

**Westfield  
Washington  
Public Library**

# Egyptian Mythology

**Story Lab—  
Week #1**  
June 2, 2020

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## Story Lab Schedule

- 06/02—Egyptian Mythology
- 06/09—Roman & Greek Mythology
- 06/16—Medieval Legends
- 06/23—Age of Enlightenment Fairy Tales
- 06/30—American Tall Tales
- 07/07—To Be Determined
- 07/14—TBD
- 07/21—TBD
- 07/28—TBD

## WELCOME!

This year's Summer Reading Program theme is *Imagine Your Story*. But what does that mean? Last year we focused on space and science which is more about facts. This year we're concentrating on fantasy themes, including myths, fables, fairy tales, and legends which helps you use your imagination.

What is Story Lab? A laboratory is a place to gather and study evidence, then analyze what we've studied. In this virtual lab environment, we're going to gather evidence of stories throughout history and the world, then take what we've learned to help us write our own stories.

Do you know the difference between a myth and a legend? By the end of this series you will have learned about both.

## WATCH

We can't fit thousands of years of information about Ancient Egypt all in this document so we created a supplemental playlist on our YouTube channel called *SRP 2020: Story Lab Week #1—Egyptian Mythology*, which you can find here—

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WVWPL46074/playlists>

\*Please note that this playlist is housed on regular YouTube and parents are encouraged to monitor their child's activity in the event that any questions arise while watching.

Egyptians were one of the first civilizations to develop a written language. In the beginning, only specially trained scribes could understand the new written language, so mostly they just wrote down whatever the pharaohs asked them to write.

Because of this much of the what survives is about the gods and the pharaohs and not much about the daily lives of the regular people. Fortunately, some of these stories about the creation of the earth and humans are very interesting! See the article on page 2 for more about the gods and goddesses.

After reading about some of these myths and the personalities of the gods, consider what a creation story would be like if you wrote one!

Did you know that the Sphinx has a tail?! From this playlist you can take a walking tour around the back side of Sphinx, learn how to make early turquoise-colored pottery, and hear a story about the Egyptian Cinderella. Of course, there are also videos about the better known gods and goddesses and the mythology surrounding them!

# LEARN

Can you guess how many gods and goddesses the ancient Egyptians believed in? Well your guess is as good as anyone else's!

Hundreds of deities, another word for gods and goddesses, were known by name but many others were not. Also, the kings of ancient Egypt, who were known as pharaohs, were considered gods by the people they ruled. The government and religion were tied together, and as the leader of the government, the Pharaoh was also leader of the religion.

Some gods looked human but others took the form of animals. There were even gods who were a combination of human and animal. Some of these gods' powers were used to explain natural occurrences that people didn't understand because they hadn't learned about science yet.

Let's look at a couple of the most prominent gods.

In the beginning there was nothing (Nun). A mound of earth rose from Nun and upon it **Atum** created himself. He spat **Shu** (air) and **Tefnut** (moisture) from his mouth. He named Shu as "life" and Tefnut as "order" and entwined them together. Shu and Tefnut gave birth to **Geb** (the earth) and **Nut** (the sky) who in turn give birth to **Osiris, Isis, Set, Nephthys** and **Horus the Elder**.

Osiris was considered to be the king of the underworld. Anubis, son of Osiris, was the god of the dead and helped usher them to the underworld.

Isis is known as the Mother of Gods, and is portrayed as a selfless, giving mother and protectress, who

## What's special about myths?

*Myths are traditional stories, especially ones concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, especially before science and typically involving supernatural beings or events. The main characters in myths are usually gods, demi-gods or supernatural humans!*

places other's interests and well-being ahead of her own.

Keep in mind that these myths varied based on where and when you lived in Ancient Egypt. For more information about Egyptians gods and goddesses, check out some nonfiction books from the library or visit this website—

[https://kids.kiddle.co/List\\_of\\_Egyptian\\_gods\\_and\\_goddesses](https://kids.kiddle.co/List_of_Egyptian_gods_and_goddesses)



# READ

## Early Chapter Fiction Books

- ◆ *Magic Tree House: Mummies in the Morning* by Mary Pope Osborne
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
  - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)
- ◆ *A to Z Mysteries: The Missing Mummy* by Ron Roy
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
  - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)
- ◆ *The Curse of King Tut's Mummy* by Kathleen Zoehfeld
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
  - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)
- ◆ *Time Warp Trio: Tut, Tut* by Jon Scieszka
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)



