

Away with the Pharaohs



Subject: History

Area of Study: Ancient Egypt

Summary: Two children struggle with their history homework until they are magically transported back to the age of the Pharaohs. Vivid images and captivating verse bring Ancient Egypt alive and provide our two friends with the inspiration they need.

Timing: 20 minutes approx

Props:

- large scrapbook, titled 'Ancient Egypt'
- large fans
- long piece of blue material
- sunhats
- sunglasses
- boxes disguised as large stones with rope attached
- pretend jugs, goblets and baskets of food

Music: Magical-sounding instrumental music

Background Work:

- Non-fiction writing about the River Nile and about how the pyramids were built (www.interoz.com/egypt/kids/History.htm)
- Dancing/miming of athletics - wrestling, javelin throwing etc
- Poems written about the Pharaohs

Cast and costumes:

Part	No. needed	Suggested costumes
Narrators	4	School uniform/clothing
Cleo	1	Jeans, t-shirt, trainers, sunglasses, sunhat
Tony	1	Jeans, shirt, trainers, sunglasses, sunhat
River Nile	6 (lined up in 2s)	All in blue, carrying blue material over their heads
Mr Khamun	1	Trousers, shirt and tie
Slaves	4	White sheets wrapped in toga style with belts, sandals or bare feet
Servant	1	As slaves
Pharaoh	1	White sheets wrapped in toga style, coloured sash, eye make-up
Pharaoh's wife	1	As pharaoh above
Chief Advisor/ Priests/Scribes	4-6	Those who play the parts of slaves pulling stones can also be priests, scribes
Fan Bearers	2	As slaves
Athletes	4	White shorts and t-shirt
Mummies	2	All in white, head and ankles wrapped in bandages

Suggested Script – Away with the Pharaohs

Narrator 1 Welcome to our assembly. We have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians and would like to share some of our learning with you.

Tony and Cleo are lying around looking bored, confused and fed up. Their Ancient Egypt book is lying on the floor near them.



Narrator 1 Have you ever been at a loss for words when it comes to writing your homework? Yes? Well, that's exactly how we find our friends Tony and Cleo. They're struggling to remember anything Mr Khamun's taught them all term about the Ancient Egyptians!

Mr Khamun walks across stage muttering about 'children of today' and how they should listen more carefully etc ...

Cleo A day in Ancient Egypt ... homework ... I hate it!

Tony *(Picking up book and opening it.)* Me too; I haven't got a clue what to write!

Cleo What about this picture of the River Nile
- surely we can use that in some way? *(Pointing to picture in book.)*

Tony Did you know the River Nile is over 4 000 miles long? *(Music starts playing.)* It flows from ... hang on a minute. Can you hear that? It sounds like music and it's getting louder!

Cleo Oooooooh! Wooah! I think I'm getting sucked into the book!

Tony/Cleo HELP!

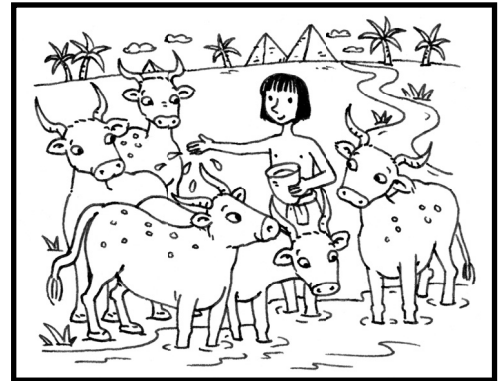
The music continues as Tony and Cleo wake up, completely awestruck with what they see - the River Nile!

Cleo Wh ... wh ... where are we? Have we ... ?

Tony I think we have - we're really in Ancient Egypt - and that really is the River Nile!

The River Nile moves down the centre aisle and around the stage, each pair of children moving up and down simultaneously to give the impression of the river rippling.

River Nile We are the River Nile
We are the River Nile
We travel from our source
We travel on a course
For over 4 000 miles
We ripple and we roar
Stop to rest for a while
A river with great style
Oh! The great River Nile.
(Repeat before settling on the ground.)



Cleo It's just like I imagined it would be! Do you remember Mr Khamun saying he thought it was probably the most amazing river in the world? Well, I think he was right!

Mr Khamun (Reads pupil's non-fiction writing about the River Nile.)

Narrator 2 The children begin to wander around in the blazing sun to see what else they might find. In the distance, they can hear people coming.

Tony Woooooh! It's so-o-o hot! Those temperature graphs we made with Miss Thermo on the computer are more accurate than I thought!

