exercises)
<p>Stage 3: Learning Plan</p>	
<p>Learning Activities:</p> <p>Prerequisites:</p> <p>Note that prior to this activity, students will have the following knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of ancient Egyptian culture (religion, daily life, government, social system, geography, etc.) • Understanding primary sources • Basic understanding of archaeology and artifacts 	

Learning Plan:

The teacher will lecture for 15 minutes followed by presenting images of Tutankamun's mummy and beginning the inquiry based lesson. When finished, students will break out in groups to work on specific aspects of funerary rituals and then come back to the class with their findings. The essay assignment will be handed out at the conclusion of the lesson.

Resource List/Bibliography:**Useful Websites**

<http://www.fi.edu/learn/tut/9-12/links.html>

Links to all sorts of really interesting scientific activities featuring Ancient Egypt.

<http://lesson-plans.theteacherscorner.net/socialstudies/chicken.php>

A great "how-to" for mummifying a chicken.

<http://www.digitalegypt.ucl.ac.uk/mummy/index.html>

Digital Egypt is a fantastic website on all things ancient Egypt. I encourage you to search through the index, there will, most likely, be a blurb to answer your question.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-23045904>

Keep an eye on the Medelhavsmuseet 3-D scan – exciting digital discoveries.

<http://dsc.discovery.com/tv-shows/curiosity/videos/modern-day-mummification.htm>

Discovery Channel presentation of a modern mummification. An engaging and informative show. Due to the nature of the content, please use discretion.

<http://archive.archaeology.org/online/features/mummies/>

A short, but informative, interview with Dr. Rosalie David who directs the Manchester Mummy Project. Dr. David's work has laid the foundation for modern scientific approaches to the study of mummification.

<http://www.mummiesoftheworld.com/additional-educational-resources/>

Mummies of the World, the largest exhibition of mummies and related artifacts ever

assembled, presents a never-before-seen collection of naturally and intentionally preserved mummies. This compelling collection, presented with reverence and dignity, includes ancient mummies and important artifacts from Asia, Oceania, South America, Europe, as well as ancient Egypt, dating as far back as 6,500 years.

<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/mummies/story/main.html>

The British Museum has a very accessible website devoted to mummification, as well as a number of fun games.

Books

There are countless books available on mummification and I have selected three that I think offer the best overviews. These books are used by Egyptologists and would be great for educators and older students.

Salima Ikram and Aidan Dodson, The Mummy in Ancient Egypt: Equipping the Dead for Eternity. London: Thames and Hudson, 1998.
ISBN:0500050880

Françoise Dunand & Roger Lichtenberg. Mummies and Death in Egypt. Translated by David Lorton. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006.
ISBN:0801444721

John H Taylor. Unwrapping a Mummy: The Life, Death and Embalming of Horemknesi. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996.
ISBN:0292781415

Books for younger audiences

These books are also listed on the Mummies of the World website.

Janet Buell, *Time Travelers Series: Bog Bodies; Ice Maidens of the Andes; The Greenland Mummies; Ancient Horsemen of Siberia*. Ages 9-12

Elizabeth Carney, Mummies, National Geographic Kids, 2009. Ages 4-8

Harriett Griffey, Secrets of the Mummies, DK Readers, 1998. Ages 9-12

Sandra Markle, Outside and Inside Mummies, Walker & Company, 2005. Ages 9-12

Shelley Tanaka, Mummies: The Newest, Coolest and Creepiest from Around the World, Henry N. Abrams, 2005. Ages 9-12

Totally Amazing Mummies, Golden Books, 1998. Ages 9-12

Charlotte Wilcox, Mummies and Their Mysteries, Carolrhoda Books, 1993. Ages 9-12

Magazines

Dig, an archaeology magazine for children. Ages 9-12 www.digonsite.com

How will this unit be used?

This lesson will be presented to a college level section of World Civilizations I during the week that a chapter entitled “Creation of Empire: North Africa and Southwest Asia, 1550-330 B.C.E.”

The lesson will take place on a Thursday during the fourth week of the semester, approximately September 26th, 2013 in room D107 at Three Rivers Community College.