## Fiction Books

- ◆ *The Kane Chronicles: The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
  - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)
- ◆ *Theodosia Throckmartin Series: Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos* by Robin LaFevers
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
  - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)
- ◆ *Goosebumps: Curse of the Mummy's Tomb* by R.L. Stine
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
  - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)
  - ◆ Audiobook—[Hoopla](#)



## Non-Fiction Books

Pro Tip: non-fiction books about Ancient Egypt are found under the number 932. Books about Modern Egypt are found under 962. For Mummies, look under 393!

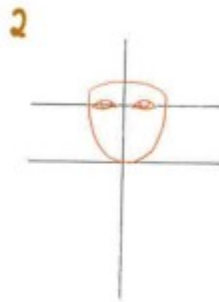
- ◆ *If I Were a Kid in Ancient Egypt*
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
  - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)
- ◆ *DK Findout! Ancient Egypt*
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
  - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)
- ◆ *Mummies and Pyramids* (companion to *Mummies in the Morning*)
  - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
  - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)



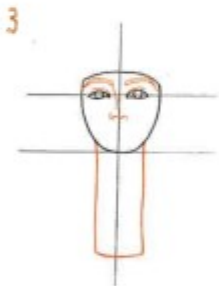
# DRAW



1 Begin sketching King Tut's mask by sketching a long, vertical line. Then add two horizontal lines, as shown, to serve as guides as you draw King Tut's face.



2 Draw a large U shape, as shown. Top it with a short line for his brow. Add two almond-shaped eyes with pupils inside.



3 For his eyebrows, draw two narrow curved shapes, each coming to a point. Add curved lines for his eyelids, a curved vertical line for the nose, and curved lines for the nostrils. Add a long rectangular shape, which will be his neck and his chest.



4 Draw two large curved shapes for Tut's ears. Add small curved lines inside. Draw an M shape for the top lip. Draw a curved lower lip. Draw four lines around his neck.



5 For Tut's headdress, draw long, curved lines from the top of each ear to the bottom of the neck. Add the crown shape above his head. Draw an ornament on top of his head.



6 Add a winding snake shape to the ornament. Draw a large U shape from one side of the headdress to the other.



7 Next add many thin, decorative lines to add a fancy look to King Tut's headdress.



8 Shade your drawing. Notice the shading on the eyes, necklace and headdress. Draw shadows on his cheeks to give depth to his cheekbones.

Image taken from the book [How to Draw Egypt's Sights and Symbols](http://evergreen.lib.in.us/eg/opac/record/20326031) by Betsy Dru Tecco. For more, find this book in our catalog here—<http://evergreen.lib.in.us/eg/opac/record/20326031>

## LEARN

Egyptians began mummifying their dead nearly 5,000 years ago. At first, only pharaohs were mummified. In time, the pharaohs' wives, children, relatives, officials, priests, and servants were also mummified so they could join the pharaohs in the afterlife.

In order to live for all eternity and be presented in front of Osiris, the god of the afterlife, the body of the deceased had to be preserved by mummification, so that the soul could reunite with it, and take pleasure in the afterlife.

The main process of mummification was preserving the body by dehydrating it using natron, a natural material found in the desert which is like a combination of baking soda

and salt. The body was drained of any liquids and left with the skin, hair and muscles preserved. Incantations, a series of words said as a magic spell or charm, were said over the mummy to turn it into an immortal being.

The first step was to remove the internal organs and liquid so that the body would not decay. The embalmers took out the brain and discarded it because they thought that the heart did all the thinking.

The lungs, liver, stomach, and intestines were removed and placed in canopic jars with lids shaped like the heads of the protective deities, the four sons of Horus: Imsety, Hapy, Duamutef, and Qebhseneuf. There was no jar for the heart

because the Egyptians believed it to be the seat of the soul, and so it was left inside the body.

After the organs were removed, the body was washed inside and out with wine. The embalmers then stuffed the body with cotton and laid it on a bed of salt. The body was left for 40 days to dry. When the body was dried, the embalmers rubbed the body with perfumes and oils. Before being put in the coffin the body was wrapped in many layers of linen bandages which could take weeks to complete!



## MAKE

### Make your own mummy...

If you've had enough of apple pies and apple crumble, how about mummifying an apple?

