



Year Group: Year 3-6

Length: 20 mins

Starting Positions: Sit in your own space on the floor

Learning Intention:

To know about...

- Life in Ancient Egypt (geography, culture and Pharaonic hierarchy)
- The Ancient Egyptian afterlife
- Ancient Egyptian gods

Synopsis:

- A letter from your uncle arrives, summoning you to Memphis to become a scribe.
- In Memphis your mean Uncle teaches you about hieroglyphs and mummification skills.
- The Pharaoh dies! The Vizier (Pharaoh's adviser) calls all scribes to the Great Temple.
- You're chosen to guide the Pharaoh's spirit through the Underworld. You enter the Pyramid.
- You awaken the Pharaoh's spirit using the Book of the Dead. The Pharaoh's spirit rushes out of his body and the Temple crumbles.
- You fall into the Underworld and you follow the Pharaoh's spirit (now a cat) down a canal.
- The Pharaoh is reunited with the Sun God Ra.
- The god Anubis tests you in the Hall of Truth. Your heart is lighter than the Feather: you pass to the Afterlife.
- The god Osiris greets you in the Afterlife. You are back at home with your family for all eternity.

Characters

- **Mother** - lives in rural Egypt
- **Uncle** - lives in Memphis and trains the scribes
- **Vizier** - the highest official in Ancient Egypt to serve the Pharaoh
- **Pharaoh (cat)** - originally meant "Great House". The Pharaoh was the Son of the sun god Ra
- **God Anubis** - a jackal-headed god associated with mummification and the Afterlife
- **God Osiris** - god of the afterlife, the underworld and the dead. Green-skinned with a beard

Locations:

- **The Nile** - longest river in the world, flowing through 11 countries; the source of Egypt's fertility
- **Memphis** - the capital of Ancient Egypt during the Old Kingdom.
- **Pyramid** - pyramids were built to worship gods and as monuments to dead Pharaohs
- **The Afterlife** - you earned your passage to the 'Land of Two Fields' by having a light enough heart

Glossary:

- **Scribe** - few Egyptians could write so scribes were key for writing messages and recording history
- **Papyrus** - the first paper, from the papyrus plant which was cut into strips, soaked and dried
- **Mummification** - removing organs, embalming and wrapping bodies in linen to preserve them
- **Vizier** - second in command after the Pharaoh, almost like a Prime Minister
- **Sarcophagus** - an elaborate stone coffin
- **Sun God Ra** - the origin of all life; depicted with the head of a falcon and the sun disk on his head
- **Book of the Dead** - a book of spells to help someone's passage to the Afterlife
- **Scales of Truth** - your heart was weighed by Anubis against the Feather of Truth (it had to be lighter)
- **Devourer of the Dead** - Ammit was a mix of lion, hippo and crocodile who ate your heart and soul

Discussion:

Story & Factual

- Where was your home? What would your everyday life have been like?
- What job were you going to do? What is a scribe?
- Could everyone in Ancient Egypt write?
- What did you learn with your Uncle? (Hieroglyphs? What's papyrus? Purification? Mummification?)
- Why did Ancient Egyptians believe that a Pharaoh's spirit needed to be accompanied by a scribe?
- What treasures do you imagine the Pharaoh had buried with him?
- What did the Egyptians believe happened in the Afterlife?

PSHE & Philosophical

- How did you feel when you had to leave your Mum and family?
- What do you think life as a child in Ancient Egypt would have been like compared to the life you lead?
- What do you think happens after you die?
- You made a big sacrifice in agreeing to accompany the Pharaoh's spirit to the Afterlife. What or who would you make a big sacrifice for?
- What special treasures would you want buried with you?
- The Scales of Truth showed whether you'd done more good than bad in their life. Do you think that what you do in this life affects what happens to you after you die?

Resources:

You'll find these follow up resources on your shared drive:

- **Literacy Resources** – Reading Comprehension/Text Analysis, 3x SPAG exercises, Poem/Short writing exercise, Formal Prose, Creative Writing, Spelling Test
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story (or use them for other things – e.g. writing)
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**