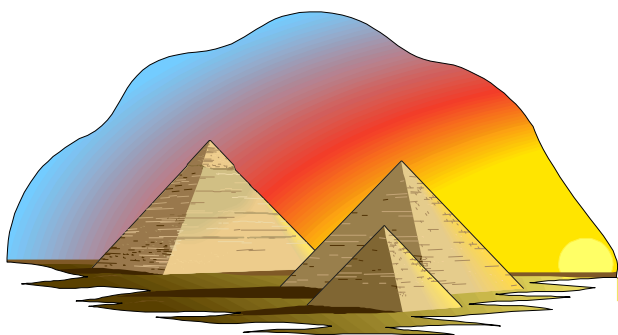


PYRAMID



CFE 3284V

OPEN CAPTIONED

PBS VIDEO

1988

Grade Levels: 9-13+

57 minutes

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed

DESCRIPTION

Burial practices and beliefs, such as the building of pyramids, mummification, and the legend of Osiris, dominated the culture of ancient Egypt. Actual footage of Egyptian tombs and artifacts with narration by author David Macaulay alternates with animated segments which portray the life of Khufu, the Egyptian king who built the Great Pyramid at Giza.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

- To examine the burial practices and tomb building of ancient Egyptian kings in their cultural and societal contexts.
- To describe the building of the Great Pyramid at Giza.
- To depict the story of Khufu, his court, heirs, and queens.
- To show many treasures and tombs of ancient Egypt.
- To examine the geography, history, myths, architecture, and religion of ancient Egypt.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Preview the video to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. Make a time line of early civilizations, including ancient Egypt.
3. Locate Egypt and the Nile River on a map.
4. Generate a list of vocabulary and concepts associated with Egypt.
5. Discuss the issue of succession in a monarchy and how this might create conflict among heirs.
6. Distribute the worksheet PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS OF ANCIENT EGYPT for completion during and after the second viewing. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause during animated segments to clarify the identities and relationships of the people in Khufu's court.
3. Pause when graphics of pyramid building are presented to allow adequate viewing time and clarification.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Describe the roles of the king, his family and court, and those of other ancient Egyptians.
2. Discuss the significance of the Nile River in Egypt.
3. Why was Narmer significant in Egyptian history?
4. What were Khufu's considerations in planning the Great Pyramid?
5. Discuss ancient Egyptian views about death.
6. Why was Khufu so concerned about the plundering of his father's grave?
7. How did Ankhaf change Khufu's future burial chamber to prevent grave robbery?
8. Speculate why the ancient Egyptian kings stopped building pyramids.
9. What events aided modern scholars in understanding ancient Egypt?
10. Describe the different kinds of pyramids found in Egypt.

Applications and Activities

1. Practice new vocabulary using all appropriate modes of communication.
2. Complete the worksheet PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS OF ANCIENT EGYPT. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)
3. Compare the kings of Egypt to the presidents of the United States in terms of selection, powers, privileges, and relation to the population.
4. Research and report on the process of mummification.
5. Build a model of a pyramid complex.
6. Read David Macaulay's book *Pyramid*.
7. Write a report about a famous tomb or monument mentioned in the video. Consider: King Tutankhamen's tomb, the Sphinx, the Rosetta Stone.
8. Research and report on special features of the art of ancient Egypt.
9. Write a report about one of the famous people mentioned in the video. Consider: Howard Carter, Herodotus, Jean-François Champollion.
10. Research and report on methods Egyptians may have used to transport building stones from quarries to pyramid sites.
11. Using a map of Egypt, locate the Valley of the Kings, the Sphinx, and the Great Pyramid of Giza.
12. Report on Egyptian mythology and the animals used to represent important deities.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

1. Using American Sign Language, relate the Osiris legend.
2. Interpret the body language in typical interactions of King Khufu, his heirs, queens, and servants.
3. Pretend to be Khafre as an old man and write a letter of advice to your son.

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

One instructional graphic is included with this lesson guide. It may be enlarged and used to create transparencies or copies.

- PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

SUMMARY

The Greek historian Herodotus called Egypt “the gift of the Nile.” There civilization first appeared, and by 3000 B.C. there were communities up and down the river’s length.

Khufu, builder of the Great Pyramid, ruled about 2500 B.C. The king of Egypt was regarded as the son of Re, the sun god.

Khufu conferred with Ankhaf, the royal vizier, in planning his Great Pyramid. He wanted it built at Giza, across the Nile from a limestone quarry. His learned son Hordedef would chronicle the building process.

The building of elaborate tombs spanned the history of ancient Egypt. Later monarchs were buried in secret tombs in the Valley of the Kings rather than in pyramids. The tombs were full of religious objects and everyday items.

All Egyptians believed in an afterlife and in a *ka*, a kind of spiritual double somewhat similar to a soul. After death, the *ka* traveled back and forth between the lands of the living and dead. The dead person’s body had to remain intact and identifiable by the *ka*.