#### What you need:

Apple  
Knife  
1/3 cup (40 grams) baking soda  
2/3 cup (80 grams) table salt  
Two plastic cups



#### How to:

1. Cut the apple in half. Eat half!
2. Cut the remaining half in half again. Put each piece of apple into a separate cup.
3. Mix together the baking soda and salt. Pour this on top of one of the apple slices. Make sure the apple is completely covered.
4. Put the cups somewhere out of direct sunlight for one week.
5. After a week, pour the salt and baking soda mixture out of the cup. What has happened to the apple slices? Is there a difference between them?

### What's happening?

You should see that one of your apple slices has rotted. The slice covered in the salt and baking soda mixture hasn't rotted. It's been mummified!

Salt and baking soda are desiccants. Desiccants remove water from any material it comes into contact with. Bacteria that cause rotting and decay need water to survive. Salt and baking soda remove the water from the apple, which makes it hard for bacteria to survive and cause decay.

Ancient Egyptians use a similar method to preserve human bodies after death. They used natron, a naturally occurring desiccant, to mummify bodies.

You could make an apple mummy head! Draw a picture on an apple with felt tips or marker pens. Cover the apple completely with a baking soda and salt mixture and leave for a week. When you pour away the baking soda and salt mixture you're left with your very own apple mummy head!

**Remember that the mummy apple is not edible!**

Don't forget to sign up for the  
Summer Reading Program!  
[wwpl.beanstack.org](http://wwpl.beanstack.org)

For a video tutorial, visit our YouTube Channel and check out the SRP 2020: Story Lab Week #1 playlist!

# SEARCH

Searching the catalog can sometimes feel like finding a camel in a sandstorm, but it shouldn't! One good place to start is the [Advanced Search](#) screen.

If you're looking for books about Ancient Egypt this week, you can try using different Keywords such as, Egypt, mummy, pyramid, camel, pharaoh, etc.

You can also use the [Audience](#) field to limit the results to books written for children.

You can use the [Literary Form](#) field to choose between "fiction" which are made up stories, or "nonfiction" which are books that contain facts.

The [Search Library](#) field lets you switch between "Evergreen Indiana" which is a system of 100+ around the state and "Westfield Washington PL—Westfield" which only includes items in our building.

If you select "Westfield Washington PL—Westfield" as your search library you'll also be able to see all of our [Shelving Locations](#). This is helpful if you just want to limit your results to "Children's Picture Book Collection" or our "Award Winning Book Collection."

If you're in a hurry and want to see what we have on the shelf right now, you can check the box to [Limit to Available](#).

EVERGREEN INDIANA LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

New Search INSPIRE Indiana State Library Find a Library Near Me About Evergreen Which OverDrive Link Do

Search the Catalog Basic Search Browse the Catalog

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Search Input

Keyword Contains Egypt

Or Keyword Contains mummy

Or Keyword Contains pyramid

Add Search Row

Search Clear Form

Search Filters

Item Format Audience Shelving Location

All books Adult 14 Day Leased

All movies and television Elementary 14 Day Loan

All music General 14 Day non-holdable

Audiocassette music reco Juvenile Action DVD Collection

Blu-ray Pre-Teen Adult Audio Book Collection

Braille Preschool Adult Biography Book Collection

Literary Form Language Search Library

Essays Achinese Westfield Washington PL - Westfield

Fiction Afrikaans

Humor, satires, etc. Albanian

Letters Algonquian (Other)

