

Egypt Lesson 3

The Egyptian Prince

The Basics

Objective: To introduce the participants to the concept and value of folktales and legends as primary sources.

Performance of Skill Expectations/Enduring Understandings: The participants will sit quietly while watching the video and be able to discuss the story afterward.

Prerequisite Lessons: *Egypt Lesson 2: Putting It Together*

Estimated Materials Preparation Time: 5 minutes

Duration: Instructor discretion. Note that the two Development activities could be done during different sessions.

Materials Provided: Papyrus sheets, Artifact Information Sheet, and “The Egyptian Prince” video. The video can either be shown from the CD in the box or brought up on the Spurlock Museum's Egypt kit:

<https://www.spurlock.illinois.edu/educators/borrow-objects/profiles/aas-egypt.html>

Materials to be Provided by the Instructor: A means of projecting the video for the participants.

Other Notes: This tale is often found in books under the title *The Doomed Prince*. As that seems to give the participants an immediate idea of the prince's fate, this lesson uses the story name *The Egyptian Prince*.

Concepts/Vocabulary

- Chariot: a two-wheeled vehicle, usually pulled by two or four horses, that is driven by one person standing up.
- Papyrus: an early relative to paper, invented and used by the ancient Egyptians.

Procedure

Preparation: Place the papyrus where it can be easily picked up to show the participants. Prep the video for quick, easy starting.

Introduction/Instruction: Explain that the ancient Egyptians wrote on a variety of materials. In general, potsherds were used for scribbled notes; papyrus was used for texts to be kept for a while, but not on display; and stone was used for sacred and other important texts made to last for many lifetimes.

Allow the participants to touch the papyrus. Give them information on papyrus from the Artifact Report Sheet.

Until very late in ancient Egyptian history, texts on papyrus were not put together into books, but rolled into scrolls. Unless covered, the ends of these scrolls could be damaged or lost as the scroll was rolled and unrolled or became brittle over time. When the scroll that this story was written on was discovered in modern times, it was found that the end of the scroll was gone; the ending of the story was lost.

The story can be found in many storybooks, usually with an ending that has been written by the book's author/editor.

Development:

1. Have the participants watch the video. Like keys tell us about life today, stories tell us about the lives and values of the people who tell them. Make a list of all the things the participants learned by just hearing the introduction to the story and the story. This can include the following:

- Chariots were a means of transportation.
- They used horses.
- They believed in many gods.
- They had dogs as pets.
- Snakes and crocodiles lived in Egypt.
- Tents were used as portable shelters.
- They used bows and arrows for hunting.
- They built stone structures.
- Some buildings had flat roofs you would walk on.
- They used knives as weapons.
- They drank wine.
- They had doctors.
- Rulers were called pharaohs.

2. Have the participants write their own ending to the story or work together to write a group ending. If individual story endings are written, have the participants share their endings.

Reflection: Generate short discussions with these questions:

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- Have you heard a story from another time or another part of the world that was like this story? Tell us about the story.
- If you had been the pharaoh, what would you have done when you heard your son would be killed by a dog, a snake, or a crocodile?
- If you had been the pharaoh, would you have given the prince a dog?
- Have your parents ever kept anything away from you because they thought it would be dangerous?

Assessment: How long is the list of things the participants learned from the story? Did the list show good listening skills? Were their endings well-tied to the story?