



Mysteries of Ancient Egypt Study Guide

Interactive Plays

Kitty's unique interactive plays weave history, literature, manners, customs, dance and music into theatrical presentations where audience members - both teachers and students - portray the key characters and historical figures of the times. Great sensitivity is used when involving participants, as some folks would prefer to sit back and watch the antics of their comrades.

In order to set good examples of theatre etiquette, it is respectfully requested that teachers attend programs without papers or homework in hand.

The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt

Egypt - 1473 BC The program encompasses major achievements throughout the first half of Egypt's four thousand year history. At the top of the show, Queen Hatshepsut from the XVIII Dynasty establishes that Egypt at present has no ruling Pharaoh. However, the mysterious new Pharaoh will appear as the inundation of the Nile takes place. The device known as the nilometer is then explained. Former great Pharaohs are then brought to life. The first pyramid designed by architect Imhotep and built by farmers is then constructed for the Pharaoh Djoser. Queen Hatshepsut's father, Tuthmosis I, prepares exquisite wall art in a temple built for his Sed Festival. The Queen surprises her father with a group of dancers from Luxor and a beautiful Egyptian dance is performed to his delight. The program concludes with the crowning of the new Pharaoh and the great mystery is solved.



Queen Hatshepsut

Hatshepsut was the historical "Great Wife" (Queen) Hatshepsut who married her half brother Tuthmosis II. At his death, she was left the ruling regent of Egypt. She wears an ornate royal headpiece and traditional black wig. A bejeweled royal collar, waistband and armbands denote her royal status.



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Performance Objectives

Create a supportive environment whereby students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by introducing students to the magnificence of Egyptian life and highlighting major Egyptian accomplishments still visible today.

Pre-Show Preparation

Familiarize students with time period of Ancient Egypt

- Discuss similarities between daily life then and now. Farming practices, irrigation of the Nile, raising of farm animals, food storage
- Compare the social structure of Pharaohs, wives, viziers, noblemen, overseers, priests, craftsmen, farmers and slaves to that of the contemporary hierarchy

Post-Show Activities

Recreate a royal palace complete with Pharaoh, wives, servants and noble guests

- Have students develop their own Egyptian character
- Allow students to present gifts to the King such as frankincense, turquoise, scarabs, papyrus scrolls, mirrors, sacred animals (cats, ibises, baboons, crocodiles and the Apis bull) and have them explain the gifts' importance.

Have students create their own Sed festival

- Recreate mock running races and wrestling matching with the Pharaoh
- What kind of food and drink would be present?
- Make ancient musical instruments- tambourines, drums, rattles etc...

Discuss the Egyptian's focus on the afterlife and all the preparation that went into it. i.e. mummification, tomb building, rituals and gifts

The Artist

Having developed her unique style of interactive theatre since 1987, Kitty combines her passion for history with her love of theatre to create 16 different high-energy shows.

Ms. Jones brings 4000 years of history and literature to life in programs ranging from *The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* to *Women's Rights*. Since 1996, she has written, choreographed, produced and performed her own original material for Kit's Interactive Theatre. Kitty Jones has appeared on TV, Film and the stages of New York.