Mixed forms Amharic

Nonfiction Arabic

Limit to Available

# EXPLORE

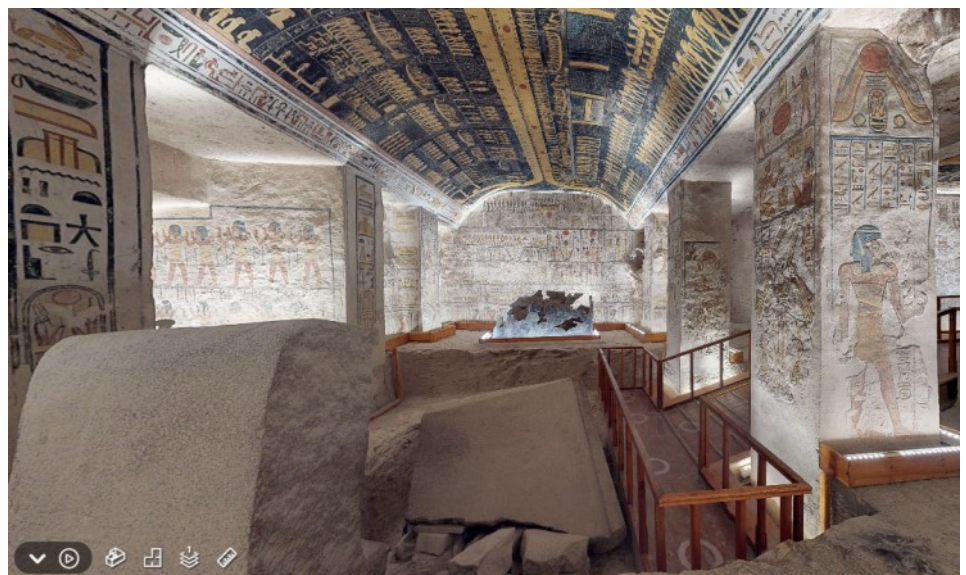
Have you ever seen the inside of a Pharaoh's Tomb? Well now you can, without even leaving your house!

To explore the tomb of Pharaoh Rameses VI, visit this website—

<https://bit.ly/2kLfHJD>

Don't forget to look up!

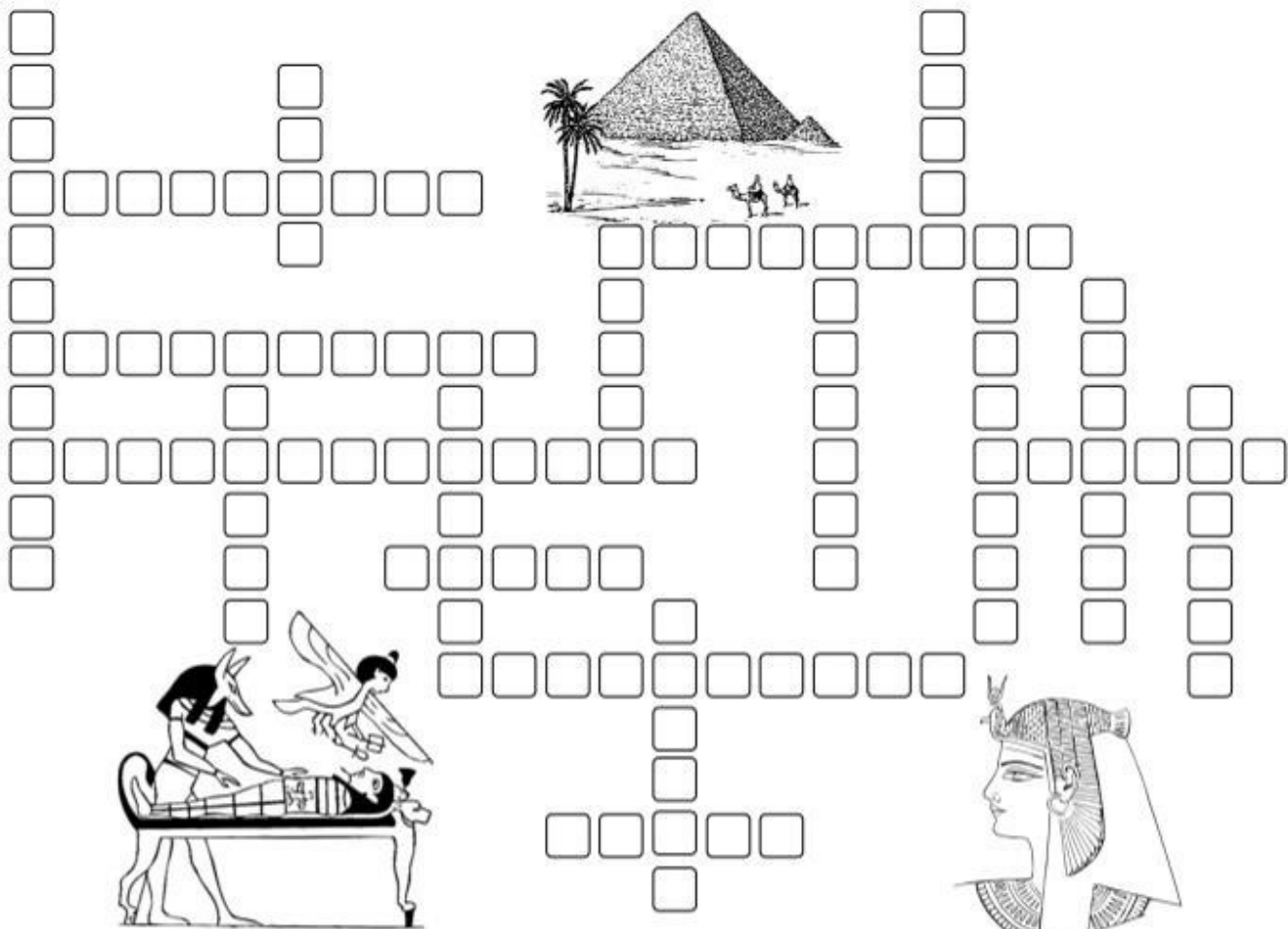
You can also read more about the history and architecture of the tomb here—<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KV9>