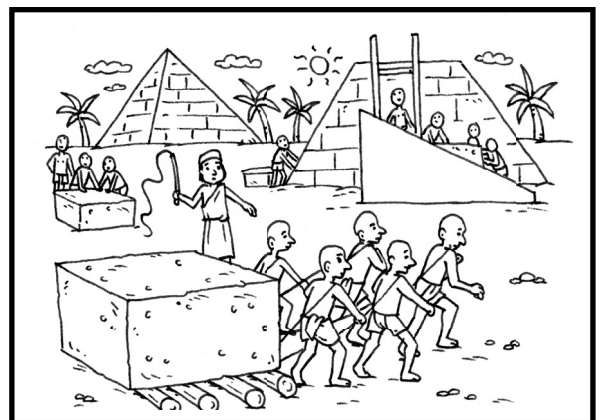
Cleo It's boiling - I wish I had my shorts on! Lucky for us we had our sunhats and sunglasses in our pockets! I can hear people coming - quick! Hide!

They jump back as the slaves enter, dragging stones by their ropes and chanting. Alternatively, children can take a line each from each verse.

Slaves We've hauled a hundred rocks today
We've pulled a thousand blocks today
We've walked a million miles today
No more for now, we all do pray.

We take a limestone rock
We cut a limestone block
We do the pyramid stamp
We roll it up that ramp.

We're heaving on these ropes
Until we reach the top
And when the sun goes down
We do the pyramid stop!



Slaves drag stones to one side of stage and drop the ropes. They repeat the chant, this time with hand moves (can be choreographed by the children).

Cleo I'd hate to have their job, wouldn't you? And in this heat, too!
- I'm just tired from watching them!

Tony All that work, just for one pyramid - I can't believe it!

Cleo Yes, don't you remember that writing about the pyramid we had to do at school? Mr Khamun said it took about 20 years and hundreds of thousands of people to build the Great Pyramid at Gizza.

Mr Khamun (*Reads pupil's non-fiction writing about how a pyramid was built and who was involved.*)

Whilst non-fiction writing is being read out, Tony and Cleo continue wandering. They find a door and decide to go through; they find themselves in the Pharaoh's court.



Tony Let's go through here- this is the most amazing experience I've ever had - it even beats my latest computer game.

Cleo Me too ... oh wow!

Servant Sssshhh! Kneel down now!

Narrator 3 Not knowing where they were going, Tony and Cleo have accidentally stumbled into the Pharaoh's court where slaves, priests and scribes gather to worship and entertain the Pharaoh and his wife.

Court of the Pharaoh - Pharaoh and his wife sitting on thrones, fan bearers either side, slaves serving food and wine.

Chief Advisor SLAVES! Serve the wine (*clap, clap*).

Servants serve the Pharaoh first, then his wife, followed by any others.

Chief Advisor ATHLETES! You are now called upon to entertain your Pharaoh with your amazing athletic skills (*clap, clap*).

The athletes line up ready but one forgets to bow.

Chief Advisor How dare you show such insolence to your Pharaoh! Bow to him now! Get on your knees! Kiss the ground before his Royal Highness! (*Turning to the Pharaoh*) Pharaoh, I apologize - would you care for this man to be tortured?

Pharaoh nods and points towards outside. The man is taken away by one of the servants to be beaten - cries are heard when he has left the room.

Chief Advisor ATHLETES! You may perform! (*clap, clap*)

Athletes perform their duties - the wrestlers mime wrestling, the javelin is thrown. There is polite clapping. Before leaving, the athletes bow once more.

Chief Advisor (*To the athletes*) You may leave (*clap, clap*).

Tony Quick! I want to leave before we get seen by the Pharaoh ... we'd get beaten for sure!

Cleo I know. We'll have to be careful though - let's go.

Court clears the stage and the two children are left alone.

Cleo Phew ... ! That was horrible, just like on our Egyptian day we had at school. The Pharaoh was so frightening.

Tony No he wasn't! They do have the best lives, though! Remember those poems we had to write at school?

Mr Khamun (*Reads a selected number of poems written about the Pharaohs and their lives.*)

Whilst the poem(s) are being read, a white sheet is placed over the stones left by the slaves and the mummies discreetly hide behind them.

Cleo (*Nodding to the stones and whispering.*) What do you think's under there?

Tony Only one way to find out!

He lifts off the cover and up jump the mummies.

Mummies For so many years we've been soundly asleep
In a pyramid tomb in a coma so deep
Not a drop did we drink, not a morsel to eat
Now our bandages sag and we're feeling the heat
We have no clothes to wear, we're so terribly thin
We've lost all our curves and we're down to one chin
Hear that rumbling, grumbling noise from our tummies?
Give us food! Give us food!
We are such hungry mummies!

Cleo Oh! Sorry, all I've got are these (.....) (*pulls some kind of food from her pocket*). Will these do?

Mummies Mmmm ...

Magical-sounding instrumental music begins.

Tony Cleo, can you hear that music again? Where's it coming from?

Cleo I don't know, but I feel all weird again. Aaggh ... ! What's happening?

As the music plays, the children are again being transported in time - they arrive back at Tony's looking at the Ancient Egypt book.

Tony Wow! That was wicked - I know exactly what I'm going to write for my homework now! Let's get started!

Cleo Me too - we'll show that Mr Khamun what we're really made of!

Narrator 4 Thank you for watching our assembly. We hope you have enjoyed it!

