

By

Joe Dean

The Ultimate Ancient Egyptian Themed Event

By Joe Dean

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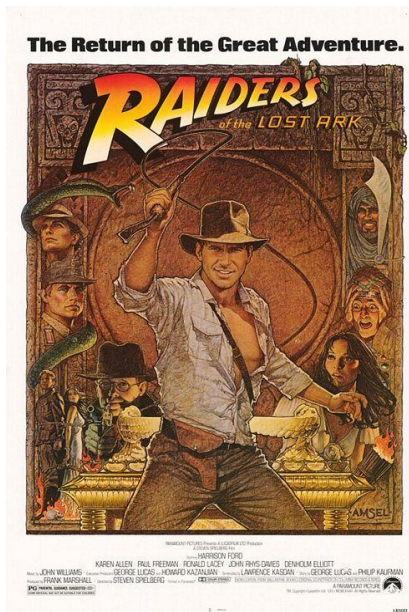
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Introduction

The purpose of this e-book is to provide a large amount of ideas and activities to plan the ultimate ancient Egyptian themed party or event. Through my treasure hunt production company, Quest Experiences, I've hosted dozens upon dozens of such themed parties and events. This packet is the culmination of the ideas used in those productions. I've made every attempt to group the ideas for easier navigation. Most importantly, however, I've taken special time and energy to ensure that you'll find only 'meat' - workable ideas that are original and creative...no fluff or fillers.

I've divided the activities into two major groups, Kids and Adults. However, depending on your guests, you might find both lists useful. I know several older children that would have a great time with some of the games listed under adults and I know even more adult friends who would have a fun time with some of the games listed under the Kids section.

I hope you enjoy your reading and that you are inspired to make your next themed party or event an EXTRAVAGANZA!

Joe Dean
Author

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Decorations and Atmosphere

Decorations/Props

Of course, with an unlimited budget, you can always visit your local party prop warehouse and rent all kinds of fun props for your event. However, it has been my experience that these products are often of very poor quality and are very expensive to rent. Garage sales are a lot of help...it just takes quite a few before you find something you can use. The following list is for the rest of us who have to be a little more creative to keep the costs down...

- 1 See what kind of rope you might have in your garage (or friends' garages...) - the dirtier and more worn, the better. These look great hanging in a 'rigging' fashion. HINT: When asking around for rope, be careful of what you ask for....a lot of people have that bright yellow, coarse rope...not exactly the right look...
- 2 These look REALLY great...but you'll need someone who has a very simple computer graphics program and the basic knowledge to use it. Download some nice photos from the Internet of ancient Egypt (you should be overwhelmed by the selection you find on the Internet) and load them into the graphics program. You can do this by 'right clicking' with your mouse on any picture you like, then selecting 'Save As' among the options. Save these to a disk or your hard drive. Across the top (or in any other place, depending on how creative you want to get with it...) put the words of the location (i.e. Egypt, Giza, Cairo, etc.) Then, in one of the corners put a large number...essentially, you are making a large stamp. Once you have the image the way you want it, print it out and decorate cut the edges all around in the fashion of a large stamp. These look great just about anywhere. HINT: These can be done in assembly-line fashion and can be cranked out relatively fast once you get into the 'groove' of it.
- 3 For simple, stone temple walls, cut 'bricks' from cardboard boxes. A perfect cube has six sides, but a box with flaps on top and bottom has 14! Cut each piece out individually and attach to a wall with the plain side outward. Images can now be drawn for the final

- touch. This is great for covering a large area with minimal materials.
- 4 Gold coffin (or gold walls, if needed.) Spray paint the box structure with a standard HIGH GLOSS finish gold spray paint (not matte finish.) Using some art history books as guides, draw cartouche images on the sides using a fine tipped, black permanent marker. Now, the marker will not be dark enough atop the gold spray paint...you'll need to go back over it with some black acrylic paint. Some color was used by the Egyptians, notably white, turquoise and an earthy brick red. Reflect these colors in touch up details on the sides of the coffins.
 - 5 For centerpieces, or just decorations in general, use any kind of survival gear you can get your hands on (lanterns, compasses, canteens, rope, hiking boots, shovels, etc.)
 - 6 A word about fog machines...In the right place, they can be VERY effective. Contact your local stage and lighting company for rates and available products for rental. HINT: If you'd like a thick fog, make sure that you get some PEA SOUP liquid (they make different kinds.) The usual liquid they offer dissipates rather quickly. Fog looks great - especially at the entrance.
 - 7 A great trick (although requires someone to man it) for an entrance sign is to cut the words announcing your party or event (i..e. "The Mummy's Tomb" or whatever your title is) out of a large sheet of cardboard (dryer box size.) Build a support for this large sheet of cardboard (so that NOTHING can move it - especially in the wind.) On the opposite side (not facing the crowd) adhere some orange or yellow cellophane, covering all the letters. Finally, behind this cardboard sign place a fire source (lined up tiki torches or, if you can, a fire blazing BBQ grill - with lots of lighter fluid on hand.) The effect is a sign with the fire shimmering light (in the color of the cellophane you've chosen) shining the title to your party or event. Again, looks great, but needs someone to man the fire the entire time unless you've used the tiki torches.
 - 8 For simple temple walls, try using standard cardboard voting booths. For a local supplier, check you nearest elementary school so see where they get theirs. These walls can be covered quickly and easily with butcher paper and positioned in any way to suit your needs and location.

