

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to understand the social structure of ancient Egypt and identify the different classes within society.

Materials and Prep

- Pen and paper
- Access to a computer or library for research
- Printed or online resources about ancient Egypt

Activities

1. Create a Social Structure Pyramid:

Using the information you found during your research, draw a pyramid on a piece of paper. Divide the pyramid into different sections to represent the different classes in ancient Egyptian society. Label each section with the name of the class and write a brief description of their role and responsibilities.

2. Role Play Activity:

Imagine you are a person from each social class in ancient Egypt. Write a short dialogue or monologue for each character, describing their daily life, occupation, and interactions with people from other classes. You can perform these role plays with a family member or record them as audio or video.

3. Research and Compare:

Choose two different social classes from ancient Egypt and research their daily lives, clothing, and traditions. Create a Venn diagram or a table to compare and contrast the similarities and differences between the two classes.

Talking Points

- Ancient Egypt had a hierarchical social structure, meaning people were divided into different classes based on their roles and importance in society.

For example, the Pharaoh was at the top of the social pyramid and had the most power. They were considered a god-like figure and ruled over the entire kingdom.

- Beneath the Pharaoh were the nobles and priests. They were responsible for governing different regions and overseeing religious ceremonies.

The nobles and priests held significant power and wealth, and their loyalty to the Pharaoh was crucial.

- The next class in the social structure was the scribes and officials. Scribes were highly educated individuals who could read and write. They kept records, wrote letters, and helped

with administrative tasks.

Officials assisted the nobles and priests in managing the kingdom, collecting taxes, and maintaining order.

- Below the scribes and officials were the artisans and craftsmen. These individuals were skilled in various trades such as pottery making, jewelry crafting, and construction.

They played an essential role in creating beautiful and functional objects for everyday life and religious rituals.

- The farmers and laborers made up the largest class in ancient Egyptian society. They were responsible for cultivating the land, growing crops, and building monumental structures.

Although they had less wealth and power compared to the upper classes, their work was vital for the survival and prosperity of the kingdom.

- Lastly, at the bottom of the social pyramid were the slaves. Slavery was a common practice in ancient Egypt, and slaves were often captured during wars or sold by neighboring civilizations.

They were forced to work for their masters and had limited rights and freedoms.