SYMBOLS & MEANINGS IN ANCIENT EGYPT: JEWELRY

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Introduction: The PowerPoint presentation includes samples of ancient Egyptian jewelry and the meaning of the symbols used to create the jewels. This Presentation is to serve as a supplemental resource for teaching Ancient Egypt.

Geographic Connections: The artifacts reflect the world view of the ancient Egyptians and their spatial relationships in their belief systems.

Vocabulary: Tutankhamun, Ankh, Udjat

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Stage 1 – Desired Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Core Content Standard(s): For grades 6-10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Understanding (s)/Goals:</th>
<th>Essential Question:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will know the art and culture of ancient Egypt through learning about its jewelry.</td>
<td>How does jewelry teach us about the values and belief systems of the past?</td>
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<tr>
<th>Student Objectives (Outcomes):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will be able to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• To familiarize students with the uses, meaning, art, and symbolism of ancient Egyptian adornment;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• To stimulate exploration of ancient Egyptian customs and beliefs;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• To enable students to gain an understanding and appreciation that ancient Egyptian customs and beliefs are intertwined with sophisticated artistry.</td>
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Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Task(s):</th>
<th>Other Evidence:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This project is meant to serve as a resource for middle school and high school units on ancient Egypt and its success should be assessed within the</td>
<td>• To be determined by the teachers who utilize this material, but may include:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Debate activity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Superstition activity</td>
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| context of the units in which it is used. | Art activity  
Professions activity (art history, curation, etc.) |

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**Stage 3 – Learning Plan**

**NOTE:** This project is not a stand-alone lesson – its purpose is to provide a resource for teachers and students who desire to learn about the meaning and symbol of ancient Egyptian jewelry.

**Major Themes:**

**Studying Ancient Egyptians’ Jewelry Helps illuminate their Culture, Beliefs and Artistry**

**Learning How Jewelry was Created & Used in Ancient Egypt Gives Clues About:**

- What technical and creative skills Egyptian artists developed & mastered;
- When/How they learned to:
  - Shape and transform metals, minerals, gem stones, and crystals, using the tools available in those faraway times;
  - What trade & travel habits enabled them to obtain various materials;
  - What their reasons were for making these efforts;
  - How they used symbols and hieroglyphs to transform a beautiful work of art into something more – a form of communication about the user of the jewel and his or her beliefs.

**We Can Learn Whether Jewelry Was Worn As:**

- Talismans or Amulets to Bring Good Fortune or Ward off Evil
- Signs of Authority, Rank, or Wealth
- Signs of Identification with a Group, a Belief System, etc.
- Identification of the Wearer
- Personal Mementos or Gifts
- Ways to Enhance Personal Appearance

The following pages contain images and descriptions of a number of famous examples of ancient Egyptian Jewelry – as a stimulus to continue your study and learn more about why so many people around the world are fascinated by the beauty, symbolism, and complex creativity of ancient Egyptian Jewelry.

The Presentation includes guiding questions, illustrations and digital images of the jewelry pieces. The Presentation should be used as the supplemental material for your study of Ancient Egypt.

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**Resource List/Bibliography:**

- The Egyptian Museum, established in 1835, now located in Cairo, is currently closed (July, 2013), and its website ([http://www.egyptianmuseum.gov.eg](http://www.egyptianmuseum.gov.eg)) is not online at this time. Until it functions once again, the following sites may be useful:


- The British Museum – has over 100,000 artifacts from Egypt

- Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY – has over 25,000 artifacts from Egypt
  http://www.metmuseum.org/search-results?ft=Egypt&x=0&y=0
- PennMuseum in Philadelphia, PA – has over 40,000 artifacts from Egypt
  http://www.penn.museum/search.html?q=Egypt&x=0&y=0
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA has over 45,000 artifacts from Egypt
- The Egyptian Museum in Turin, Italy – has over 32,000 artifacts from Egypt
  http://www.museoegizio.it/pages/hp_en.jsp
- The Neues Museum in Berlin, Germany – has over 80,000 artifacts from Egypt
  http://www.neues-museum.de/index.php
- The Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, Egypt – has over 100,000 artifacts from Egypt
  http://www.gem.gov.eg and other locations.