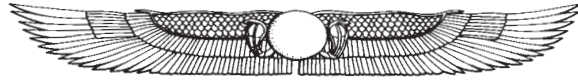


The Art of Ancient EGYPT

A RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's teacher training programs and accompanying materials are made possible through a generous grant from Mr. and Mrs. Frederick P. Rose.



Welcome

The Metropolitan Museum takes delight in providing educational programs for the general public and especially for teachers and their students. We are pleased to offer this comprehensive resource, which contains texts, posters, slides, and other materials about outstanding works of Egyptian art from the Museum's collection.

The texts draw upon the truly impressive depth of knowledge of the curators in our Department of Egyptian Art, especially Dorothea Arnold, James Allen, Catharine H. Roehrig, and Marsha Hill. Included are background information, descriptions of the specific objects, illustrations that can be photocopied, suggested classroom activities, and lesson plans.

These materials have been assembled by Edith Watts, associate Museum educator, and her colleagues to bring Egyptian art into the classroom, library, or other learning environment. They are designed to increase your knowledge and pleasure in viewing Egyptian art at the Metropolitan or other museum, whether it be for the first time or upon a return visit.

This is the first in a projected series of educators' resources supported by a generous grant from Mr. and Mrs. Frederick P. Rose, who share our dedication to making the unique educational resources of The Metropolitan Museum of Art readily accessible to educators throughout the New York area as well as across the country.

We hope you find this resource useful, informative, and enjoyable.

Philippe de Montebello

Director

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I. How to Use These Materials

These materials have been created to provide an understanding of ancient Egyptian art and its central role in Egyptian civilization. The aim is to stimulate curiosity, skills in observation, and a desire to visit a museum to see actual examples of Egyptian art.

Teachers can adapt this resource for students of all ages, interests, and abilities. There is a wealth of visual and written material to enrich art, social studies, and language arts curricula and to make interdisciplinary connections. Mathematics classes can explore the geometric bases for Egyptian art, its use of measured proportions, and its emphasis on horizontal and vertical axes. Teachers of science may focus on the themes of archaeology, the environment, and the media used for Egyptian art.

Goals for Students

- to understand that Egyptian art is a conceptual art created to express Egyptian beliefs about:
 - life after death
 - the gods, who controlled the workings of the universe
 - the king's divine powers, granted by the gods to maintain universal order
- to discover that these ideas were communicated through a visual language of symbols and artistic conventions that were understood by all ancient Egyptians
- to become comfortable talking about art. As students describe what they see, they will learn to identify what looks Egyptian about Egyptian art. In sharing their interpretations about the meaning of the art, they will develop language and critical-thinking skills. They will also discover that art is an important primary source in understanding a civilization.
- to understand that in a successful work of art the content, form (i.e., line, shape, color, etc.), and the materials with which it is made work together to reinforce the meaning and function. The idealized, balanced forms of Egyptian art, the use of durable and valuable materials, and the keenly observed naturalistic details effectively express the Egyptians' desire for order, their beliefs about eternity, and their love of life.
- to prepare for a museum visit

Procedures for the Teacher

Take a look at the table of contents and leaf through the materials so you will have an overview. Section 2, "A Summary of Ancient Egyptian History," including the "Historical Outline," and section 3, "Egyptian Art," will give you the background information you will need to help your students describe, interpret, and enjoy Egyptian art.

In section 7, "Activities," beginning on page 147 there are lesson plans that are designed for teachers and educators who have not taught ancient Egyptian civilization before, for those who are looking for interdisciplinary approaches, or for those who seek a direct connection with their school's curriculum.

Detailed suggestions for looking at and discussing the posters and the slides appear on pages 61–63 and 64–126. Themes to link all the visual materials are listed on page 65.

This resource is designed to be flexible. Depending on the age and interests of the class and the time you have available, you may use all or only parts of the discussions, activities, and lesson plans suggested.

Pages identified by the drawing of a detail of a magic rod (see glossary) at the top may be photocopied and handed out to your students. Feel free to photocopy any other drawings in the text.

