

# Egyptomania!

## Constructed Response Questions

**Historical Context:** From the Napoleonic times forward, the world has had a great curiosity and interest in ancient Egypt. Look no further than pop culture (television, movies, music), and you will find references to mummies and pharaohs (King Tut for example); but this adoration and imitation of things Egyptian goes much further. Art, architecture, and symbols of ancient Egypt pervade in much of western culture.

**Time:** One class period (40 minutes)

**Correlation to Standards:**

World History,  
Economics,  
Geography,  
American History

**Material Needed:** Packet of Constructed Response Questions for each student.

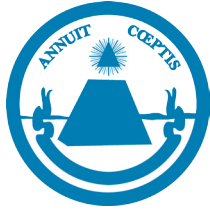
**Objective:** Students will be able to:

See the connection of cultures between modern western society and ancient Egypt.  
Identify elements of ancient Egypt in their world today.  
Use the answers to their questions to formulate answers to the overarching questions in essay format.

**Task:** Students will use the presented information, and their knowledge of Social Studies to answer the corresponding questions.

**Assessment:** Student responses to questions, response to essay question.

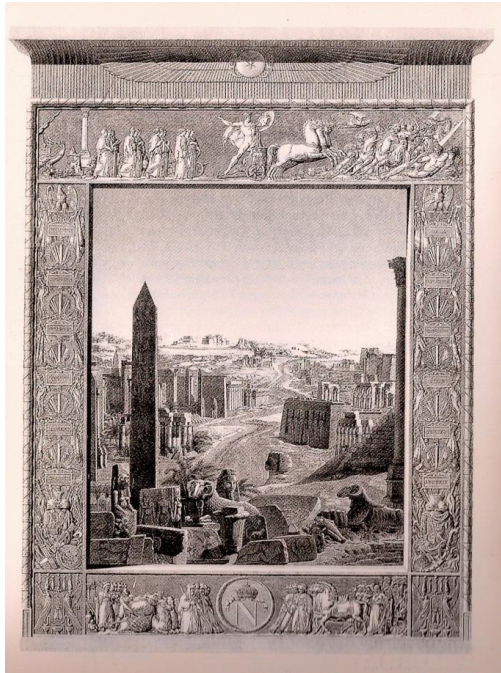
**Extension:** Have students go out into the community to find and photograph images of things that show Egyptian influence in their local area. Have them present their findings in a bulletin board display.



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Frontispiece in *Description de l'Égypte, ou Recueil des Observations et des Recherches Qui Ont Été Faites en Égypte pendant l'Expédition de l'Armée Française, Antiquities, Vol. I*, Published by order of Napoleon at the Imperial Press, Paris, 1809, Engraving with etching on laid paper, Gift of Jane Bryant Quinn



Albany Rural Cemetery

The obelisk was used in ancient Egypt to display information or records of great importance.

1. Where might you find the obelisk in the image on the right?

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2. In what way is the use of the obelisk in ancient Egypt similar to its use today?

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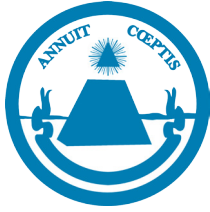
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3. What is an example of an American monument that uses this shape?

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“Samuel W. Brown  
Brings Back Two  
Mummies”

The Sunday Press  
May 8, 1909

Letterpress on paper  
Albany Institute  
of History & Art  
Library



Label for Cairo Museum Antiques Sale Room  
c. 1910

Block Print on paper  
Courtesy of Nancy Roberts

4. In 1909 an Albanian (person from Albany, NY) is reported in the newspapers traveling to Egypt and Turkey. Looking at the second image, what could be inferred about the purpose of the trip to Egypt?

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5. Why might a trip to Egypt make the newspapers in 1909?

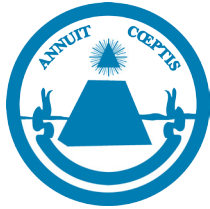
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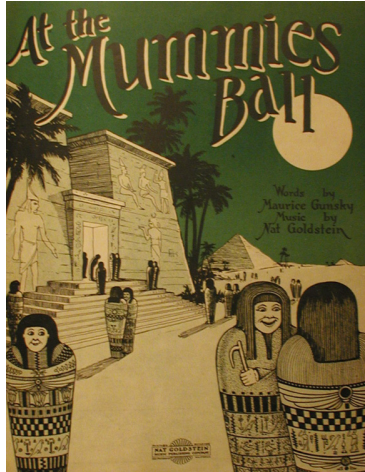
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Carter the Great, Poster, collection Bob Brier