- 9 Old research books look great as centerpieces. Go to your local library (college libraries are much better for this) and look for old, antique books, preferably on ancient Egypt. They always have them...and they look great for atmosphere.
- 10 In the same vein as above, set up a small research table vignette. Stack up some old books, strew around some loose papers with notes scribbled on them, some pencils, etc. Have a single candle burning to illuminate the vignette...simple, elegant and effective.
- 11 Attempt to rig low wattage, yellow/orange light bulbs along you're wall - in the fashion of an excavated, temple hallway. Even if the lights are not connected, run a thin wire/extension cord, connecting light to light, to resemble the light fixtures in a 1930 archeological dig. Metal lanterns (purchased at home/garden stores - spray-painted black) look fantastic for this as well, however, be aware of what nearby props are flammable!
- 12 If you use the fog, have fun with different kinds of back lighting. Place a small light source with a colored filter (cellophane, etc.) Yellow or orange work great. When the light is on the other side of the fog, the overall look is both exciting and mysterious.
- 13 Weather permitting, tiki torches are a great way to set the mood in an outdoor setting. Even if your event is to be held entirely indoors, a few lit torches on the outside entrance look fantastic - especially at dusk. These can be usually purchased at Wal-Mart or most garden centers.
- 14 Visit your local library and photocopy old maps (found in their reference section.) Black and white copies can then be taken to your local print shop/copy center to have blown up to any size you want (3' x 4' feet.) When they are blown up that large, they get very 'grainy,' which a great affect for antique maps. These can then be either hung on the walls, or rolled up and placed around the party/event. If you are particularly clever, you can incorporate one or more of these in a treasure hunt (see TREASURE HUNT section.)
- 15 Create, what I call, a portal to your event. By this, I mean any special way of decorating the ENTRANCE to your event. Have your guests walk through a short cave, through the entrance to an ancient Egyptian temple, past an exotic marketplace, anything you can think of to utilize the 'first impression' maxim. This is

especially effective for events where the decorations on the inside are limited or merely dwarfed by the size of the event's location. An interesting idea also would be to create some sort of 'time portal' or 'time machine' at the entrance for your guests to walk through to take them back in time.

- 16 If your event is held in the evening and will be illuminated with some outdoor back lighting, try using different colors of light bulbs. Yellow or orange light bulbs (red, as well) can be purchased at most home improvement or discount stores very inexpensively. Play around with them...you'll be surprised at the effect they give.
- 17 Gather as many shovels and digging tools as you can find. By themselves they aren't necessarily that effective, but next to a small dug hole, with a table full of old looking books (from libraries would work just fine) and journals they really look great (especially if it's a real old shovel and such...)
- 18 Name your location. Invite your guests to Cairo, Thebes, or The Valley of the Kings, etc. By naming it and referring to that name you'll create a definite place and time for your guests. It's amazing the credibility that is given when it is given a name.
- 19 Borrow some VCRs from some friends and have different Egyptian themed movies being played throughout the event/party area. The great part about this is that the volume does not need to be turned on. The visuals alone are great. Some movies to consider are (and check your local library before you begin renting): *The Mummy* (there are several versions of this great movie, from Boris Karloff to Brendan Frasier), *Cleopatra* (Elizabeth Taylor), *Stargate* (James Spader).
- 20 Similar to the above, hang movie posters from famous Egyptian themed movies. These can be purchased through any number of movie poster companies online. For a more economical approach, nab them from the Internet and print them out on 8 ½ x 11 sheets of paper for 'mini' posters.
- 21 Use lots of candles for lighting. If you are short on candlesticks, melt some wax on scrap pieces of wood and adhere small votive candles to it. These look great when lined up in a line about three inches from each other.
- 22 Have some live characters roaming around, mingling with the guests. How about an archeologist looking for his partner that

mysteriously disappeared...or perhaps an Egyptian government official looking for notorious grave robbers? How about one of the pharaoh's guards looking for an escaped slave...or someone dressed as a mummy, walking around to haunt the guests? These characters do not need to be present for long periods of time. In fact, it is best if they are not. Let them come...and then go. Your guests will be incredibly impressed.

