Suggested Reading on Egypt

Children's Book Review

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SUGGESTED READINGS

* On Order  
Aliki. 1979  
Mummies Made in Egypt.  
Harper and Row.

The Aliki book on mummies is now available in paperback. The central focus is (as it should be) on the religious beliefs that motivated Egyptians to mummify their dead and to build large tombs (especially for pharaohs and rich people) to house all the kinds of things that would ensure the happiness of the family member in the next life.

*  
Allan, Tony, and Vivienne Henry. 1977.  
Pharaohs and Pyramids.  

This book will introduce you to life in ancient Egypt through a wealthy landowner and his wife. Pictures show the Nile as the center of life, the home, feasts, religious beliefs and government. All of the pictures and text are based on careful research. It is an excellent introduction to the Ramses II exhibit for all ages.

*  
The world of the pharaohs.  
New York, Pantheon, 256 p.

Written in narrative style. Compelling reading.

*  
Mysteries of the mummies: the story of the Manchester University investigation.  

Technical but very readable, well-illustrated account.
Farnay, Josie and Claude Soleillant. 1979
* Egypt: Activities and Projects in Color.

A one-page introduction to Egypt followed by detailed instructions for recreating the food decorations and clothes for the Egyptian festival of spring. It would need to be used with other books that inform about beliefs, symbols, government and geography of Egypt. Useful for grades 4 and up.

Glubok, Shirley. 1980.
On Order
* The Art of Egypt Under the Pharaohs.
New York, Macmillan. 44 p.

Black-and-white photos show Egyptian life through their art from Menes (the uniter of Upper and Lower Egypt) to Cleopatra VII (the last ruler before Egypt fell to the Romans). The photographs would be useful for primary grades. The text is suitable for upper elementary through eighth grade.

Glubok, Shirley. 1968.
Juvenile
* Discovering Tut-ankh-Amen's tomb.

This will be interesting to junior high and high school students, especially because of the large, marvelous photographs which were taken at the time by the Metropolitan Museum.

Ions, Veronica. 1975.
BL
* Egyptian mythology.

Good for junior high school.

The Nile Valley is a "museum" rich in temples, paintings and monuments. A team of photographers and scholars guide the reader through these far-flung archaeological sites that testify to the artistry and intelligence of the ancient Egyptians. The pictures are suitable for elementary school but the text is written for junior high and above.


Profuse illustration and fascinating text.


This starts off with an account of the unwrapping of the mummy of Rameses II (p. 13) and gets more and more interesting.


I don't now believe any of this, but I must confess it captivated me when I was in high school.


I have looked high and low for good translations of the timeless Egyptian tales and found only the scholarly translations. High school students, if they read only the parts that interested them, would find this interesting. Were I a high school student, I would write a report on Egyptian love poetry, which, when contrasted with current lyrics, would be as sensational as a report on the process of embalming.


Primarily for grade school, but older students will find the author's notes and the bibliography useful.

The coming of the Ramses II exhibit has generated a lot of interest in books about Egypt. To help make the children's books about Egypt available to more children's literature students and to parents in the BYU community, the books on Egypt were placed on 2 hour reserve at the Harold B. Lee Library. This means that anyone can have access to them in the reserve room and those with library cards may check them out for 2 hours or overnight. They are listed under the names of the teachers of children's literature, Lillian Heil, James Jacobs, and Welsford H. Clark. The books on reserve include the annotated ones that are *at the end of Thomas Hinckley's article plus the following books about Egypt.

Coatsworth, Elizabeth. Bess and the Sphinx.

Cohen, Daniel. The Tomb Robbers.

Coolidge, Olivia. Egyptian Adventures.
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