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A Word to the Teacher

Ancient Egypt

“.... from the summit of yonder pyramids, forty centuries
look down upon you.”

Napoleon Bonaparte, 1798

Egypt . . . a land of wonders dating back 300,000 years before Christ. It is the home of the great pyramids, some of the oldest and largest monuments in the world. Built by hand, they were erected more than 4,500 years ago.

Egypt is called the "cradle of civilisation", with the beginnings of our alphabet, papyrus, the Sphinx and the Rosetta Stone. It is a land of mystery and wonder, preserved for generation after generation to study and marvel over.

In the warm, fertile valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, the people did not have to spend all of their time raising food; they had time to invent and discover. They learned and developed systems for irrigating fields, writing, telling time, making metal tools and building temples and ships. New cities were built and systems for living together were developed. Religions flourished and a variety of economic systems came about.

Although the glory of ancient Egypt has all but disappeared, her contributions to civilisation have been spread throughout the world.

Interest Development Centre

Ancient Egypt

THE PURPOSE OF THE INTEREST DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IS TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE TOPIC AREA. THE STUDENT NEEDS TIME FOR BROWSING AND INVESTIGATION FOR MAXIMUM BENEFIT.

(Beginning ideas . . . you and your students will think of more . . . let parents and other teachers know about the Centre and it will grow without effort.)

POSTERS, BOOKS, VIDEOS ABOUT:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| KING TUT | SURVEYING SYSTEMS |
| EGYPTIAN CALENDAR | RELIGION |
| CLEOPATRA | TRADE ROUTES |
| FARMING METHODS | GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE |
| LUXOR | CLIMATE |
| THEBES | ARCHITECTURE |
| RAMSES II | THE NILE |
| COSMETICS | SCULPTURE |
| QUEEN NEFERTITI | PYRAMIDS |
| ARTS & CRAFTS | THE SPHINX |

ARTEFACTS, such as:

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| POTTERY | SURVEY INSTRUMENTS |
| PAPYRUS, PARCHMENT | SUN DIAL |
| SCARAB | COPPER, TIN, BRONZE ARTICLES |
| EGYPTIAN COTTON | REBUS STORY BOOKS |
| LIMESTONE/SANDSTONE | EXAMPLES OF EGYPTIAN WRITING |
| MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS | NATIONAL FLAG |
| EXAMPLES OF GRAINS & OTHER FOODS GROWN IN EGYPT | MAPS |

RECORDS & CASSETTES OF EGYPTIAN MUSIC (or music to set the mood):

“Egypt: Sounds and Silence”, by Steven Halpern.

1. Setting the Stage

Ancient Egypt . . . the Pharaohs . . . the Nile . . .

What do you know about these things?

List what comes to your mind . . .



COLOURS

SOUNDS

ANYTHING ELSE



3. Research (choose one)

- Find out about the GREAT SPHINX and make a 20-card fact file.
- Research the ROSETTA STONE.
Why is it important to archaeologists?
Share your findings.

- Read about the discovery of TUTANKHAMEN'S TOMB.

Make a video of what you have learned and share it with the class.

- The SCARAB was very important to the Ancient Egyptians. Discover what this was, and make a model of a scarab out of clay.

