

Pyramids

Lesson Plan for Educators

Subject: Ancient Egyptian Pyramids

Grade Level: 3-4

In-Class Time: approximately 4 sessions (50 minutes each)

Lesson Goals: Teach students about the pyramids in Ancient Egypt

Student Goals: Identify parts of pyramids and the reasons they were built.

Student Objectives:

1. Explain why pyramids were built.
2. Explain how pyramids were built.
3. Identify basic pyramid components from photos or illustrations (you provide, downloaded from Internet).

Materials Needed for Project:

- Computer with Internet for accessing Web sites
- Classroom textbooks or acceptable educational resources (encyclopedia, reference book, magazine article, etc.)
- Photos of pyramids and their inner chambers (you provide, downloaded from Internet)
- Handout for possible research Web sites and resources
- It might be fun to create a cartouche (hieroglyphics) for each student's name. To do this, you can go to the following Web site and type in each student's name at <http://www.hbschool.com/activity/cartouche/cartouche.html>. Don't forget to make a cartouche for yourself. Laminate the names and let the children punch a hole and string yarn through to wear during class time.

Prerequisites:

Ability to create hands-on crafts

Ability to match pyramid-related words with pictures

Anticipatory Set:

- Begin classroom discussion on pyramids with the students' impressions of their location on earth and why they were built. Ask the students if they know why the pyramids are still standing today.
- Show students the location of the Egyptian pyramids on Earth (on the globe), in relation to where they live, and/or by going on-line and finding maps of Egypt with the pyramids noted (http://www-lib.haifa.ac.il/www/art/Archimedia_Pyramid.html).
- Tell the students what they will be learning in this section: why and how the pyramids were built, plus the parts of a pyramid.
- Tell the students they will be able to amaze their parents and friends by their ability to identify parts of a pyramid from a photo, using their knowledge of pyramid characteristics. Tell them they will also learn special information about mummies.
- Create a K-W-L chart (copy form at end of this Lesson Plan):
 - What I **Know**, What I **Want** to know, What I **Learned** (at the end of the lesson)
 - Use this chart individually at first, then in small groups, then finally with the whole class

Procedures:

Session 1: Use this class session for the “why” of pyramids. During the lecture, involve the students with various forms of active participation. Divide the students into small groups so they can study pyramid characteristics and discuss the different construction types. Ask each member of the group to draw what they think a pyramid should look like. After that, bring up a Web site or show photos of different pyramid types (www.neferchichi.com/mum4.html) or (http://www.ferco.org/ferco_pyramids.html). Ask questions to find out if they’re retaining what they’ve learned. While it is fresh in their minds, have them write down information about why pyramids were created.

Session 2: Take this class session for the “how” of pyramids. Prepare some handouts with illustrations of men building the pyramids (you can get a good resource at <http://www.catchpenny.org/mmbuild.html>). After the lecture, ask the students to draw a pyramid plan as if they were in charge of building the pyramids. Have them make a list or a drawing of the supplies they might need. Prepare a handout for research Web sites and resources for research (for extra credit). A fun exercise is included at the end of this lesson plan. It is an illustration of men working to build a pyramid and includes speech bubbles for the children to fill in. They can ad lib about what they think the workers were thinking and saying while they were building the pyramids.

Session 3: Hand out the Pyramid Diorama Assignment Sheet that will outline the project. Review the material so that each child understands the project (see the end of the Lesson Plan). This assignment can be completed during class time with the teacher’s help, or students can build the diorama at home and turn it in by the teacher’s established due date. During the class sessions, hand out photos and charts that label a mummy (www.neferchichi.com/mum2.html), canopic jars (where the innards are kept), a sarcophagus (tomb) and a simple inside diagram of a pyramid. Give information on each of these subjects.

Session 4: In the first half of the session, do a brief run-through of important terms and information the students have learned in the first half of the session, then hand out an assessment in the form of a quiz, drawing or other form. At the end of the session, have the students fill out a K-W-L form again.

Assessment of Learning:

- Prepare a quiz with words and pictures for the last class session
- Ask the students to draw one kind of pyramid and label at least three of its inside parts.
- Ask the students to identify the pyramids or inside parts from pictures.
- Complete the K –W – L Chart, filling in the last column: What I Learned

Internet resources:

<http://www.touregypt.net/kids/pyramidsforkids.htm>

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/pyramids.htm>

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/egypt/architecture/pyramids.htm>

<http://www.mayankids.com/mmkplaces/mkpyramids2.htm>

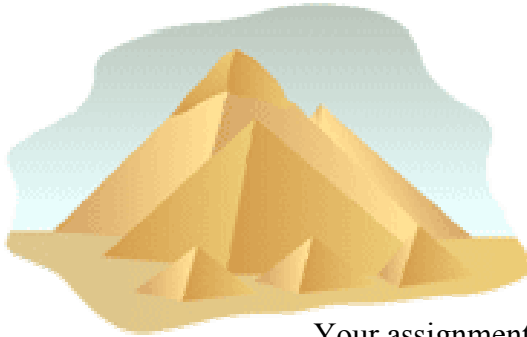
http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/pyramids/Pyramids_Egyptian_Pyramid.htm

