

# Egypt

## In this Bag:

- 1 paper plate
- Pharaoh headdress cut out – 2 pages
- Paper mosaic tiles
- Hieroglyphic alphabet
- Decode a hieroglyphic message
- Blank name scrolls

## What you Need at Home:

- Markers, paint, colored pencils or crayons
- Scissors
- Tape and/or Glue and/or stapler



Learn about Egypt and craft with us by following the instructional video on our virtual hub:

<http://www.creativeartsguild.org/events/annual-events/festival1/childrens-hill>

## Fun Facts about Egypt:

- Egypt is officially known as the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- In 2012, the population of Egypt was just over 83 million.
- Egypt is bordered by the Gaza Strip, Israel, Libya and Sudan as well as the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
- The official language of Egypt is Arabic, but others languages such as English and French are also understood by many.
- The capital city is Cairo, which also has the largest population.
- Egypt is a very dry country. The Sahara and Libyan Desert make up most of the area of Egypt.
- Egypt experiences natural hazards such as droughts, earthquakes, flash floods, landslides, windstorms (called khamsin), dust storms and sandstorms.
- The longest river in the world, the Nile, runs through Egypt.
- Egypt is famous for its ancient civilization, the Ancient Egyptians, who date back to around 3150 B.C.
- Egypt is home the Great Pyramid of Giza, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
- The most popular sport in Egypt is football (soccer). Ancient Egypt was one of the greatest and most powerful civilizations in the history of the world. It lasted for over 3000 years from 3150 BC to 30 BC.
- Most Ancient Egyptian pyramids were built as tombs for pharaohs (rulers of Ancient Egypt) and their families. To date, over 130 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt.
- Ancient Egyptians loved playing board games. One popular game was *Senet*, which was played for over 2,000 years! The game involved throwing sticks (in the same way we throw dice) to see how many squares to move your piece forward on the board.
- The Ancient Egyptians invented lots of things we still use today, such as paper, pens, locks and keys and – believe it or not – toothpaste!
- The civilization of Ancient Egypt was located along the Nile River in northeast Africa. The Nile was the source of much of the Ancient Egypt's wealth. Great Egyptian cities grew up along the Nile as the Egyptian people became experts in irrigation and were able to use the water from the Nile to grow rich and profitable crops. The Nile provided food, soil, water, and transportation for the Egyptians. Great floods would come each year and would provide fertile soil for growing food.
- The Pyramid of Khufu at Giza is the largest Egyptian pyramid. This incredible structure weighs as much as 16 Empire State buildings!



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## Highlights in Egyptian Arts and Culture:

- Ancient Egypt was rich in culture including government, religion, arts, and writing. The government and religion were tied together as the leader of the government, the Pharaoh, was also leader of the religion. Writing was also important in keeping the government running. Only scribes could read and write and they were considered powerful people.
- Ancient Egyptian art refers to art produced in ancient Egypt between the 31st century BC and the 4th century AD. It includes paintings, sculptures, drawings on papyrus, faience, jewelry, ivories, architecture, and other art media. It is also very conservative: the art style changed very little over time. Much of the surviving art comes from tombs and monuments, giving more insight into the ancient Egyptian afterlife beliefs.
- The ancient Egyptian language had no word for "art". Artworks served an essentially functional purpose that was bound with religion and ideology. To render a subject in art was to give it permanence. Hence, ancient Egyptian art portrayed an idealized, unrealistic view of the world. There was no significant tradition of individual artistic expression since art served a wider and cosmic purpose of maintaining order.
- The afterlife was incredibly important to the Egyptians. They believed that by preserving a dead person's body – which they did through the process of mummification – their soul would live on in the after-life forever.
- Both Egyptian men and women wore make-up. The eye-paint was usually green (made from copper) or black (made from lead). As well as offering protection from the sun, the Egyptians believed make-up had magical healing powers, too!
- Unwrapped, the bandages of an Ancient Egyptian mummy could stretch for 1.6km. Yikes!
- The Egyptian alphabet contained more than 700 hieroglyphs! Uncover the meaning behind these ancient symbols by checking out our awesome hieroglyphics feature.
- Ancient Egyptians believed in more than 2,000 deities! They had gods for everything, from dangers to chores! Each had different responsibilities and needed to be worshipped so that life could be kept in balance.
- Cats were considered to be a sacred animal by the Ancient Egyptians. It's thought that most families kept a cat as a pet, which they believed would bring the household good luck!

