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# Tei-Lullah's Adventure in Ancient Egypt

## Materials Needed

- **For the Map:** A large tray or piece of cardboard, salt dough or air-dry clay (blue, tan, and green/brown), small bowl of water.
- **For the Cartouche:** A brown paper bag cut into a rectangle, black marker or paint, a simple hieroglyph alphabet chart (easily found online), gold or yellow paint/marker.
- **For the Afterlife Ceremony:** A simple kitchen scale, a craft feather, small pieces of paper cut into heart shapes, a pen or pencil.
- **For the Tomb Diorama:** A shoebox, scissors, glue, colored paper, crayons or markers, small twigs or pebbles (optional), any other craft supplies for decoration.
- **General:** Computer/tablet for brief video clips (optional), a comfortable space to work.

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## Lesson Plan: A Four-Hour Journey Down the Nile

This lesson is designed to be an interactive and creative exploration. Feel free to adapt the timing based on Tei-Lullah's engagement and interest in each activity. The goal is to have fun while learning!

### Hour 1: The Gift of the Nile (Geography & History)

**Time:** 60 minutes (45 min activity, 15 min break/snack)

**Learning Objective:** Tei-Lullah will be able to explain why the Nile River was essential for survival in Ancient Egypt by creating a 3D map.

#### Activity Part 1: Introduction (5 minutes)

Start with a question: "Tei-Lullah, if you had to build a brand new city thousands of years ago, where would you build it? What would you need to survive?" Discuss the importance of water, food, and safety. Explain that for the Ancient Egyptians, one thing was more important than anything else: the Nile River.

#### Activity Part 2: Building the Land of Egypt (30 minutes)

1. On the large tray or cardboard, use the blue clay to form a long, winding river – this is the Nile. Make sure it has a delta (a fan shape) at one end where it meets the "sea."
2. Explain that every year, the Nile would flood. When the water went down, it left behind rich, dark soil perfect for farming. This was called the "Black Land." Use the green or brown clay to create a thin strip of fertile land along both sides of your blue Nile river.
3. Beyond the Black Land was the harsh desert, which the Egyptians called the "Red Land." It protected them from invaders. Use the tan clay to fill in the rest of the tray, creating the vast desert.
4. As Tei-Lullah builds, ask guiding questions:
  - "Where do you think people would build their homes?" (On the Black Land, near the water).
  - "What do you think they grew in this soil?" (Wheat, barley, vegetables).
  - "How did the desert help protect them?" (It was hard for enemies to cross).

### Activity Part 3: Review and Clean-up (10 minutes)

Have Tei-Lullah use her finger to trace the journey of the Nile. Ask her to point to the Black Land and the Red Land and explain in her own words why the river was called "The Gift of the Nile."

### (15-Minute Break)

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## Hour 2: The Scribe's Secret Code (Languages)

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Learning Objective:** Tei-Lullah will be able to write her name using a simplified hieroglyphic alphabet inside a royal cartouche.

### Activity Part 1: Introducing Hieroglyphs (15 minutes)

Explain that Ancient Egyptians didn't use letters like we do. They used picture-words called hieroglyphs. Show her a simple hieroglyph chart. Point out how some pictures stand for sounds (like the quail chick for 'w' or 'u') and others stand for whole ideas (like the symbol for 'sun').

Focus on the most important names: those of pharaohs. Explain that to show a name was royal, they drew an oval loop around it called a **cartouche**. This was like putting a name in a special frame to show it was powerful.

### Activity Part 2: Making Papyrus and a Cartouche (45 minutes)

1. **Make "Papyrus":** Take the piece of brown paper bag. Lightly crumple it into a ball, then carefully smooth it out. This gives it an ancient, textured look, similar to real papyrus.
  2. **Draw the Cartouche:** Using a black marker, help Tei-Lullah draw a large oval with a flat line at one end on her "papyrus." This is her royal frame!
  3. **Translate the Name:** Using the hieroglyph chart, work together to find the symbols that match the sounds in "Tei-Lullah" (e.g., T | L | L). Don't worry about perfect translation; the goal is creative representation.
  4. **Write in Hieroglyphs:** Carefully, have Tei-Lullah draw her chosen hieroglyphs from top to bottom inside the cartouche.
  5. **Make it Royal:** Use the gold or yellow marker to color in the cartouche oval, making it look like a treasure. She is now "Pharaoh Tei-Lullah"!
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## Hour 3: The Journey to the Afterlife (Religious Education)

**Time:** 60 minutes (45 min activity, 15 min break)

**Learning Objective:** Tei-Lullah will be able to describe one key Ancient Egyptian belief about the afterlife by participating in a role-playing activity.

### Activity Part 1: Story Time (10 minutes)

Tell a simplified, age-appropriate story about the Egyptian afterlife. Explain that they believed their soul had to go on a journey to the underworld. The most important test was the "Weighing of the Heart." The

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god Anubis would weigh your heart against the Feather of Truth. If your heart was light (filled with good deeds), you went on to paradise. If it was heavy with bad deeds, it was eaten by a monster!

### Activity Part 2: The Weighing of the Heart Ceremony (25 minutes)

1. Give Tei-Lullah the paper hearts. Ask her to think of good things she has done this week (e.g., helped with a chore, was kind to someone, worked hard on a project). Have her write or draw one good deed on each heart.
2. Set up the kitchen scale. Place the craft feather on one side.
3. One by one, have Tei-Lullah place a "good deed heart" on the other side. Explain that in the story, a good heart would be as light as the feather.
4. Discuss why the Egyptians thought it was so important to live a good life. Ask: "What kinds of things do you think they considered 'good deeds'?" (Being fair, respecting the gods, helping others).

### Activity Part 3: Meet the Gods (10 minutes)

Briefly show pictures of key gods related to the afterlife, like **Anubis** (god of embalming), **Osiris** (god of the underworld), and **Thoth** (the scribe god who recorded the result). Keep it simple and visual.

### (15-Minute Break)

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## Hour 4: Building a Tomb for a Pharaoh (Creative Synthesis)

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Learning Objective:** Tei-Lullah will synthesize her learning about geography, language, and beliefs by creating and explaining a tomb diorama.

### Activity: The Shoebox Tomb (50 minutes)

Explain that this is the final and most important project: creating a tomb fit for Pharaoh Tei-Lullah!

1. **Decorate the Walls:** The inside walls of the shoebox are the tomb walls. Using crayons and markers, Tei-Lullah should cover them with "murals." These drawings should tell the story of her life and what she needs in the afterlife. Encourage her to include:
  - A picture of the Nile River (from Hour 1).
  - Drawings of the "good deeds" from her hearts (from Hour 3).
  - Images of food, family, or pets she'd want in the afterlife.
  - Her royal cartouche (from Hour 2) drawn prominently on a wall.
2. **Add Treasures:** What would a pharaoh need? She can make a small sarcophagus from clay or paper, craft furniture, or add pebbles as "treasure." This is a great time for free creativity.

### Lesson Wrap-Up: Tour of the Tomb (10 minutes)

This is the final "assessment." Ask Tei-Lullah to be the tour guide for her own tomb. As she points to different parts of her diorama, ask her to explain their meaning:

- "Tell me about this drawing here. Why was it important to you?"
- "Ah, I see your royal name! What is that special oval called again?"
- "Why did you include a drawing of the river in your tomb?"

Celebrate her amazing work and her incredible journey through Ancient Egypt. She has not only learned about history, but created a piece of it herself!

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