- 23 If you want to paint with a faux rock/stone finish (without spending an arm and a leg on those craft store kits) buy a few cans of spray paint instead. Gray, black and white should do the trick (unless you'd like to substitute and black gray with tan and brown - for caves.) With a hobby razor blade, lightly score the nozzle hole of the spray can. This will cause the paint to sputter rather than spray. Make sure the surface is covered first in the gray (or brown), then add some sputtering of the white and black.
- 24 Don't be afraid to use a little dirt for decoration. This looks especially nice sprinkled around the bottom of table centerpieces. Along with the dirt you could add small shovels, lanterns, plastic bugs or snakes, rubber skulls or small figurines painted gold (see the TREASURE section.)
- 25 If you've used cardboard in any way to build temple walls et. al., make sure to have a few 'loose stones' (individual empty boxes) laying about the foot of the temple walls to simulate the walls coming apart.
- 26 Give small printed cards to the guests on how to translate some of the hieroglyphs during their experience. Such writing can either be made up or easily researched on the Internet to get a few words for fun. Draw the images on dark butcher paper and hang these around the party/event. Additionally, you'll be able to utilize language to instill fun and 'fear' by creating curses and warnings as to what the guests are about to encounter.
- 27 Create the entrance to a large Egyptian tomb for your guests to enter through. This can be accomplished by stacking boxes (staggered so seams are not all lined up). Then, spray paint the walls using the three-color technique described in the faux rock painting mentioned above.
- 28 If you use balloons, sepia colors look fantastic. A tan and darker brown together really bring the antique look alive. If you do plan

on using some color, may I suggest finding some Jewel Toned. This is a specific type of balloon - mostly in color. The red isn't flat, it's more like a ruby. The blue is a deep sapphire. They are shiny and look FANTASTIC.

- 29 Spider webbing is a must. It's cheap and a little goes a long way. For best results, apply sparingly and thinly. Webbing is great for placing in front of areas that you do not want others to have access to. I can't think of any place at your event where a little spider webbing wouldn't be appropriate - as long as it is thinly applied. Once again, check your local Halloween stores (online as well) for the best deals.
- 30 For great temple columns, call around to a couple local construction companies and ask where they purchase sono tubes. These can be bought in a variety of widths and sizes and are very sturdy.
- 31 For VERY inexpensive brick walls, use brown postal wrapping paper and a new rectangle sponge. With any water based paint (try not to dilute it too much) use the sponge as a stamp to imprint bricks onto the paper. Although not very realistic, it 'works' for areas that are not meant for high profile places. A great way to blanket an area.
- 32 Don't be limited to a single aspect of ancient Egypt (space permitting.) You could have one section of the event be near a dig site, another located next to an ancient temple, and yet another near an oasis. Allow your guests to travel throughout the Egyptian world. The more exotic, the better.
- 33 Hang fabric for simple decoration. Near larger metropolitan areas one can always find some type of 'garment district' or wholesaler shops for fabric. These are great for finding a high variety of prints for prices that are a steal. Find some shiny fabric or flat (but colorful) striped and drape it the way a vendor would in an exotic marketplace. This simple trick does wonders for decoration (especially when the decoration supply is pretty thin.)
- 34 If your guests will pass by a plot of dirt of any kind, transform it first into some quicksand. Dig a wide, but shallow, hole and line it with black, painter's plastic. Cover the plastic with dirt and fill with water. Place dried leaves on top, not completely covering the pool, but enough to hide its shallowness. A driftwood sign with the words "Beware of quicksand" will finish off the scene.

