

NEW NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIAL

EGYPT ETERNAL: THE QUEST FOR LOST TOMBS

VIEWERS' ACTIVITY GUIDE

Obsessed with living forever, ancient Egyptians built glorious monuments to ensure everlasting life. While many still stand, countless more are buried under the dust and heat of the desert. Taking viewers under the sands and into the tombs of ancient Egyptian cemeteries at Saqqara and the Bahariya Oasis, the National Geographic Television Special ***Egypt Eternal: The Quest for Lost Tombs*** launches a search for centuries-old mysteries, untold secrets, and forgotten treasures. Egyptian mummies tell tales from the grave, unknown chapters of Egypt's history are revealed, and a lost past is brought back to life.

Kindergarten-Grade 4

French archaeologist Dr. Alain Zivie has been clearing a series of unknown tombs cut out of a cliffside on the Saqqara plateau since 1980. Most of the tombs were reused in later times as burial places for cat mummies of the sanctuary for the cat goddess Bastet. Why did some ancient Egyptians worship cats? What about cats inspires such love and devotion? Make a classroom display about cats. Cut images out of magazines to create a collage, draw and paint pictures, and craft sculptures from papier-mâché or clay. Make your classroom a sanctuary to Bastet, like the Egyptians did.

Grades 5 through 8

The Egyptians' preoccupation with death was actually a powerful wish to continue enjoying earthly pleasures in the afterlife. To do this, the Egyptians provided their dead with food, drink, and companions. They also equipped tombs with furniture, utensils, clothing, jewelry, and even cosmetics. What if we believed that the dead should be provided with equipment for the afterlife? What objects would we put in tombs? How might we adorn the walls? Make lists of your thoughts and ideas, and compare them with the class. Are there certain items or themes that seem to be universal among the class? What do they tell us about our society, the American civilization in the 21st century?

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Grades 9 through 12

Archaeologists explore many sources to understand everyday life in ancient times. Much of our knowledge about ancient Egypt comes from tombs, with their rich stores of paintings, carvings, sculptures, and artifacts. Excavating tombs and interpreting documents also helps archaeologists understand the customs, habits, and concerns of the ancient Egyptians. Sometimes, instead of finding answers, archaeologists uncover mysteries, like Dr. Zivie did in opening the tomb of Netjerwymes. Divide the class into groups. Each group will craft a mystery to be solved by the rest of the class. Create physical clues and written clues that can be left throughout the classroom for the rest of the class to discover. See if your classmates can piece together the clues your group left to solve the mystery.

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