



## Isis Neferit

Thank you for scheduling an educational experience at the Putnam Museum. This program will help your students become aware of the following:

- Egyptian civilization 5,000 years ago had a rich cultural base
- and a sophisticated life for their time
- Religious beliefs dictated their life styles.
- Women found dignity in jobs.
- The rich soil of Egypt was essential to the development of this civilization.
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Prior to your visit, we ask that you “set the stage” by sharing your enthusiasm for the Egyptian culture with your students. The enclosed activity and vocabulary list may act as an interest initiator. Mastery of the subject is not necessary, but familiarity will enhance the effects of the lesson.

Your program will begin with a theatrical presentation (30 minutes) during which the students will learn what life was like in Ancient Egypt. After the presentation, a Museum Educator will lead you to and introduce the Putnam's own Egyptian Gallery. A "Treasure Hunt" will be used to help focus your students' exploration of the exhibits. **\*\*Please note: The treasure hunt enclosed is NEW! Please disregard hunts from previous years.\*\***  
**Please make copies of this Hunt for your students' use during this portion of your visit.**

The material presented in this program helps to meet the National Council for the Social Studies' Curriculum Standards 1c and Va:

5-8 1c: Explain and give examples of how language, literature, the arts, architecture, other artifacts, traditions, beliefs, values and behaviors contribute to the development and transmission of culture; Va: Demonstrate an understanding of concepts such as role, status, and social class in describing the interactions of individuals and social groups

9-12 1c: Apply an understanding of culture as an integrated whole that explains the functions and interactions of language, literature, the arts, traditions, beliefs and values, and behavior patterns; Va: Apply concepts such as role, status, and social

class in describing the connections and interactions of individuals, groups, and institutions in society.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your interest in the Putnam's educational programs.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ong  
Education Specialist

# Ancient Egyptian Fact or Fiction

*Archeologists are charged with the task of piecing together the past. What is truth? What is fiction or folklore? Ancient Egypt has and continues to show up in many areas of pop culture. But, is the information given always accurate? Do the things we read or see on the screen reflect accurately the customs, practices, and traditions of this ancient civilization? Can you determine which of the following things are fact and which are fiction? Provide supporting evidence for each of your answers. Include names of two sources where information was found (websites, books, magazines, museums, etc.)*

1. In Ancient Egypt, a person would be buried with their possessions. **T F**

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. In Ancient Egypt, grave robbers would raid pyramids and steal the possessions of the deceased. **T F**

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. If you were a grave robber, the gods would punish you. As you exited the pyramid, the sun would burn your body and turn you into sand. **T F**

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The Book of the Dead was placed in the deceased's tomb. It contained spells and other information to help the deceased pass through to the otherworld. **T F**

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Scarabs (or dung beetles) were powerful symbols of the Ancient Egyptians' beliefs in life after death. **T F**

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Scarab carvings found in tombs should be handled carefully. If dropped, they will break open and hundreds of scarabs will emerge and eat the flesh from your bones. **T F**

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. People were mummified as a form of punishment. Your tongue would be cut out and then you would be mummified, thus ending your life. **T F**

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. If you had a grudge against someone, you could remove the hieroglyphics from their tomb that represented their name. Ancient Egyptians believed that erasing the name from the inside of the tomb meant the person never existed. **T F**

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. All of the pharaohs were buried in pyramids. **T F**

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Egyptian Vocabulary

1. ankh a. Ruler of afterlife, judged all men when they died
2. faience b. Home each god had where people came to Worship or ask favors
3. hieroglyphs c. Former capital city
4. Nile d. On Egyptian monuments an oval figure Containing the name of the ruler (ancient good luck charm)
5. papyrus e. Picture symbol writing
6. scarab f. Eternal life symbol
7. temple g. Heavy dark lines around eyes, made with Powdered lead ore applied with slender Bone stick
8. archeology h. Recovery by scientific method material Evidence that remains
9. cartouche i. World's longest river – life blood of Egypt
10. Isis j. Amulet in form of beetle, believed to have Power of eternal life – self-generation
11. kohl k. Wife of Osiris
12. Osiris l. Writing paper made by pounding papyrus
13. Pharaoh m. Man made substitute for expensive Imported blue gemstone, lapis lazuli
14. Thebes n. Ruler of ancient Egypt

# **Ancient Egyptian Fact or Fiction--ANSWER KEY**

1. In Ancient Egypt, a person would be buried with their possessions. **T F**

**Evidence True- these possessions were thought to be of importance to the individual in the afterlife and would be buried with them so they would enjoy them in the "otherworld"**

2. In Ancient Egypt, grave robbers would raid pyramids and steal the possessions of the deceased. **T F**

**Evidence True. Grave robbers would steal any number of items. Perfume was considered a rare and valuable treasure and anyone caught stealing it could be put to death. Grave robbers would also try and steal canopic jars (jars which contained certain internal organs). This is why people were buried with false sets of these jars, in order to confuse robbers.**

3. If you were a grave robber, the gods would punish you. As you exited the pyramid, the sun would burn your body and turn you into sand. **T F**

**Evidence False. While it has often been seen on the big screen, people do not burn and become dust. This again is one of those punishments used as illustration much as we would speak of the boogeyman. In religious terms, it is the "threat of eternal doom" found in many world religions.**

4. The Book of the Dead was placed in the deceased's tomb. It contained spells and other information to help the deceased pass through to the otherworld. **T F**

**Evidence True. The Book of the Dead would help the deceased to navigate the Elysian Field of Heaven waterways and would offer assistance in making one's way to the otherworld.**

5. Scarabs (or dung beetles) were powerful symbols of the Ancient Egyptians' beliefs in life after death. **T F**

**Evidence True. Dung beetles go through the process of complete metamorphosis. They are actually part of the inspiration for mummification. People would see the dung beetle roll their ball of dung (filled with eggs!) across the sand and bury it. In the future, new dung beetles would be seen coming out of the earth (they had become larvae--worms--and then wrapped themselves in a cocoon and**

transformed into a full grown dung beetle). The people believed that if they too would wrap themselves up and bury themselves in the ground, they also would experience new life.

6. Scarab carvings found in tombs should be handled carefully. If dropped, they will break open and hundreds of scarabs will emerge and eat the flesh from your bones. **T F**

Evidence **False. This piece of fiction is thanks to the movie, The Mummy. While scarab carvings found in a tomb should certainly be handled with care--they are artifacts dating back thousands of years--they do not contain any creatures inside them.**

7. People were mummified as a form of punishment. Your tongue would be cut out and then you would be mummified, thus ending your life. **T F**

Evidence **False. Mummification is a way of preserving life not of destroying it!**

8. If you had a grudge against someone, you could remove the hieroglyphics from their tomb that represented their name. Ancient Egyptians believed that erasing the name from the inside of the tomb meant the person never existed. **T F**

Evidence **True. With no computers, the written hieroglyphics were the only method of record keeping. If one were to erase the markings, they would have erased the record of the person. This is part of the reason that King Tut went undiscovered for so long as he and his families were erased from history for many years.**

9. All of the pharaohs were buried in pyramids. **T F**

Evidence **False. Pyramids were not built for very long. Why? Well, a pyramid was a beacon in the desert. Knowing that people were buried with their most prized possessions and knowing where those possessions were just increased the amount of grave robbing. Later pharaohs were buried underground making them more difficult to locate.**

## **Egyptian Vocabulary Answer Key**

1. f
2. m
3. e
4. i
5. l
6. j
7. b
8. h
9. d
10. k
11. g
12. a
13. n
14. c