

Ancient Egypt



As we begin our study of parshat Shmot, it will be helpful to understand the land and culture in which we find ourselves. By the end of this project, you will be experts in one aspect of ancient Egypt. Once you have this context, we will begin our 'texting', our study of sacred text. Throughout the year, the information you uncover will be helpful in many ways!

Each group will research a topic and make a presentation to the whole class. Each group will be responsible for completing the following tasks.

- Using the resources in the library and on the Internet, research on your topic and answer the questions listed below. Here is a link to a Symbaloo, a panel of live links to resources I am confident you will find helpful:
<http://www.symbaloo.com/mix/ancientegypt96>
- Prepare an oral presentation to be given in front of the whole class.
- Prepare visual aids, such as Google slides, Educreations, video, drawings, photos, etc., to accompany your presentation.
- Prepare a fun activity or short game based on your presentation to give to everyone in the class to do as a follow-up.

Topic 1

THE GODS OF EGYPT

1. What forms did the gods have? What did the gods represent? What powers did the Egyptians ascribe to them?
2. What was the role of the Temple in the Egyptian belief system? How did the priests in the Temple care for the gods?
3. What was the role of the Egyptian gods in the everyday life of the people? Tell about some of their religious festivals and life cycle events.
4. What was the Egyptians' view of life after death?

Topic 2

THE NILE

1. Find a map of Egypt and trace the Nile from its source until it empties into the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Why was the Nile so important to the Egyptians?
3. What did the Nile provide for Egypt?
4. Who was the god of the Nile? How did the Egyptians relate to this god?
5. Why was the inundation (overflow) of the Nile so important?
6. What were the dangers to be found in the Nile?

Topic 3

PHARAOH

1. The Egyptians believed that Pharaoh was divine. They thought that he was the son of the _____ god.
2. What did the Egyptians do when Pharaoh died?
3. What powers did Pharaoh have over his subjects?
4. How did the Egyptians treat their ruler?
5. Describe the life of Pharaoh in his palace. What did he eat; who prepared his food? What did he wear?
6. Although Pharaoh was the supreme ruler, who helped Pharaoh rule his kingdom?

Topic 4

THE PYRAMIDS

1. Why were the pyramids built? For whom were they built?
2. Who built the pyramids?
3. What materials were used to build the pyramids?
4. How were the stones brought to the building sites?
5. Why were there no doors or windows in the pyramids?
6. How were the pyramids decorated?
7. What objects were placed in the pyramids before they were sealed? Why were these objects placed there?

Topic 5

MAGICIANS, PHYSICIANS AND PRIESTS

1. Who could be a scribe, a magician, a priest or a physician?
2. What were their positions in Egyptian society? Where did they work?
3. What were their roles in Pharaoh's court and what was their relationship to Pharaoh himself? Where did they study and train?

Topic 6

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN EGYPTIAN

1. Describe the houses of the ancient Egyptians.
2. List some of the jobs and trades practiced by the Egyptians.
3. Describe their food and their meals.
4. What crops did they cultivate in their fields?
5. Describe their clothing.
6. Where were the children educated and what did they study? What games did they play?
7. Describe a typical day in the life of a typical family.

Before you embark on your research, you must answer the following questions. They will help you to stay focused.

- 1. I am studying the following topic:*
- 2. Some things I already know about this subject:*
- 3. Some questions I want to find the answers to:*

How to Organize your Research Material

After you have exhausted all possible sources, you are now ready to put everything you have learned together, and get ready to report your findings. There are several ways to do this:

1. Make an outline for your report.
2. For an oral report, use small cards to write down the important things that you want to talk about.

Ideas for Presenting Materials:

Your time to present your report will probably be limited, yet you will have accumulated material, which you could talk about for longer. If you can't talk about everything you want to, perhaps you could show and display materials that the other students can see after your presentation. Making your report interesting is important. Use models, technology, dioramas, posters, charts, maps, props, etc., to enhance your presentation.

After you have chosen the things you want to do for your report, ask yourself the following questions:

Is my information accurate?

Is the material important to my subject?

Do I know my subject well?

Have I put it in good order for reporting?

Do I have new and interesting words for my report?

Are my facts and events in order in which they happened?

Is the beginning of my report going to make the class interested?

Things to remember when reporting:

- Speak in complete sentences
- Use new and varied vocabulary words
- Speak with a clear voice so that everyone can hear
- Look at your audience when you speak to them
- Say your words clearly
- Stand aside when you are pointing out pictures or maps or places

Name:

ANCIENT EGYPT RESEARCH PROJECT

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR TOPIC: _____

Oral Presentation:

Included a clear introduction/statement of purpose	
Included detailed and specific information on topic	
Included a clear, summary statement	

Visual Presentation:

Created attractive and informative visual aids to illustrate oral presentation	
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Culminating Activity:

Created an activity based on the presentation to serve as a good review and reinforcement of the subject	
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