



Teacher's Guide

Ancient Egypt Time Compass

Grade Levels:

4-8

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

Synopsis:

Innovative animation and a tongue-in-cheek approach to ancient history provide a sound introduction to Ancient Egyptian civilization. From the annual flooding of the Nile to the mysteries of the Rosetta stone, students learn key facts about this civilization. They also learn what was happening during the same period of time in India and Arabia. The episode includes a sequence on Napoleon's visit to Egypt, the subsequent establishment of "Egyptology", and the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb. It concludes with the Roman defeat of Cleopatra and Marc Antony and the birth of Jesus Christ.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Explain why the formation of the Nile River and its annual floods made the success of Ancient Egypt possible.
- Describe the social pyramid that existed in ancient Egyptian society.
- Explain why the pyramids were built and the mummified remains of pharaohs placed within them.
- Describe the discoveries that took place once Napoleon founded Egyptology as a major scientific pursuit.
- Explain why invading armies of Persia, Macedonia, and Rome eventually overcame Egyptian authority.

Vocabulary:

hieroglyphics, Egyptology, mummification, scribes, artifacts

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Where is Egypt located? What great river flows through this country?

What great desert lies to the West and South of Egypt? Why would this desert make the Egyptians feel secure?

If you could travel to Egypt what buildings would you like to see? What cities would you like to visit?

Can you imagine what Egypt was like 5000 years before the birth of Christ? How long did the ancient civilization of Egypt exist?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Before the Nile River was formed, how did the Ancient Egyptians live? What did they do once they realized that the land on either side of the river was extremely fertile?

What river in Asia was flooding and producing fertile land around the same time Egyptian nomads were settling near the Nile River?

How did Egyptian citizens, from peasants to pharaohs, make ancient Egypt a very successful society?

Although it lasted for thousands of years, why did Egypt eventually fall prey to invading armies?

Why does Egyptian art look so “flat”? What were the artists trying to achieve?

Further Activities:

Find a plan of the Temple of Karnack, including its many courtyards and buildings. Also, discover how this immense temple was built.

Learn about the annual celebrations that took place at the Temples of Karnack and Khufu.

Research the biographies of several Egyptian pharaohs. Pay particular attention to how they attempted to stay one step ahead of their enemies and/or competitors who wanted to be pharaoh.

Discover what life was like for the pyramid builders or Egyptian peasants at the time of the pharaohs.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

Egypt (Beyond Our Borders Series)

Pharaoh Tutankhamen

Egypt: Essra and her Singing Lessons

Egypt: Mohammed and his Dof

Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (series)

Great Civilizations of the Ancient World (series)