# SOLVE

This Kriss-Kross puzzle is all about Egypt – combine logical thinking with literacy, history and art. Solve the puzzle, color the pictures, find out who or what all the words refer to. Fit all the words listed in to the grid (in capital letters). If there is only one word of any length there's only one place it can go. Look for clues in the letters you have filled in. You can also visit this website—[teachinglondoncomputing.org/kriss-kross-puzzles/egyptian-kriss-kross/](http://teachinglondoncomputing.org/kriss-kross-puzzles/egyptian-kriss-kross/) — find versions of the puzzle that you can do on your computer (either in a pdf viewer or in a spreadsheet).

The solution to this puzzle is also available at the above website.



- |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>4 letters</b> | <b>5 letters</b> | <b>6 letters</b> | <b>7 letters</b> | <b>8 letters</b> | <b>9 letters</b> | <b>10 letters</b> | <b>11 letters</b> | <b>13 letters</b> |
| Nile             | Cairo            | Anubis           | kushari          | Ramesses         | afterlife        | Hatshepsut        | Tutankhamun       | mummification     |
|                  | camel            | Khepri           | pharaoh          |                  | Cleopatra        | hieroglyph        |                   |                   |
|                  | Egypt            | Osiris           | pyramid          |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
|                  | Horus            | Sphinx           |                  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |

Cats were considered sacred in Ancient Egypt!

Mafdet was the first known cat-headed deity, depicted with a head of a leopard, in ancient Egypt. She was regarded as protector of the Pharaoh's chambers against snakes, scorpions and evil.

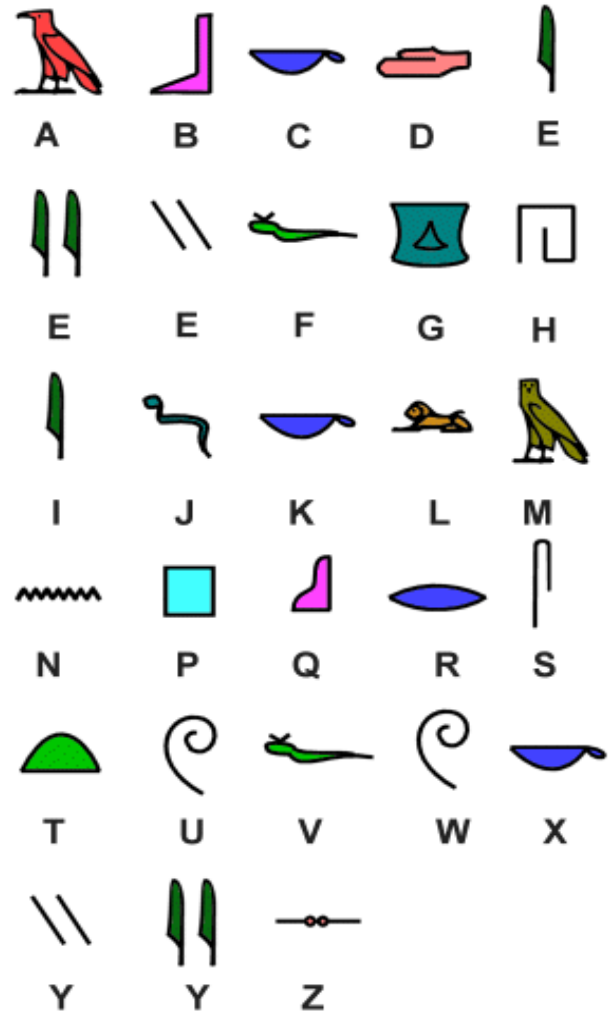
# SCRIBE

Can't read hieroglyphics? Neither could most ancient Egyptians! People trained for years to read and write the complicated language of over 700 pictures and shapes!

