

Teacher's Guide for DIG™:

January 2010: Ancient Egypt's Saqqara Secrets

Teacher's Guide prepared by Lois Sepahban, B.A., M.A. Lois has taught students of all ages from kindergarten to high school. She teaches and writes in California.

3,500-Year-Old Tombs (8-11)

Reading for Understanding

1. Why were archaeologists particularly interested in finding the tombs dating to 3,500 years ago? The tombs belonged to people who worked for Tutankhamun.
2. Whose tomb did archaeologists find? General Horemheb and his wife.
3. Why was Horemheb not buried in his tomb in Saqqara? After he became king, he built a new tomb in the Valley of the Kings.
4. Who else was buried in the tombs about 3,500 years ago? A sister and brother-in-law of Ramesses II, a prime minister of Tutankhamun's father and grandfather, and Lady Maya, Tutankhamun's tutor.
5. Why are the tombs difficult to excavate? Some walls were cut away and new walls were built when the tombs were converted into a burial place for sacred cats.

Activity

Art Connection

In this activity, you will create a picture of a relief for a tomb. First, imagine what symbols, words, or images you would want on the walls of your own tomb. Next, arrange them in the way you want them to appear on one wall. You may want to consider using borders around the edges, or a large-scale image of you and an Egyptian deity, or a combination of both. Carefully sketch your picture, outlining it in ink. As an optional extension, you may carve your picture into a soft square of clay to make a real relief.

Baboons, Falcons, & Cows, Oh, My! (12-15)

Reading for Understanding

1. How were the catacombs of the mummified ibis birds lost? Desert sands buried them, leaving no trace behind.
2. When were they rediscovered? In 1960, by Professor W.B. Emery.
3. What was Professor Emery looking for? The tomb of Imhotep.
4. What did Professor Emery discover next? A gallery of mummified baboons.
5. Ibises and baboons are sacred to which god? Thoth.
6. What sacred animal did Professor Emery's team members discover next? Falcons.
7. What was Professor Emery's last discovery? The tomb of the mother of the sacred Apis Bull.

Activity

Research Project

Split students into four groups: Ibis, Baboon, Falcon, Mother of Apis. Each group of students will research the significance of their sacred animal to the ancient Egyptians. Students should prepare

a poster with the most important information, along with images of their sacred animal, and present what they've learned to the rest of the class.

With Eyes to the Future (16-19)

Reading for Understanding

1. Why was it difficult for a woman like Amelia Edwards to find employment? She couldn't go to college and there were difficulties for women who wanted to find a profession.
2. How did she first support herself? She wrote books on history and art, she wrote eight novels, and she became a journalist.
3. How did traveling change her work? She began to write travel books.
4. Why did she end up traveling in Egypt? The weather was bad in Italy, so she and her friend decided to go to Egypt instead.
5. What did she and her friends discover next to the temple of Abu Simbel? A small chapel that had been completely covered by sand.
6. Why did she found the Egypt Exploration Fund? She was shocked by the destruction of ancient monuments and the plunder of archaeological sites.
7. What did she leave to University College London in her will? Her library and antiquities, as well as enough money to create the first Professor of Egyptology.

Activity

Writing Connection

In this article, you read how traveling changed Amelia Edwards' life--she began writing travel books that became very popular. Travel writing continues to be popular today, in both books and magazines. Think of a favorite trip you've taken recently--it can be close to home or far away. Write a short article about the trip, including geographic and cultural information, as well as more practical ideas, such as how to get there and where to stay or eat. Remember to give your impressions of the sites and experiences that made this trip so memorable for you.

Looking Ahead (20)

Activity

Journal Writing

In this article, you read that scientists must protect and preserve the artifacts they find, cleaning and storing them carefully for future study. These scientists, called conservators, are specially-trained in the most up-to-date methods of preservation. In your journal, answer the following questions. What skills do you think are important for a conservator to have? What training and education is necessary for a conservator? Internet research may help you find answers.

Petrie, the Innovator (21-24)

Reading for Understanding

1. Why did Petrie invent a system of sequence dating? He wanted to make sense of Egyptian prehistory.
2. What did Petrie find inside the pyramid of Senusret II at Lahun? A red granite sarcophagus and a solid gold and lapis lazuli uraeus.

3. What are some of Petrie's other exceptional finds? A palace and temple built by Akhenaten, houses in the residential part of Akhenaten's city, and murals and paintings.
4. Why is Petrie known as the "father of archaeology"? He wrote more than 1,000 books and articles about Egypt, excavated more different sites in Egypt than anyone else, and trained several generations of Egyptologists.

Activity

Map Skill

Using a blank map of Egypt, identify the following places:

Abu Simbel	Amarna	Cairo	Giza
Luxor	Memphis	Nile Delta	Nile River
Saqqara	Thebes		

Yesterday and Today (25)

Activity

Research Skill

In this article, you learned that among the specialists who work on archaeological digs in Egypt are archaeobotanists, archaeozoologists, palaeoanthropologists, pottery specialists, metallurgists, and illustrators. Divide the class into six groups. Each group should research one of the areas of specialty and create a small poster to share with the class. The poster should include describe the area of specialty, explaining what is involved in the work, and should include information and pictures about how this specialty is used at Egyptian dig sites.

Faience Finds (26-28)

Reading for Understanding

1. What is faience made from? Crushed quartz mixed with lime and soda and copper.
2. Where did Petrie find faience pieces lying on the surface of the ground? In Kom Helul in Memphis.
3. What was faience used to make? Shabtis, bowls, vases, amulets, jewelry, figurines of gods.
4. How is faience made? The materials were put into a bowl called a saggar and heated inside a kiln until it became very hard and shiny.

Neferseshemtah's False Door (33)

Activity

Compare and Contrast

You read in this article that a Neferseshemtah's family would have come to his tomb to bring offerings for his soul. How is that similar to and different from the ways we mourn our dead family members? As a class, discuss the similarities and differences.

Culminating Activity

Flinders Petrie developed an organized method for dating and cataloguing his discoveries in Egypt. In this activity, you will organize and develop your own method for cataloguing discoveries. In advance, either the teacher should prepare shoeboxes with various items, or students can prepare shoeboxes with various items so the shoeboxes can be traded. Items in the shoeboxes should cover a range--for example, a book, a pencil, flowers, a cup, rocks or minerals, tools, and so on. Each student can then open his or her shoebox and organize and catalogue the various items. As an extension, students can date the items or chart them on a timeline. When all projects are completed, students can share their methods with their classmates.