

**Workshop:** Reading Comprehension

Levels: A1-A2

**Topic:** BACK TO EGYPT

**Objective:** To improve sts vocabulary

**Materials:** Handouts and question sheet

**Procedure:**

1. Hand out the text about Egypt to the students.
2. Go through difficult vocabulary.
3. Read the text first.
4. Sts read the text in turns.
5. Hand out the question sheet. Sts have to answer the questions
6. Go through correction
7. Thank students for coming to the lesson.

## THE PHARAOHS

The rulers of Egypt are the pharaohs. The pharaoh is very important; the Ancient Egyptians believe that he is a god. This makes him very powerful.

The pharaoh sometimes wears a special crown with a cobra on it. The cobra is a goddess that protects the pharaoh. The Egyptians believe that the snake can spit poisonous fire at the pharaoh's enemies.

The pharaoh has to be strong and clever to rule Egypt well and to keep peace. He has to control his enemies in other countries and needs a good army.

One of the most famous pharaohs is Rameses: he built more temples than any other pharaoh. The walls of the temples are, in fact, filled with stories of his greatness.

The Egyptians believe in many different gods; they think that their gods sometimes can disguise themselves as animals when they come to earth.

Temples are the houses of gods. Some are very large and important buildings; the pharaoh can go and visit them there.

It is the job of priests to look after the temples. They take gifts to the gods and say prayers and hymns. On important religious days the pharaoh visits the gods himself.

Ordinary people are not allowed into the god's sanctuary in the temple to worship with the priests and the pharaoh.

Ordinary people only celebrate the important gods on special feast days.

Magic is very important to all Egyptians. There are magic books, magic spells and magic days that bring good or bad luck; there are very famous magicians. One book tells people what their dreams mean:

*"If a man sees himself in a dream:  
eating donkey flesh, good, it means his promotion,  
looking into a deep well, bad, it means being put in prison;  
eating an egg, bad, his belongings will be taken away".*

Ancient Egyptians write in pictures. Each picture is called hieroglyph. People that can use and read hieroglyphics are called scribes. Only rich boys can learn to be scribes; they learn more than seven hundred different signs and put them together in the right way.

Scribes use black or red ink. Their pens are made from reeds. Paper is made from the papyrus plant that grows by the River Nile. The word paper comes from the same word.

## QUESTIONS SHEET

1. Why do you think we know so little about early Egyptian history?
2. Draw a picture of the pharaoh's crown showing the snake.
3. What different things helped to make a pharaoh powerful?
4. Read these three sentences:
  - Rameses is an Egyptian pharaoh
  - Rameses wins great victories
  - Rameses is a great pharaoh.

Are all the sentences definitely true? Which one is an opinion?

5. Can ordinary people go and pray in the temples?
6. Who are the scribes?
7. What do the scribes do?
8. What do scribes use to read?
9. How many signs are in the Egyptian alphabet?
10. What do priests do?
11. Do Egyptians believe in one only God?
12. Do you like Egyptian culture?