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# Pharaoh for a Day: Create Your Royal Identity

## Materials Needed:

- A large piece of yellow or gold construction paper (approx. 12x18 inches)
- Blue painter's tape or blue construction paper strips
- A paper plate or a strip of cardboard for a headband
- Scissors & Glue stick
- Stapler
- Markers or crayons
- Air-dry clay or a piece of cardboard cut into an oval shape (about 3x5 inches)
- A toothpick or a pencil for carving into the clay
- A simple hieroglyph alphabet chart (easily found online and printed)

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## Lesson Plan

### Part 1: The Secret Scroll (5-10 minutes)

**Goal:** To spark curiosity and introduce the topic in a fun way.

1. **Prepare a "Secret Message":** Before the lesson, draw a few simple hieroglyphs on a piece of paper that say "PHARAOH." For a 7-year-old, you can just draw a picture of a bird, an eye, a wavy line for water, etc. Roll it up and tie it like a scroll.
2. **Introduce the Scroll:** Tell your student, "I've found a secret message from Ancient Egypt! It tells us what powerful person we are going to learn about today. Can you help me figure it out?"
3. **Decode Together:** Unroll the scroll and look at the symbols. Help them guess what the pictures mean. Guide them to the answer: "Pharaoh." Explain that pharaohs were the kings and queens of Ancient Egypt, and they used this picture-writing called hieroglyphs.

### Part 2: What Does a Pharaoh Do? (10 minutes)

**Goal:** To understand the role of a pharaoh through storytelling and discussion.

1. **Story Time:** Share a brief, exciting story about a real pharaoh. Focus on their actions, not dates.
  - **Example for Tutankhamun:** "Imagine a young boy, not much older than you, becoming the most powerful person in all of Egypt! That was King Tut. He wasn't just a king; he was a leader who people believed was connected to the gods. His tomb was filled with amazing treasures that were hidden for thousands of years!"
  - **Example for Hatshepsut:** "Imagine a time when people thought only men could be the main pharaoh. But one woman, Hatshepsut, was so smart and powerful that she became one of the greatest pharaohs ever! She didn't fight big wars; instead, she built amazing temples and helped her people prosper by trading for amazing goods from faraway lands."
2. **Discussion:** Ask open-ended questions to connect the concept to the student's world.
  - "What does it mean to be a leader?"
  - "Hatshepsut helped her people by building things. What are some important things leaders help build today? (e.g., schools, parks, hospitals)"

- "Pharaohs had to make important decisions. What's a big decision you've had to make?"

### Part 3: Craft a Royal Headdress (15-20 minutes)

**Goal:** To creatively apply knowledge about pharaohs' symbols of power in a hands-on activity.

1. **Introduce the Headdress:** Show a picture of a pharaoh's headdress (the Nemes). Explain, "This wasn't just a hat. It was a crown that showed everyone who was in charge. The blue and gold stripes were a symbol of royalty."
2. **Make the Headband:** First, measure the cardboard strip or paper plate rim around the student's head and staple it into a circle to create a comfortable headband.
3. **Create the Nemes Shape:** Take the large yellow construction paper. Drape it over the student's head (on top of the headband) and gently fold it around their face, letting the sides hang down over their shoulders. Trim it to a good length.
4. **Add the Stripes:** Have the student use the blue painter's tape or glue on blue paper strips to create the famous royal stripes.
5. **Attach:** Secure the finished headdress to the headband with staples or glue. Now they have their own royal crown!

### Part 4: Design Your Royal Name (15 minutes)

**Goal:** To personalize the learning by creating a unique artifact that demonstrates understanding of hieroglyphs and identity.

1. **Explain the Cartouche:** "A pharaoh's name was so important that it was always written inside a special oval shape called a cartouche. This protected their name and showed their power."
2. **Use the Hieroglyph Chart:** Give the student the printed hieroglyph alphabet. Help them find the symbols that match the sounds in their own name. This is not about perfect translation, but about creative association.
3. **Create the Cartouche:**
  - **If using clay:** Roll the clay into a flat, oval shape. Use the toothpick to carefully carve the hieroglyphs of their name into the clay.
  - **If using cardboard:** Draw a large oval. Inside it, use markers to draw the hieroglyphs for their name. They can decorate the border to make it look like a royal treasure.

### Part 5: Rule Your Kingdom! (5 minutes)

**Goal:** To reflect on the lesson and apply the concept of leadership in a fun, imaginative way.

1. **Become the Pharaoh:** Have the student put on their headdress and hold their cartouche. Address them by their new "Pharaoh" title (e.g., "Pharaoh [Student's Name]").
2. **The First Royal Decree:** Ask them the final, most important question: "**Oh, great Pharaoh, you are now the ruler of our home. What is your first royal decree? What is one good and kind rule you will make for everyone in your kingdom today?**"
3. **Celebrate Their Answer:** Praise their creativity and thoughtfulness. Their answer serves as a wonderful assessment of their understanding of what a good leader does. You can even write down their "decree" on a piece of paper "scroll" to hang on the wall.

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