

Lesson Plan: Be a Pharaoh for a Day!

Subject: History & Art

Age Group: 6-year-old

Time Allotment: 60-90 minutes

Materials Needed:

- **For the Cartouche:** Yellow or light brown construction paper, scissors, markers or crayons, a simple hieroglyph alphabet chart (see below or find one online).
 - **For the Pyramid Build:** Building materials like sugar cubes, LEGOs, wooden blocks, or modeling clay/Play-Doh. A piece of cardboard or a tray for the base.
 - **For Pharaoh Dress-Up (Optional):** A pillowcase or towel for a headdress, a paper towel roll for a scepter, craft supplies like foil and tape for decoration.
 - **Engagement Tool:** A small box ("Mystery Box") containing a few Egypt-themed items (e.g., a toy camel, a shiny rock, a piece of yellow paper).
-

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Create a personal cartouche by writing their name using hieroglyphic symbols.
 2. Construct a simple 3D pyramid structure and explain why its shape is strong.
 3. Describe one important job of an ancient Egyptian pharaoh.
-

Simple Hieroglyph Alphabet Chart:

(This is a simplified version for fun. You can show the student a more detailed one online if they are curious!)

- **A** - Eagle
 - **B** - Foot
 - **C/K** - Basket with handle
 - **D** - Hand
 - **E** - Reed
 - **F** - Horned Viper (snake)
 - **G** - Jar Stand
 - **H** - Twisted Flax (rope)
 - **I** - Reed
 - **J** - Cobra (snake)
 - **L** - Lion
 - **M** - Owl
-

- **N** - Water Ripple
- **O** - Lasso
- **P** - Stool
- **Q** - Hill
- **R** - Mouth
- **S** - Folded Cloth
- **T** - Bread Loaf
- **U/W** - Quail Chick
- **V** - Horned Viper (snake)
- **X** - Basket and Folded Cloth
- **Y** - Two Reeds
- **Z** - Door Bolt

Lesson Activities:

Part 1: The Mystery Box from the Desert (10 minutes)

1. **Introduction:** Present the "Mystery Box." Say something like, "I have a special box that has traveled all the way from the hot sands of a place called Ancient Egypt! It's a land of pyramids, pharaohs, and secrets. Let's see what's inside."
2. **Exploration:** Let the student open the box and explore the items. Ask guiding questions: "What do you think this is for? What does it make you think of?" Use the items to introduce key concepts: sand (desert), shiny rock (treasure), yellow paper (papyrus for writing).
3. **Set the Scene:** Briefly explain that Ancient Egypt was a real place a very, very long time ago, ruled by powerful kings and queens called pharaohs.

Part 2: Write Like an Egyptian - The Royal Cartouche (20 minutes)

1. **Instruction:** Explain that the Ancient Egyptians had a special picture-writing called hieroglyphics. Show them the simple alphabet chart. Say, "Pharaohs had their names written in a special oval shape called a cartouche. It was like a royal name tag to show everyone who they were. Today, YOU are the pharaoh, so you need your own cartouche!"
2. **Activity:**
 - Help the student cut an oval shape (a long rectangle with rounded ends) from the yellow or brown paper.
 - Using the hieroglyph chart, guide them in sounding out their name and finding the matching symbols. For a 6-year-old, focus on the phonetic sounds, not perfect spelling (e.g., "Chris" could be K-R-S).
 - Have the student draw the symbols for their name inside the oval. Encourage them to decorate it to look royal!
3. **Connect to Objective:** As they work, ask, "What is this special name tag called? (A cartouche!) Who used them? (Pharaohs!)"

Part 3: Build a Mighty Pyramid (20-30 minutes)

1. **Instruction:** Say, "The great pharaohs built giant tombs called pyramids to keep their treasures safe. They are some of the strongest buildings ever made! Your job, great pharaoh, is to build your own pyramid."
2. **Activity:**
 - Let the student choose their building material (sugar cubes, blocks, clay, etc.).

- Challenge them to build a pyramid on their cardboard base. Talk about the shape as they build. Ask, "Why do you think a wide bottom makes it strong? What would happen if we built it with a tiny bottom and a big top?"
 - This is a fantastic, simple engineering challenge that teaches structural stability in a hands-on way.
3. **Connect to Objective:** Praise their construction skills. "Wow, your pyramid is so strong! It looks like it could stand for thousands of years, just like the real ones in Egypt."
-

Wrap-Up and Assessment: Pharaoh for a Day (10 minutes)

1. **Role-Play:** If you made dress-up items, now is the time to use them! Let the student put on their "pharaoh" costume.
 2. **Show and Tell:** Ask the "pharaoh" to present their creations. This serves as the assessment. Ask them:
 - "Your Highness, can you please show us your royal name on your **cartouche**?" (Assesses Objective 1)
 - "Tell us about the mighty **pyramid** you have built. Why is it so strong?" (Assesses Objective 2)
 - "And finally, Great Pharaoh, what is one important job you have to do for the people of Egypt?" (Prompts for answers like "I rule the land," "I keep people safe," "I lead the army." Assesses Objective 3).
 3. **Conclusion:** Congratulate them on being a fantastic pharaoh and on their amazing Egyptian creations. Display their cartouche and pyramid proudly.
-

Extension & Differentiation Activities:

- **For Extra Support:** You can pre-draw the cartouche oval and write the student's name lightly in pencil for them to trace over with hieroglyphs. For the pyramid, you can draw a square base on the cardboard to guide their first layer.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Encourage the student to write a secret message (like "I love cats") in hieroglyphics. They could also design a "tomb chamber" inside their pyramid and fill it with small "treasures" (beads, shiny pebbles, etc.).
- **Get Moving:** Play "Walk Like an Egyptian" and have fun doing the classic poses seen in Egyptian art.