ROYALTY WORKBOOK

E14681, on display in The Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery
Amunirdis was the daughter of the Nubian pharaoh (king) Taharka! She had the role of God’s Wife of Amun, a god who had special connections with the government and the concept of kingship. Women with these roles assisted with government affairs with the help of many different Egyptian officials.

The woman standing to the left of Amunirdis is known as Diese-heb-sed. Her title was “singer in the Interior of the Temple of Amun” – she was a lower ranking person in the temple. It is believed that she was the personal ‘assistant’ of Amunirdis.

The inscription on this stele says:

… the estern horizon, kissing the earth for the westerners (i.e., the deceased ones)… [Singer in the Interior of the temple of Amun Diese-heb]-sed, daughter of the Priest of Amun, the Scribe of the Offering table… [Nes-ptah]… that you may traverse the heaven as one justified.

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Crows Scavenger Hunt

Crowns and other headdresses were common accessories worn by ancient royalty to show their status and power. Use this scavenger hunt to explore some of the ancient crowns of the OI's collection, then use these examples to design your own crown!

How to search for objects:
1. Go to oi-idb.uchicago.edu.
2. Type or copy and paste the registration number for the object (Example: E10486O).
3. Check the box “Images Only.”
4. Press Submit.

Which king is pictured in this relief, wearing the royal Assyrian headgear of a fez-shaped hat with a point, wrapped in a band and tied at the back? A34979

This relief most likely shows Prince Sennacherib, wearing a royal diadem decorated with rosettes. Where was this relief found? A7368

This stela shows a king (right) wearing the double crown of Egypt, standing before which three gods? Which headdress is your favorite? E13943

King Tut is shown wearing the double crown of Egypt in this statue. What is it made of? E14088
This stamp seal ring shows a king wearing a crown. What period is it from? A6801

This statue shows a Nubian ruler of Egypt, perhaps Taharka. He has a double s what on his forehead? E13954

A woman named Amunirdis II is shown in this relief wearing a bird-shaped headdress. What was her title? E14681

Using these examples of crowns worn by royalty throughout the ancient Middle East, design your own royal headdress or crown! What does each part symbolize?
Which Egyptian Pharaoh Are You?

Ever wondered what kind of ruler you would be if you were an Egyptian pharaoh? Take this quiz to figure out which ancient ruler you would resemble the most! Take a pen or pencil and circle your answers as you go.

1. What would be the first thing you would do as the pharaoh of Egypt?
A. Move the capital to the city of Memphis.
B. Launch a military campaign to secure Egypt’s borders.
C. Dedicate a sacred bull to honor the Egyptian god Montu.
D. Usurp the throne. Declare yourself pharaoh!
E. Begin planning to build a giant pyramid.

2. Which cartouche do you think best represents you?

3. Would you try to expand Egypt’s territory?
A. No, focus on issues within Egypt.
B. Yes, by force! Declare war on the neighboring Nubians and Hittites.
C. Yes, ally myself with other powerful leaders and try to take over the Roman Empire!
D. Yes, continue to guard and expand Egypt’s borders.
E. Yes, maintaining a military presence on the Sinai Peninsula is a top priority.
4. How will you show your allegiance to Egyptian religion and mythology?
A. Resurrect the Egyptian religion. We need a return to tradition.
B. Build statues to the gods all over Egypt.
C. Find a way to balance the old and the new.
D. Tell all my subjects my parents were gods.
E. Take on the name of the god of the Nile, Khnum, so that I may be both feared and respected.

5. How would your reign end?
A. Suddenly and without warning. It didn’t last as long as I was hoping.
B. After bringing prosperity to Egypt, nine future pharaohs take my name.
C. A Roman attack forces me to make a hard decision in a last-ditch effort to save my kingdom.
D. After twenty-one years, my successor would try to erase my name from history.
E. The throne would go to my son.

Last Question!

6. Some rulers had a flair for the dramatic. How would you be sent into the afterlife?
A. I would be buried quickly in a lackluster tomb. The sarcophagus would be incredible, though!
B. I would be buried with the other great pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings.
C. I would be buried with my life partner somewhere no one would ever find us.
D. A classic pharaoh’s tomb, fit for royalty.
E. The Pyramids of Giza! I want tourists to come see my tomb forever!

Now go back and count which letters you picked the most. Go to the next page to see which Egyptian pharaoh you would have been
If you got mostly A’s then you would be the pharaoh Tutankhamun!

Tutankhamun ruled from ca. 1342–1325 BC, taking the throne at the young age of eight years old! During his rule, he restored the ancient Egyptian religion that was lost during his father’s reign. He also helped rebuild monuments to the gods that were damaged or in disrepair. It seems King Tut was born with a malformed foot that made walking difficult. Despite this challenge, he excelled in archery and helped establish peace treaties with neighboring rulers.

If you got mostly B’s then you would be the Pharaoh Ramesses II!

Ramesses II ruled from 1279 to 1213 BC and was celebrated as one of the greatest pharaohs of the New Kingdom. Ramesses II was a great military leader and led expeditions to reassert Egyptian control of the Levant and parts of Nubia. He was most famous for building large monuments and founding new cities for the people of Egypt. The memorial temple built in his honor, the Rameseum, is still one of Egypt’s most enduring monuments.

If you got mostly C’s then you would be the ruler Cleopatra VII!

Cleopatra ruled over Egypt from 51 to 30 BC and was the last ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom. During Cleopatra’s rule, the Romans were in power over large swaths of the Mediterranean and she herself had family connections in Greece and Rome. She spoke many languages and guided Egypt through a time of intense, regional conflict as the world got ever smaller.

If you got mostly D’s then you would be the pharaoh Hatshepsut!

Hatshepsut ruled Egypt from 1507 to 1458 BC. Her major accomplishments include establishing trade networks that brought in foreign commerce, commissioning incredible statues all over the kingdom, and building temples to the gods that still stand today. She is perhaps most famous for being one of the few women to rule as pharaoh, having declared herself ruler.

If you got mostly E’s then you would be the pharaoh Khufu!

Khufu ruled from 2589 to 2566 BC although it is somewhat of a mystery if these dates are correct. Little is known about the reign of Khufu, however he is perhaps most famous for commissioning the first of the three Pyramids of Giza, among the largest structures in the ancient world. Although he intended to be buried in the pyramid, his mummy has never been found. Some think that grave robbers may have stolen it years ago, seeking treasure that would have been buried with the king.
Frieze of striding lions
A24068, on display in the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery

This frieze (a sculpted band of decoration) of lions is probably a stone imitation of a cloth canopy that the king of the Persian Achaemenid Empire would have sat under while in his throne room. The tassels at the bottom are inspired by woven materials, and the top part represents the canopy's roof and is decorated with a rosette or flower design. Striding lions in rows were a common symbol of power and protection in many cultures in the ancient Near East, making this a design fit for royalty.