

Ancient Egypt unit study

A homeschool curriculum built around Ancient Egypt — archaeology, hieroglyphs, engineering and daily life along the Nile, for K-12.

GRADE BANDS K-2 · 3-5 · 6-8 · 9-12

FULL GUIDE <https://handsdowneducation.com/homeschool/ancient-egypt>

How to use this planner

The six weeks below are sequenced from the guide's sample week: five weeks that each take one core subject through the topic, then a showcase week that turns the portfolio into a final product. Run each activity at the level your child is at (the grade band notes tell you how), keep the output, and by week six you have a portfolio that shows the unit end to end.

Pace is yours. A week here is three to five working sessions; a topic that is going well can take two calendar weeks, and one that has run dry can be closed early. Tick the box when a week's output is in the portfolio.

Six-week scope and sequence

Wk	Focus	Key activity	Portfolio output	Done
1	Reading & Writing through ancient egypt	Learn to write a name in hieroglyphs, then read about Champollion cracking the Rosetta Stone and write how a code gets broken.	Portfolio entry: the week's reading & writing piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
2	Math through ancient egypt	Work with Egyptian fractions and the rope-stretchers' 3-4-5 triangle, then calculate the volume of the Great Pyramid from its real dimensions.	Portfolio entry: the week's math piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
3	Science through ancient egypt	Mummify an apple with salt and baking soda over two weeks, documenting mass loss — real preservation chemistry on a fruit-sized scale.	Portfolio entry: the week's science piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
4	Social Studies through ancient egypt	Map the Nile's flood cycle against the agricultural calendar and explain why the entire civilization organized itself around one river's timing.	Portfolio entry: the week's social studies piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
5	Art through ancient egypt	Paint in the Egyptian register style, following its strict conventions for perspective and proportion — constraint as artistic grammar.	Portfolio entry: the week's art piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
6	Showcase and review	Choose one final product that pulls the unit together — a presentation, an exhibit, a field guide or a short documentary — and give the week to making it. Finish with a portfolio review: lay every week's output on the table and let your child narrate what changed in what they know about ancient egypt.	The final product plus a one-page unit summary in your child's words, filed with the portfolio.	☐

Running it at your child's level

K-2 learners focus on pyramids, pharaohs, animals of the Nile and hieroglyph name-writing — highly visual, highly motivating early history.

Older students can weigh competing pyramid-construction theories against evidence, read primary texts in translation, and confront the ethics of museum collections and repatriation.

A sample week, subject by subject

Reading & Writing

Learn to write a name in hieroglyphs, then read about Champollion cracking the Rosetta Stone and write how a code gets broken.

Math

Work with Egyptian fractions and the rope-stretchers' 3-4-5 triangle, then calculate the volume of the Great Pyramid from its real dimensions.

Science

Mummify an apple with salt and baking soda over two weeks, documenting mass loss — real preservation chemistry on a fruit-sized scale.

Social Studies

Map the Nile's flood cycle against the agricultural calendar and explain why the entire civilization organized itself around one river's timing.

Art

Paint in the Egyptian register style, following its strict conventions for perspective and proportion — constraint as artistic grammar.

Common questions

Is mummification too morbid?

Most children find it fascinating rather than disturbing, especially framed as preservation science. The apple experiment keeps it concrete and unsentimental.

How long can Egypt sustain a unit?

Easily 8-12 weeks, and it connects outward naturally — to Nubia, Rome, and the modern archaeology of the region.

Where does math fit?

Egyptian mathematics is genuinely distinctive: unit fractions, rope geometry, and practical surveying that rebuilt field boundaries after every flood.

Turn this into a full, standards-aligned curriculum

Generate a complete plan around ancient egypt for your child's grade and pace — free to try, no account required
<https://handsdowneducation.com/curriculum/generate>