The kings’ corpses were embalmed and mummified. The vital organs, except for the heart, were removed and entombed in canopic jars. Over the years, the burial practices became more elaborate, and the deceased were identified with Osiris, ruler of the underworld.

The Osiris legend tells of a god-hero who died and lived forever in the next world. In the legend, Osiris's son Horus avenges his death. Living Egyptian kings were identified as incarnations of Horus; when dead, they became Osiris.

Khufu continued to work on the Great Pyramid while his family speculated about the royal succession. Khufu's concern about grave robbers led Ankhaf to change the location of Khufu's future burial chamber within the pyramid.

The pyramid is significant in Egyptian myth and religion. Via the pyramid, the dead king climbs to the sky. Egyptian myth holds that the universe evolved from a pyramidal hill. Before pyramids were built, well-to-do Egyptians were buried in chambers under buildings called *mastabas*. Around 2650, Imhotep built the Step Pyramid, a predecessor to the true pyramid.

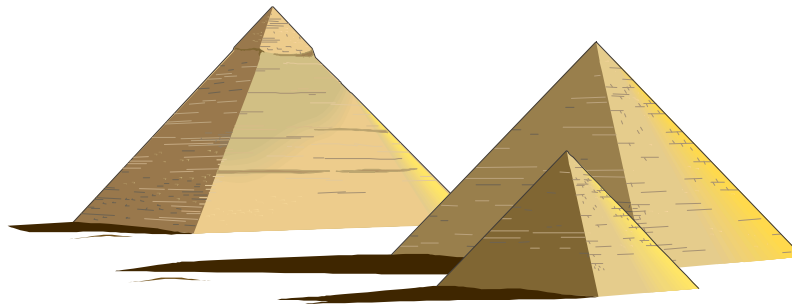
Khufu encountered problems when two of his sons were killed and his own father's tomb was plundered. A magician predicted that his dynasty would not yet end and that two sons would reign, one poorly and one well.

The construction of pyramids was done by laborers, not slaves, who worked seasonally. They used stone and a variety of tools, ropes, sledges, and ramps.

Khufu's Great Pyramid was finally completed, and he died soon thereafter. His body underwent 70 days of embalming and mummification before burial.

Centuries passed, and expeditions failed to find any remains in the Great Pyramid. Of all the tombs of ancient Egyptian rulers, that of King Tutankhamen is the only one to survive intact. Archaeologists still study ancient Egypt and monuments such as the great Sphinx built by Khafre, son of Khufu.

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

**People/Gods**

Khufu
Howard Carter
Herodotus
Narmer
King Tutankhamen
Re
Osiris
Horus
Kawab
pharaoh
Imhotep
Sneferu
Khafre
tomb robbers

Ankhaf
Hordedef

Places

Giza
Nile
Egypt
Tura
Valley of the Kings
Cairo

Things/Concepts

hieroglyphics
Great Pyramid
embalming

mastaba
ka
granite
ma'at
limestone
canopic jar
Step Pyramid
papyrus
capstone
inundation
afterlife
mummy
Rosetta stone

Directions: Write the correct answer by the definition:

People/Gods

1. Sun god _____
2. Word for Egyptian king _____
3. Discoverer of King Tut's tomb _____
4. Greek historian _____
5. King who unified Lower and Upper Egypt _____
6. Son of Khufu who built the Sphinx _____
7. King who built the Great Pyramid _____
8. God of the underworld _____
9. Vizier and advisor to Khufu _____
10. Father of Khufu _____
11. Learned son and scribe for Khufu _____
12. King whose tomb was discovered intact _____
13. Builder of the Step Pyramid at Saqqara _____
14. People who stole from the pyramids _____
15. Son of Khufu who was killed by Nubian warriors _____
16. Title of the living Egyptian king from the Osiris legend _____

Places

1. Capital of Egypt _____
2. Where later Egyptian kings were buried in secret tombs _____
3. Site of a limestone quarry _____
4. Longest river in the world _____
5. Country of the pharaohs _____
6. Site of the Great Pyramid _____

Things/Concepts

1. Pyramid-shaped stone on top of the pyramid _____
2. Writing system of ancient Egypt _____
3. Stone used for outer surface of pyramids _____
4. A stone which contained inscriptions in three languages, including hieroglyphics _____
5. The treating of a corpse with preservatives to prevent or slow down the deterioration process _____
6. The container in which one of the organs from the corpse was placed after being embalmed _____
7. Pyramid built by Imhotep which ascended in steps _____
8. A rectangular tomb structure under which well-to-do Egyptians were buried _____
9. The spiritual duplicate of a person which after death traveled back and forth between the land of the living and the land of the dead _____
10. The time every year when the Nile flooded the farmland along its banks _____
11. Largest pyramid, built by Khufu at Giza _____
12. Idea that there is existence after death _____
13. A body treated for burial in the manner of ancient Egyptians _____
14. A plant made into paper by ancient Egyptians _____
15. Stone used in pyramid construction _____
16. Concept of order in life _____