Activities

Ms. Frizzle's Adventures in Ancient Egypt

Grades: PreK–K, 1–2

Overview
Reading a book, children learn about ancient customs, hieroglyphics, farming and commerce, how the pyramids were built, and even the burial rituals of the ancient Egyptian people. They refer to maps, identify comparisons and contrasts and add to their vocabularies.
Summarize the Book
Ms. Frizzle joins a tour group headed for Egypt, but ends up leading the group on a visit to ancient Egypt. With Ms. Frizzle in charge, the group visits a busy Egyptian town, arrives, uninvited, at a scribe's house, farms along the Nile, helps build a pyramid and joins a banquet at the Pharaoh's palace. Throughout the journey, readers learn about ancient customs, hieroglyphics, farming and commerce, how the pyramids were built, and even the burial rituals of the ancient Egyptian people.

Show What You Know
- Children will have many ideas about the concepts introduced in Ancient Egypt. Use these questions as a starting point for building on what they already know.
- Show children a map of Africa. Point out that Egypt is in Northern Africa.
- Review the timeline on the opening page of the book.
- Point out the Nile, the longest river in the world. Discuss how this river might have influenced life in ancient Egypt. How might it affect Egypt today?

Discuss the Book
Compare and Contrast
Compare and contrast life in modern Egypt with life in ancient Egypt.

Author's Purpose
Why do you think the author separates Herb, the tour guide, from his group? What does Herb's separate adventure do for the story?

Genre
A nonfiction book is a book about real people, places and things. Is Ms. Frizzle's Adventure a nonfiction book? What is real about it? What isn't?

Read for Information
Choose a part of the book you would like to learn more about. List a question you want answered. Using this book and other resources, try to answer it.

Point of View
Some people think the Aswan Dam is a great thing for Egypt. Others see it as a big environmental problem. Research the dam and write an argument for why it helpful or harmful.

**Personal Response**

In this book, Ms. Frizzle decided to explore Egypt on her summer vacation. Why is she eager to travel? What are some of the things a person might learn by visiting a new place?

**Words to Know**

- Amulet
- Ancient
- Dam
- Hieroglyphics
- Kohl
- Mummy
- Papyrus
- Pyramids
- Pharaoh
- Scribe
- Sphinx

**Explore the Themes**

- *Do you read me?*
  Hieroglyphics was a combination of picture words and symbols. Try creating your own picture language. Then use it to write a note to your friends.

- *The Pharaoh’s Jewels*
  The ancient Egyptians created beautiful jewelry for decoration. Design Egyptian jewelry using glossy pictures from magazines. Cut the magazines into long, thin triangles (about 1 " at the base and 10" long). Place a pencil at the base and roll up the triangle. Remove the pencil and shellac with watered down glue. When dry, cut the strip into beads and string up.

- *Drawing in Style*
When ancient Egyptians drew people, they combined front and side views. Have your children draw pictures of each other in the Egyptian style.

- **Smarter Barter**
  Ancient Egyptians used a barter system instead of money. Create picture cards showing everyday items such as necklaces, sandals, bread, and paint. Using the cards, act out a day in an ancient Egyptian marketplace.

- **Pyramid Math**
  Try constructing pyramids using straws or wire and clay at the corners. Attach a wire handle and dip the pyramids in bubble solution to create pyramid-shaped bubbles. Create other pyramids out of graph paper and tape. Use the graph paper to find out the area of the pyramid.

- **Ritual Behavior**
  Wrap a doll in gauze strips and decorate your "mummies" with symbols and colors to show what the mummy was like in life. Make a list of the items you want buried with your mummies.

**Subjects:**

- Social Studies
- Architecture
- Environmental Conservation
- Africa
- Reading
- Vocabulary
- Persuasive Writing
- Geometry
- Math
- Ancient Civilizations
- Geography and Map Skills
- Science
- Africa
- Technology and Society