At the Mummies Ball, Sheet Music, collection Bob Brier

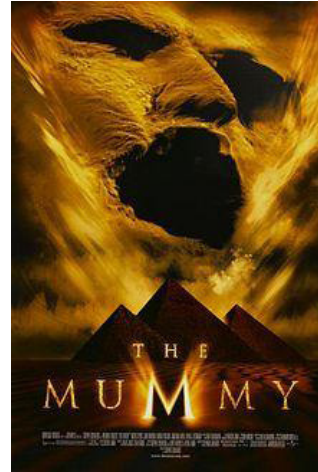


Image from Wikimedia Commons

The three images are posters advertising 1. a magician, 2. a song, and 3. a movie. The first two are from the early 1900s, while the third is from 1999.

6. What are two common images in these posters?

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7. Looking at the “Carter the Great” and “The Mummy” posters, what is similar about the way mummies are portrayed?

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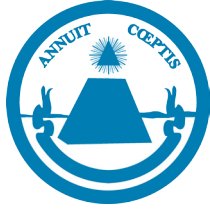
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This is the reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States of America. In 1782 Congress approved this design. This has been found on official United States documents ever since, including the \$1 bill.

**8. What two symbols of Ancient Egypt are found on this image?**

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**9. Why might Congress have decided to use symbols that were thousands of years old?**

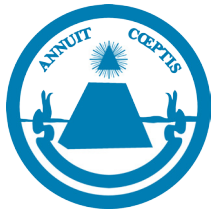
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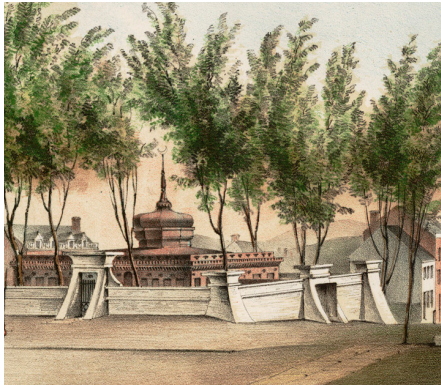
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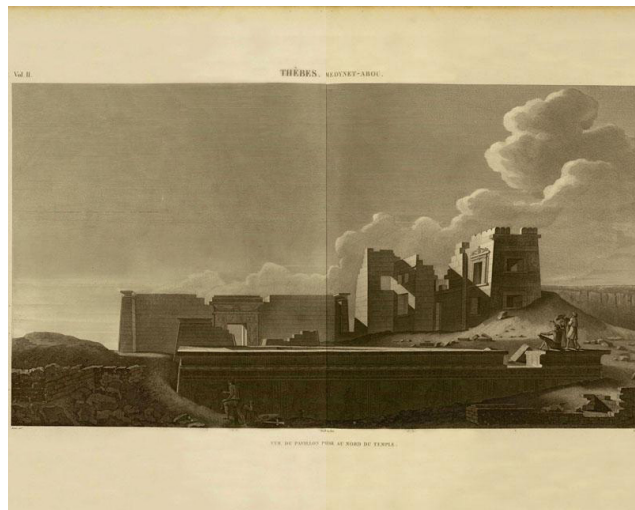
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Detail, View of the New Reservoir of the Albany Water Works Company and the Albany Burgesses Corp, Printed by Thayer & Co., Boston, MA, c. 1850, Hand-colored lithograph on paper, Bequest of Ledyard Cogswell, Jr., Albany Institute of History & Art, 1954.59.109

View of Temple at Thebes  
in Description de l'Égypte,  
ou Recueil des Observations  
et des Recherches Qui Ont  
Été Faites en Égypte pen-  
dant l'Expédition de l'Armée  
Française  
Antiquities, Vol. II  
Published by order of  
Napoleon at the Imperial  
Press, Paris  
1812  
Engraving on laid paper  
Gift of Jane Bryant Quinn



In 1798 Napoleon led an attempt to conquer Egypt. He brought with him artists and engravers to capture all the details of what he found in Egypt. The works were published (1809) in a book called “Description de l’Egypte” or “Description of Egypt.” As this book circulated, the art and architecture became fashionable. Museums and private citizens wanted to have a piece of Egypt for themselves. In about the year 1850, the city of Albany (N.Y.) opened the Waterworks Building.

**10.** What influences from “Description de l’ Egypte” can be seen in the design of this building?

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From the banks of the Nile River, over thousands of years, cultural influences have traveled across the globe. Western culture has selected aspects of the art, architecture, and culture of ancient Egypt and continues to use it in modern society.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.