

Life in Ancient Egypt

Grade Level: 6-8

Objectives

- Students will gain an understanding of the daily life of people in ancient Egypt.
- Students will recognize and identify connections and parallels between life in the 21st century and early civilizations.

Common Core State Standards

The standards listed below are specific to Grade 6 but can be modified for Grades 7-8.

English Language Arts Standards » Reading Informational Text » Grade 6

Key Ideas and Details:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2: Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.7: Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

English Language Arts Standards » Speaking & Listening » Grade 6

Comprehension and Collaboration:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

English Language Arts Standards » Writing » Grade 6

Range of Writing:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.10: Write routinely over ... shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

English Language Arts Standards » History/Social Studies » Grade 6-8

Craft and Structure:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7: Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Materials

- Paper, markers, or white board
- Attached worksheet
- Computer(s) with access to article from EBSCO's *Middle Search Plus* database: "Life in Ancient Egypt," *Junior Scholastic*, Sept. 2002, Lexile 950, AN 8605601 (available to subscribers via Explora or EBSCOhost)



Procedure

1. Before asking students to read the article, introduce the vocabulary word **ostraca** (plural is ostrakon). Explain that **ostrakon** are pieces of limestone used in ancient Egypt to write notes, much in the way we use notepaper today.
2. Distribute copies of the article "Life in Ancient Egypt" to each student.
3. Students read the article silently.
4. Brainstorm with students the kinds of notes Egyptians might have made on ostrakon, based on the article read. Work as a whole class, or divide students into small groups, providing each group with markers and large paper. List the results of the brainstorming on the board, or on a flipchart, or newsprint paper taped to the board or wall, so all can see entries. You may also draw a large version of the ostraca chart which follows this lesson.
5. Historical Connections: "Think About It" Question
What are our 21st century ostrakon? Invite students to share their ideas. (Examples of answers include emails, text messages, social media posts, shopping lists, messages on Post It™ notes, scratch paper doodles, road signs, rough drafts of letters, or reports, etc. What might ancient Egyptians learn about us, our habits, and our values, if they saw our ostrakon? This can be a class activity or an individual student writing exercise.)

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Making Historical Connections

Directions: In the left column, list the kinds of notes Egyptians might have written on ostracon, based on the article, "Life in Ancient Egypt." Consider the themes listed. In the right column, write a list of our 21st Century ostracon. Where do you see similarities? Differences?

 <p>Ancient Egypt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food The Body Life/Death Spirituality Leaders Education 	 <p>21st Century</p>
Empty space for student notes	Empty space for student notes	Empty space for student notes