Egyptians were one of the first civilizations to develop a written language. When archeologists first studied Egyptian hieroglyphics they thought that each symbol represented a word. However, it turns out that the writing is more complex than that. A symbol can represent a word, a sound, a syllable, or a concept. In some cases, the symbol represents a full word. These symbols are called ideograms or logograms. For example, a symbol of the woman simply means the word "woman." The same with a symbol of a man. Some symbols may represent more than one word depending on the context of how they are used and the other symbols around them. The same symbol used for "sun" can also mean "light."

In the picture to the right, we've shown some comparisons of symbols and how they might relate to our alphabet. You will note that there are cases where two different symbols have the same sound (see the letter "Y" at the bottom). This is just like we have when some of our letters can make the same sound depending on the word (for example "c" and "k").

**Can you write your name in hieroglyphs using the chart of symbols to the right?**



## PLAY

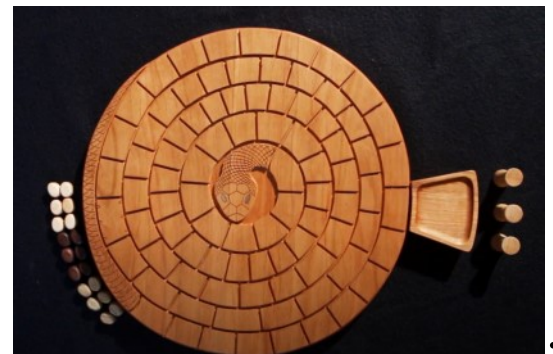
Despite early beliefs that regular people only slaved away building the pyramids and didn't have any leisure time, that turns out not to be true! An ancient *stela*, an upright stone slab or column with carved commemorative inscriptions, describes numerous sporting events staged by the nobles.

What kind of events did this stela describe? The upper classes usually participated in more formal events such as archery shooting competitions and large-scale boat races. The lower classes usually pursued less formal activities such as simple ball games and physical contests like tug-of-war and wrestling.

Ancient Egyptian children of both upper and lower classes tended to have the same kind of toys, although the upper-class children had fancier versions. Children played with many of the same types of toys that modern children do, including dolls, puppets, balls, and board games.

Two board games that were popular were called Senet and Mehen. Gameplay in both are similar—pieces, usually stones, move along the board based on how the different colored sticks landed after being thrown, as dice hadn't been invented yet. However, the shape of the

boards differ; Senet uses a rectangle board but Mehen uses a round board. You can download instructions and your own game board for Mehen here—[https://www.yac-uk.org/userfiles/file/1429015449\\_Egyptian\\_Game\\_Mehen.pdf](https://www.yac-uk.org/userfiles/file/1429015449_Egyptian_Game_Mehen.pdf)





## EXPLORE

The Great Pyramids of Giza are the only surviving seven wonders of the ancient world and one of the most recognizable man-made structures on the planet! Many other features of ancient Egyptian architecture have stood the test of time and have been copied for thousands of years. There have even been architects who were influenced by the Egyptians, thousands of years later and half way around the world, right here in Indiana!

Three famous buildings in the Indianapolis area show distinct design features first used by the Egyptians:

- ◇ **The Old National Centre, a social venue formerly known as the Murat Shrine Temple**



The Old National Center was built in the early 1900s by the Shriners, a social organization. It is mostly

known for its theater which featured Broadway shows, visiting dignitaries, and musical concerts. One of the event venues inside is called the Egyptian Room! You can take a virtual tour of here—

<https://tour.lcp360.com/nocache/livenation/oldnationalcentre/>

- ◇ **The Veterans War Memorial obelisk fountain**



The obelisk in Veterans Memorial Plaza was constructed as part of a project that started in the 1920s. An obelisk is a stone pillar, typically having a square or rectangular cross section and a pyramidal top, set up as a monument or landmark. Another famous obelisk that you might recognize is the Washington Monument in Washington D.C.



