



The Story of Osiris and Isis

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Historical Context: Mythology exists in every culture as a method of telling the important stories of where we came from, why things happened that way, who our heroes are, and what we believe as a group. These stories often blend the local landscape, flora, and fauna into tales of heroics and magic to entertain and tell the story. Ancient Egypt was no different. These tales were entertaining and memorable, but also change over time. Ancient mythology was part of an oral tradition, retold not written down. The main ideas and lessons stay true, while other details may change to suit the teller's place and time. This is a version of the myth of Osiris and Isis.

Time Frame: Two class periods (40 minutes each)

Correlation to Standards:

World History, Reading for Literacy

Materials Needed:

One copy of "The Story of Osiris and Isis" for each pair of students.

blank storyboard sheet.

Comprehension Questions for each student.

Objectives: Students Will Be Able To:

Read and understand the story of Osiris and Isis.

Summarize the main points of the story both in written and graphic forms.

Understand the meaning behind the story, and how it helped to explain parts of Ancient Egyptian culture.

Task: Teacher will partner students for a paired reading exercise. They must be seated so they can read quietly to each other without being disruptive to their classmates. Each partner will have one copy of the story of Osiris and Isis to share (this ensures they are paying attention to their partner) and a sheet on which to write their summary. Students will read a paragraph to their partner. The partner will then write a summary of that paragraph and read it back to the partner to make sure they agree on the meaning of the paragraph. They will switch roles and continue the story in the same fashion. When finished they should have read the passage and written a summary that they agree on.



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When they have successfully read and summarized the passage they will be given the blank box sheet and instructed to create a storyboard to tell the story of what they just read. Emphasize that their ability to draw is not as important as representing the ideas of the story. Finally, after having read, summarized, and drawn the story, students will answer the comprehension questions individually.

Assessment: Can the students retell the story in their own words? Answers to comprehension questions.

Extension: Dig deeper into the story; look up and tell the story of one of the other characters in this story (Seth, Nephthys). Where did they come from; what did they do? Why were they relevant?

Cross Curriculum: Work with Art, ELA and, Technology teachers on storytelling and illustration, cartooning, digital storytelling.



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1. Osiris has two key role described in this story, what are they?

2. Into what river do we think the body is thrown?

3. Seth has a wooden chest made just to fit his brother's body, what tradition does this start in ancient Egyptian culture?

4. Why did Seth cut Osiris into pieces and scatter them across Egypt?

5. How did Isis and friends prepare the body of Osiris to come back to life?

6. How might those rituals explain why ancient Egyptians created mummies?

7. After he dies and is mummified, Osiris comes back to life. Where did he go to live after visiting his wife?

Why was this important to ancient Egyptians?

8. Who defeated Seth?



The Story of Isis and Osiris Answer Key

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1. Osiris has two key roles described in this story, what are they?
King of Egypt, and King of the Underworld.

2. Into what river do we think the body is thrown?
The Nile

3. Seth has a wooden chest made just to fit his brother's body.
What tradition does this start in ancient Egyptian culture?
Building elaborate coffins and sarcophaguses/ sarcophagi for the
burial of the dead

4. Why did Seth cut Osiris into pieces and scatter them
across Egypt?
Prevent his body from being found or buried

5. How did Isis and friends prepare the body of Osiris to come
back to life?
Sew it together, wrap it in cloth to make a mummy

6. How might those rituals explain why ancient Egyptians
created mummies?
To bring their loved one's back to life, prepare for the Afterlife.

7. After he dies and is mummified, Osiris comes back to life.
Where did he go to live after visiting his wife?
The Afterlife

Why was this important to ancient Egyptians?
The belief that the body and being live on somehow after they
die here on Earth

8. Who defeated Seth?
Osiris's son, Horus

How was this done?
A battle years after Osiris's death.

9. Why was it important to have Horus become king
instead of Seth?
Good beats evil, law and order is better than chaos

10. What do you believe is the main idea of this story, as a
lesson to the listeners?
Many themes here, origins of custom of mummification, origins
of key figures in Ancient culture, and the theme of good beating
evil, not trying to cheat the laws or doing evil to others.



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