- 35 If you need a handy and cheap way to make tree trunks for your oasis, take a roll of brown packing paper and unroll a long piece, about 15'. Twist the paper over and over, then attach it to the wall in a leaning position, creating a tree trunk. Take smaller pieces, twisting them as well, to create offshoot branches.
- 36 A trick for cargo/feed sacks is to sew big sacks of burlap, stuffing them with pillows or crumpled newspaper. Using stencils, spray paint (black) the words of your location (i.e. Cairo, etc.) Stacked up in corners or against the wall look really great.
- 37 If signs need to be made, find yourself some old, rotten wood (or wood from broken pallets.) Paint the words on these pieces...looks right out of a dig site.
- 38 A great place (and cheapest) to get bones is at a butcher shop. Explain to the butcher that you want the largest bones they have (usually beef legs) with the least amount of meat on them. Take them home and in a large roasting pan, boil the tar out of them. Once they are completely boiled and free of anything but bone, allow them to dry in the sun for a couple of days. These look fantastic and look great around a dig site or near a temple idol.
- 39 Make signs (using the driftwood approach as described earlier) at the entrance to your event saying "Valley of the Kings Dig Site" or "Oxford University Archeological Team" or even "Enter at your own risk!"
- 40 At the entrance to your party/event, station a live person in character to greet them as they enter. A few examples are described below:
- 1 A fellow archeologist either welcoming them to 'the team' or asking them for directions on his/her map.
 - 2 An Egyptian, government official requesting to see their travel papers/passports (see INVITATIONS idea)
 - 3 A local merchant/trader at a marketplace trying to peddle his wares to those passing by. The level of his obnoxious selling tactics would depend on your own decision as to what your guests would enjoy the most.
- 41 Go to your local pool supply store (or ask around for those who own pools) for inflatable alligators. These may not be on the classy side...but they can be fun. It just depends on the crowd coming to your event.

Sound

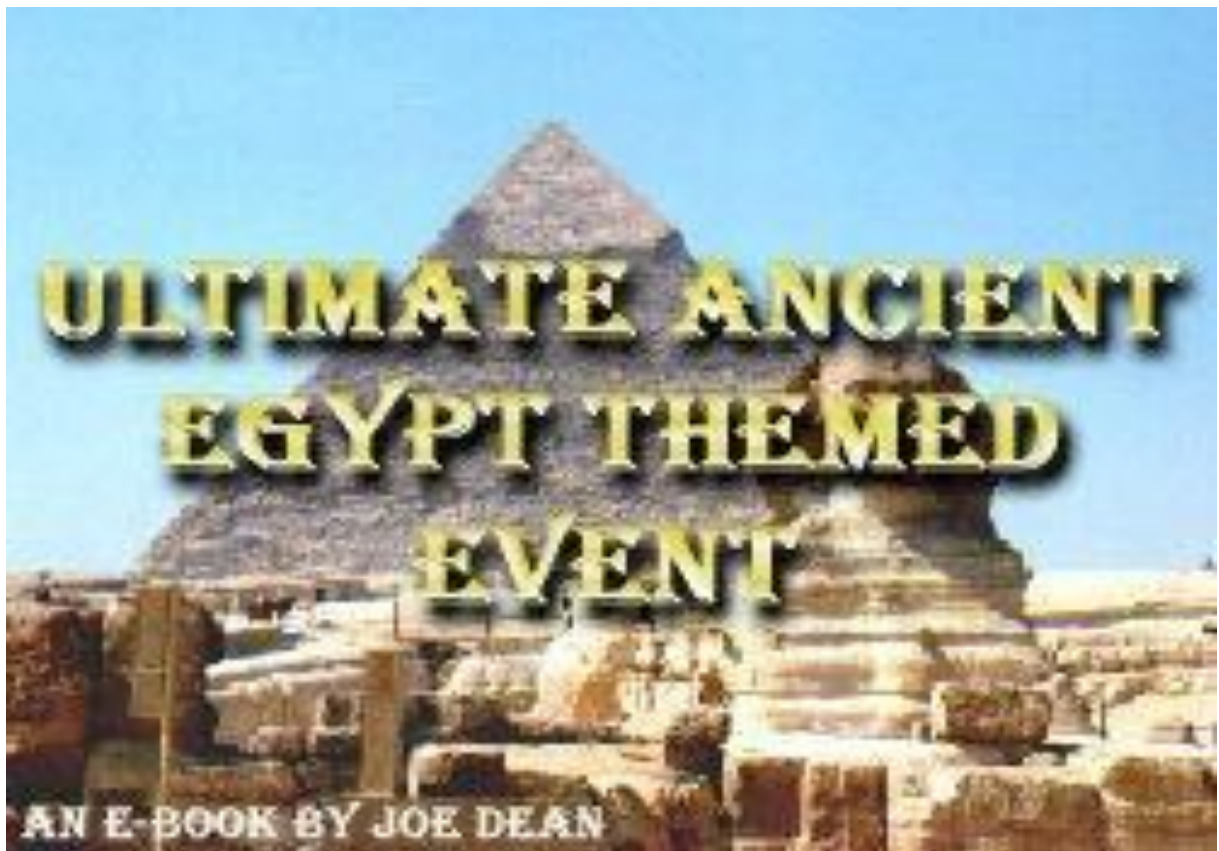
- 1 Buy a continuous tape and create wonderful background sound effects for your event. The best way to do this is to ask your local university college student to take you with them to their college library. These typically have extensive collections of music and sound recordings (including sound effects.) Free for students, they also offer sound-proof music listening rooms for recording. Some sample sounds might include mummy moans, sand storms (winds whistling through temple hallways), cobra hissing and modern Egyptian folk music.
- 2 If the university library option is not available, find someone who has a computer CD burner. Just about any sound effect can be downloaded for free off the Internet.
- 3 Remember, you can have different sounds at different places throughout your party/event. Perhaps by your temple hallway you could have the whistling of wind. Near your marketplace you could have the sounds of a bustling crowd and street musicians. Get the idea? Just make sure that the sounds are not set such that one 'bleeds' or overpowers another.
- 4 Another idea for background music is to play a soundtrack from an adventure themed movie (*Indiana Jones* is the most obvious, but other movie soundtracks would work as well.) There are some great soundtracks out there (i.e. *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns* with Brendan Frasier).

