

Lesson Plan

Year Group: **Y3-Y6** Subject: **Literacy/History** Topic: **Egyptian Mythology**

Learning Objective: **I can use similes effectively**

Outcome/Purpose: **Poem about the Scarab Beetle** Audience: **Y2**

Curriculum links:

HISTORY:

Knowledge, Skills and Understanding Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past

2a. The ideas, beliefs, attitudes and experiences of men, women and children in the past.

Historical interpretation

3. The past is represented and interpreted in different ways, and to give reasons for this.

Organisation and communication

5c. Communicate their knowledge and understanding of history in a variety of ways.

Curriculum links:

LITERACY

Speaking

1. To speak with confidence in a range of contexts, adapting their speech for a range of purposes and audiences.

a. Use vocabulary and syntax that enables them to communicate more complex meanings.

b. Gain and maintain the interest and response of different audiences.

En 3 Writing

Knowledge, skills and understanding

Composition

1a. Choose form and content to suit a particular purpose [for example, notes to read or organise thinking, plans for action, poetry for pleasure].

1b. Broaden their vocabulary and use it in inventive ways.

1c. Use language and style that are appropriate to the reader.

Artefact: Heart Scarab (replica)

Artefact notes:

The Heart Scarab: Amulets

Scarab is a term used to refer to a popular symbol of the sun god in ancient Egypt. Scarab-shaped beads were used in jewellery such as rings and necklaces. The Heart Scarab was a powerful amulet that Egyptians often buried with the dead. In general, Heart Scarabs were larger than regular scarabs and were made of dark green stone. Hieroglyphs were inscribed on the bottom with instructions for the heart of the dead person. Heart Scarabs were placed on the chest of the mummy during the wrapping or sometimes inside the body. The heart scarab could replace the heart of the dead if it was lost or damaged. The scarab also could protect the real heart and aid it by stopping it from speaking against the person at the weighing of the heart judgement in the Afterlife.

The Heart Scarab: The Creature

The species of beetle represented by the scarab is the *Scarabaeus sacer* or dung beetle. This beetle feeds on animal dung. It makes the dung into balls and rolls them away to feed, often in a hole in the ground. Beetles frequently fight over dung balls and steal them from each other. Dung beetles also make pear-shaped balls of dung underground in which to lay eggs. The young beetle larvae feed on the dung until they are ready to come out of the ground as full-grown beetles.

The Heart Scarab: The Myth

The behaviour of the dung beetle reminded the Egyptians of the behaviour of the sun. The sight of the dung beetle rolling its ball of dung reminded the Egyptians of how the sun moves across the sky. The sight of full-grown beetles coming out of the ground reminded the Egyptians of the sun rising, the creation of the world, and the rebirth of the dead. In myth, the sun had to battle against evil forces to succeed after passing through the sky on earth and then into the Afterlife during night on earth. The Egyptian god connected to the dung beetle was named Khepri, which is the ancient Egyptian word for 'to become'. Khepri was a solar god with a special role as a creator. Sometimes Egyptians drew Khepri as a scarab pushing the sun across the sky, while at other times they drew him as a man with a scarab beetle for a head.



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Teaching/Learning:

1. Vocabulary/Glossary: Talks through the meanings of the important words.

2. Context: You are a poet and you have been asked to create a poem that is based on the Heart Scarab – as amulet, as creature and as myth. It should inspire the Y2 children to find out about ancient Egyptian artefacts. It should have three verses.

3. Read through the explanation: (Print and distribute Powerpoint page with explanations on it)

4. Explore Heart scarab artefact:

What does it feel like? (texture, temperature)

What does it look like? (colour, size, shape)

Pass around the Heart Scarab.

Your task will be to write a similes poem about the Heart Scarab.

Discuss what a simile is, and write up some examples, with reference to the Heart Scarab.

e.g. Your skin is as cold as ice.

e.g. You are smooth like silk.

Task:

Write a similes poem about the Heart Scarab.

Verse 1: The Heart Scarab: The Amulet

You are as cold as... (a frozen icicle shivering in the centre of Antarctica when the blizzards howl unkindly)

You are as shiny as... (a brand new car's bonnet shimmering sensationally on a showroom forecourt)

You are as hard as... (an impenetrable rock which taunts mockingly anyone who knocks)

You are as smooth as... (a freshly washed silken scarf which caresses the skin)

Verse 2: The Heart Scarab: The Creature

You roll balls of dung like... (enthusiastic youngsters when they're playing ten pin bowling energetically)

You push the dung down like... (a frustrated teenager struggling to fit all their clothes into their holiday suitcase forcefully)

Your young eat the dung hungrily like... (my impatient five year old brother attacking sausage and mash greedily)

Your young emerge from the earth like... (lively key stage two children hurtling wildly onto the playground at breaktime)

Verse 3: The Heart Scarab: The Myth

You move the sun across the sky like... (a confident teacher adding numbers on a numberline easily)

You push the sun into the afterlife which is as scary as... (being deserted unexpectedly alone at three in the morning in our creepy school corridor)

You make the sun rise again each day which makes me as happy as... (me unwrapping my special presents dynamically at Christmas time)

Success Criteria:

*Use feelings/emotions words (E.g. kind, considerate, empathy, sympathy)

*Use conjunctions (E.g. because, so, which means that)

*Use connectives (E.g. as a result, therefore, consequently)

*Neat handwriting.
*Decorate your lettering attractively.

Differentiation:

Less able:

Draw pictures to illustrate your helping history instead of writing.

More able:

Use a thesaurus and dictionary to investigate different feelings and emotions words.

Make your own pyramidion without the net provided.

Plenary:

*Share the poems with the class.

*Review Success Criteria.

*Choose poets to share their poems with Y2.

Vocabulary/Glossary:

scarab: a symbol of the sun god often made into amulets and shaped like the dung beetle.

amulet: an object that provides protection.

hieroglyphs: the writing system of ancient Egypt that used pictures and symbols instead of an alphabet.

larva: an early stage of growth for some insects after hatching from their egg when they often look like worms.

Afterlife: the life ancient Egyptians expected after death.

Khepri: a god of creation, the movement of the sun, and rebirth.

solar: of the sun.

Possible follow up activities:

HISTORY: Research other animals that had special significance in ancient Egypt.

LITERACY: Research other ancient Egyptian myths.

SCIENCE: Investigate the nutrition, movement, growth and reproduction of the dung beetle.