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/pyramid/>

Reading resources:

Tut's Mummy, Lost and Found by Judy Donnelly (based on the real discovery of King Tut's tomb)
Mummies Made in Egypt by Aliko (read aloud book, *Reading Rainbow* has video too)

Pyramid Diorama Assignment Sheet



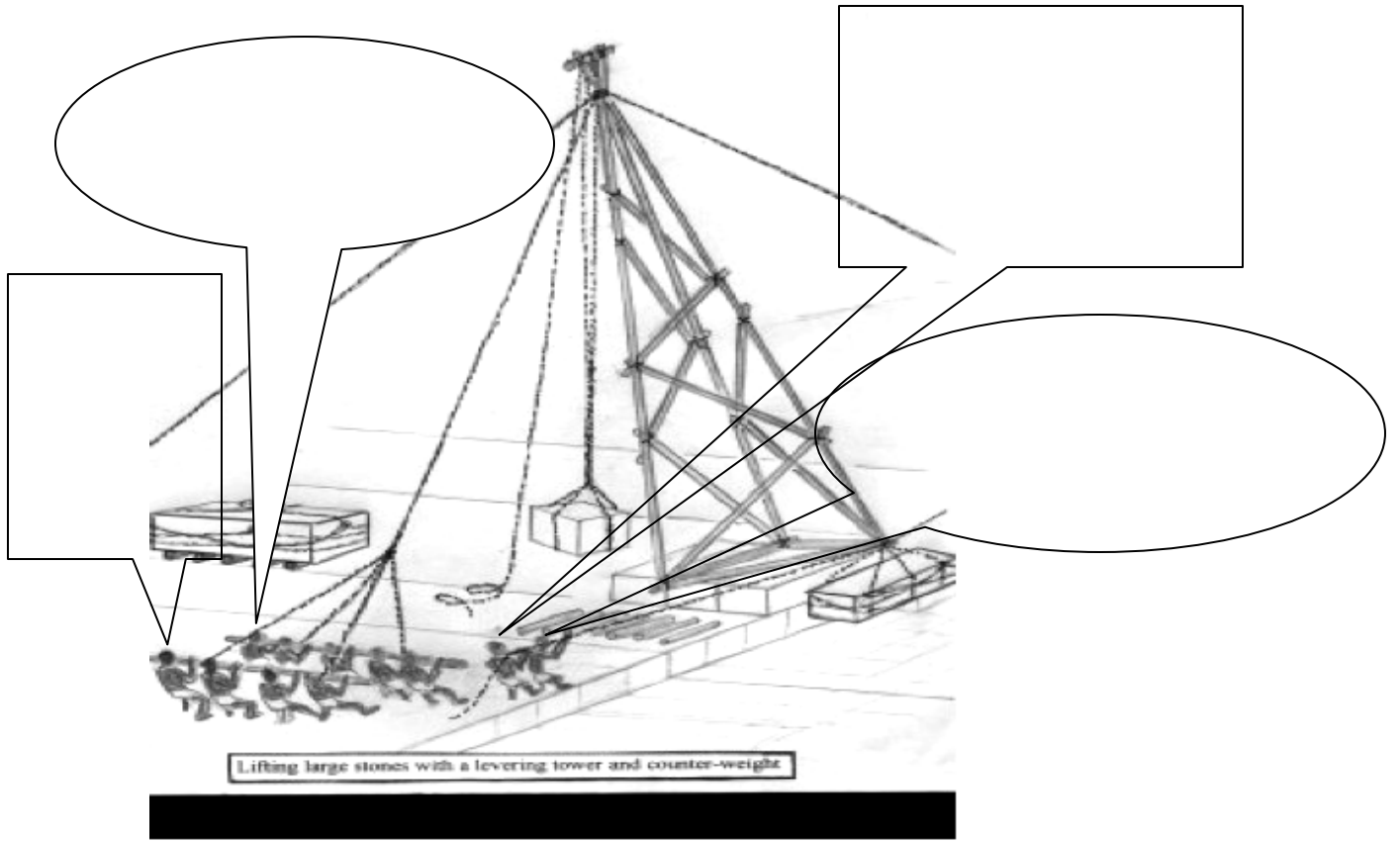
Your assignment is to create a pyramid diorama that shows a pyramid we have discussed in class. This project will be due _____. Your project must include the following features:

1. Show one, two or three types of pyramids on your diorama.
2. Label the important parts of your pyramid.
3. Clearly put the name of your pyramid at the top of your diorama, either on a background or with a label.
4. Show the inside of your pyramid and the outside too. The more detail that you can show, the better. Add your name, teacher's name, classroom and date on the front of your diorama. They will be on display for the entire school to see.

Extra credit

There will be extra credit for creating a mummy inside the pyramid in its final resting place. Go to www.scenearama.com to find information and products to help you create your pyramid (be sure to have an adult help you with this).

What do you think these workers are saying or thinking while they lift this large piece of the pyramid?



<p>K WHAT I KNOW</p>	<p>W WHAT I WANT TO KNOW</p>	<p>L WHAT I LEARNED</p>