- ◇ **The Pyramids, an office complex on the northwest side**  
Designed for an insurance company and originally completed in 1967, these pyramids are much more modern than their ancient counterparts in Egypt. Each of the three buildings has four sides, but instead of being made of solid stone or concrete, two of the sides on each building are all glass windows. They were originally planning to build nine pyramids but only three were ever constructed.

### Can you find traces of Ancient Egypt in your neighborhood?



## REFERENCES

- ◇ [Arts, Leisure, and Sport in Ancient Egypt](#) by Don Nardo
- ◇ [Egyptian Hieroglyphics](#) by Stéphanie Rossini
- ◇ [Egyptian Myths](#) by Jacqueline Morley & Giovanni Caselli
- ◇ [Egyptian Myths](#) by Eric Braun
- ◇ [Stories of Mummies and the Living Dead](#) by Eric Kudalis
- ◇ [Mummy Riddles](#) by Katy Hall & Lisa Eisenberg
- ◇ [Pyramids: 50 Hands-on Activities](#) by Avery Hart & P. Mantell
- ◇ <https://www.ancient.eu/>
- ◇ [https://kids.kiddle.co/List\\_of\\_Egyptian\\_gods\\_and\\_goddesses](https://kids.kiddle.co/List_of_Egyptian_gods_and_goddesses)
- ◇ <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Egypt.html>
- ◇ <https://egypt.mrdonn.org/>
- ◇ <https://www.historyforkids.net/ancient-egypt.html>
- ◇ <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/ancient-egypt/>
- ◇ <https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/egyptian-life-and-culture>



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## LAUGH

What do you call a mummy that sleeps all day?

> *Lazybones!*

Where do mummies swim?

> *The Dead Sea!*

What do mummies like to listen to?

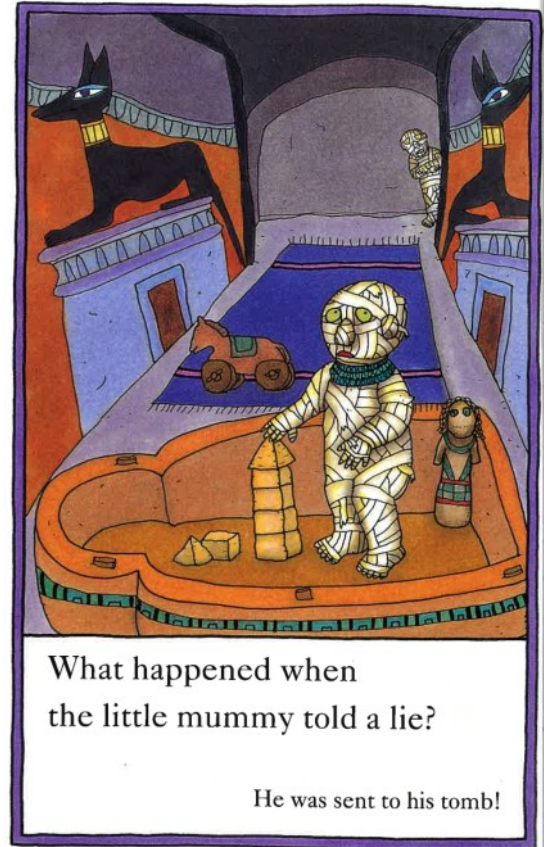
> *"Wrap" music!*

What should you do if a mummy rolls his eyes at you?

> *Roll them back!*

What's the speed limit in Egypt?

> *55 Niles an hour!*



What happened when the little mummy told a lie?

He was sent to his tomb!

## WRITE

A story's setting, or the time and place (or when and where), is often totally made up by authors of fantasy novels. However, some of these settings are inspired by cultures other cultures, some which no longer exist, like ancient Egypt.

Now that you've explored Ancient Egypt think about how you could include elements of their myths and culture into a story of your own. Would your character live in a desert? Maybe they would live here but travel back in time to ancient Egypt. Imagine



what would happen once they got there.

Maybe the setting of your story could have special realms like the Egyptian underworld, called Duat, or the primordial watery abyss, called Nun, that existed before the creation of the gods and humans. What would happen there?

Wherever you start, remember to use your imagination!

### Next Week

Be on the look out for next week's Story Lab edition which will be available on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

We'll be focusing on Roman and Greek Mythology.

