

“The Forigner in Ancient Egypt” Exhibit Educational Packet:



Dear Educators,

Thank you for your interest in “The Foreigner in Ancient Egypt” a temporary exhibition at the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, Cairo. The concept of the ‘foreign’ or ‘other’ has been present in Egyptian art and culture since the pre-dynastic period. This exhibition will introduce your students to six major foreign cultures present in Egypt from the Middle Kingdom to the Roman Period. The objects demonstrate how Egyptians viewed foreigners, how foreigners integrated into Egyptian society as settlers or kings, and how they remained unique.

To have your students thinking about foreigners in ancient Egypt, attached you will find a pre-visit activity geared at introducing students to the concept of the ‘other’. Once in the exhibit, your students will learn to identify different foreigners based on their unique characteristics in Egyptian art. They will learn about the long history of foreigners in Egypt, which foreigners immigrated here and when, and which occupations foreigners had in Egypt. It is important to remind your students to pay special attention to how foreigners were different to Egyptians in style, dress, culture, religion, and government. The six culture areas are: Asiatic, Libyan, Nubian, Persian, Greek, and Roman. A post-visit assignment is also provided here where students review the Egyptian culture and compare them with a foreign culture, listing their similarities. This lesson allows students to view ancient Egypt with the understanding of cultural diversity.

We hope that you enjoy the temporary exhibit, and be sure to view the rest of the museum while there! All the best, and remember, we are all Egyptian.

Eleuterio Sousa
Educational Programs Manager.

Pre-visit activity:

Objective:

By the end of this assignment, students will have been introduced to the idea of the 'other' culture in the ancient world, not particularly in relation to Egypt, but independent of their own culture.

Assignment: "The Story of my People"

In this assignment, students write a short creative story on one of the six cultures introduced in the exhibit. The short story focuses on what a day in the life of that culture would be like. They need to include these areas: government, religion, and daily life.



Post-visit assignment:

Objective: By the end of this activity students will be able to describe the nature of interactions between other cultural groups in the ancient world and the ancient Egyptians with differences in image, culture, religion and government.

Assignment:

On this Venn diagram, describe the differences between a foreigner and Egyptians. In the centre, write what is the same about each.

Use this Venn diagram to assist you in creating a piece that reflects the culture you have chosen. You can choose to take any angle such as reflecting the foreigner as a bound captive (hostility) or the adoption of Egyptian traditions (assimilation). Your piece can be in the form of an essay, poem, and song, painting... you get the idea. Double-check your ideas with your teacher!

Venn Diagram Topic: _____

