

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

A collection of 'mini-topics' offering interesting and challenging cross-curricular activities

Classroom Activities

Each group will need:

- Square pieces of cotton fabric (20x20cms)
- Marbles, pebbles or other small, round objects
- Strong rubber bands
- Decorations – these could be ribbons, sequins or buttons

Each class will need:

- Colourful cold water dyes, wooden spoons, plastic buckets and rubber gloves for the tie-dyeing process

Did you know?

The Ancient Egyptians used pictures of objects, people and animals called hieroglyphs as their writing system, which was developed around 3000BC.

Download the 'Joseph Education Pack' on the Stage A Musical website for more information on hieroglyphs.



A COLLABORATIVE COAT

Create Joseph's dreamcoat with tie-dye and embroidery

1 Dying your fabric square

Place a marble on the cotton square, pull the fabric round it and secure tightly with a rubber band. Repeat with two more marbles.

Choose the colour for your fabric and, wearing rubber gloves, place your square in the dye solution. Give it a stir and, when ready, carefully remove the rubber bands and marbles before hanging up each square to dry. An adult may need to do this for you.

2 Designing a hieroglyph

Research Ancient Egyptian symbols and practise drawing some designs on paper. Once your fabric square has been dried and ironed, decorate it with your chosen hieroglyph. Use fabric crayons, or sew it on using thread, sequins, buttons, beads or ribbons. Remember to leave a small gap around the edge of your square.

3 Creating the dreamcoat

In groups of four, arrange your squares in an eye-catching order to create a rectangle four squares long. These will then be sewn together to make part of the final dreamcoat. The dreamcoat will be a loose, poncho-style garment, which will enable everyone's work to be clearly displayed. There should be an opening halfway along for Joseph's head, and some ribbons sewn along the edges as bows to hold the garment together.



Display your dreamcoat

Create a class display, featuring your design ideas and photos of the different stages. You could display your finished coat on a hanger or mannequin.

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Did you know?

Papyrus reeds, which grow along the Nile, were used to make paper or 'papyrus'. The plants have fibrous stems that can be peeled off like leeks. The papyrus filaments were weighted to force out the sticky 'sap' or juice between the fibres. This glued the layers together to make a sheet of parchment. You can watch this process on YouTube at bit.ly/making_papyrus

You will need:

- Strips of brown wrapping paper (25x5cm)
- PVA glue (diluted solution, half-and-half) in a shallow tray
- Heavy weights
- Plastic sheeting or Clingfilm

Further activities

Elegant Egyptians Create a stunning montage to illustrate the life of wealthy Egyptians. Research their clothes, wigs, jewellery, cosmetics, food and social life. Working in pairs, arrange your findings on a sheet of A2 card. You may decide to mount some pieces of information on coloured card or add a 3D effect using 'sticky' pads. Aim for total coverage and don't forget an elegant title!

A MESSAGE TO JOSEPH

Create a papyri complete with a hieroglyphic message for Joseph

1 Creating your papyrus 'sap'

Cover your table with plastic sheeting or Clingfilm before you begin. Dip your paper strips into the glue solution so that each is liberally covered in watery glue.

2 Creating the layers

Place five strips lengthways side by side, then place another five strips on top at right-angles to the first layer. Continue building the layers like this (aim for at least four) before putting another piece of plastic or Clingfilm on top. The papyrus should be weighted down with heavy objects before being left to dry.

3 Write a message to Joseph

Draft a short message to Joseph warning him that his long-lost brothers are on their way to Egypt. See if you can write some of your message in hieroglyphics! Draw your final version on your dried papyrus.



The River Nile, a guide book

Working in a group, choose an aspect of the Nile to form a chapter of a guide book. You could pick wildlife, flooding and farming, boats and travel, papyrus, settlements, tombs. Choose a presentational style (a mini-talk, a PowerPoint slide display, 3D models).

Joseph's Diary, the story through his eyes

As a class, decide on some key points in Joseph's story as a focus for a chapter in Joseph's Diary. Create a short, concise diary entry, written in the first person, recording Joseph's emotions and reactions to what's happening around him. Don't forget to include his interactions with other characters!