As a free note: Remember, background music is just that... BACKGROUND music. Unless it is part of an activity, background sounds should never be obtrusive to common conversation, no matter how much time you spent on it and how proud you are with the results.

Costumes

- 1 Of course you can always rent an elaborate costume for \$100, but it always makes me sick to my stomach when I have to do that... The ol' standby garage sale and second hand stores work

even better. First of all, it can be a lot of fun perusing through the clothes, creating your own character. Second, it's yours to keep once you buy it (unlike renting it.)



Treasure

- 1 A great place to get your hand on gold trinkets is taking advantage of after Christmas sales - in the ornament department. Dime stores are great suppliers of cheap gold trinkets.
- 2 If you are unable to find whole jewels, you can purchase flat sided hobby jewels at a craft store. Glue the two ends together for an instant jewel.
- 3 Know anyone who is planning on visiting Disneyland between now and your event? At the Pieces of Eight store they have the best looking jewels I have ever seen (and believe me, I've been looking for a better supplier of them for 20 years.) They are bit costly, but look absolutely fantastic.
- 4 Check your local thrift stores for large jewelry pieces and gold looking plates. You'd be surprised what you can find for a buck.
- 5 Once again, take advantage of after Christmas sales by checking out the gold bead garland. You can usually purchase these for a song a carol?).
- 6 If you are able (to really make a gold idol brilliant) shine a yellow backlight on it. It looks amazing!
- 7 If you can find a carnival supply store (or check online i.e. Oriental Trading Company) for great cheap trinkets, try it - the best place to land yourselves a ton of gold looking coins.
- 8 Use shiny fabric. It can be costly, but looks great when hung.
- 9 Find some small statues of cats, alligators, snakes and hippos (doesn't matter what they are made of) and spray paint them gold. Thrift stores and garage sales are great places to find odd looking objects...just waiting to be turned into an ancient temple idol!

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Invitations

- 1 Photocopy the invitations on single sided sheets of parchment paper (is cheaper to buy your own paper at a paper supply warehouse and take it to a self serve copier store.)
- 2 Just about any font (style of writing) can be downloaded free off the Internet. Have a little fun while you browse.



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- 3 In your invitations, give each guest a specific title, career and area of specialized knowledge. (i.e. Dr. Bill Jones, Director of Antiquities for the New York Metropolitan Museum of Natural History, or Professor Eileen Wilmer, renowned Egyptologist, etc.) If you are especially clever with a computer (or know someone else who is...) you can even make ID badges of sorts for each to bring and wear to the party/event.
- 4 The following link will take you to a great site that explains how to make some really great papyrus paper:
<http://www.digonsite.com/drdig/egypt/3.html>
- 5 Make invitations from post cards. Either that, or make your invitations to LOOK like exotic postcards - utilizing exotic photos

found on the Internet and printed out. You could also check out your local library...most have a table of free publications (usually with lots of *National Geographic* magazines). Peruse them for topics and photos on ancient Egypt.

- 6 Provide mock airplane tickets with the invitations, allowing them to travel to Egypt.
- 7 Have fun creating a great looking map to your location. Use the last idea listed in INVITATIONS on how to antique the paper. You could even mark the path with a red marker (as exemplified in all the travel scenes for the Indiana Jones movies...)
- 8 Insert mock passports into each invitation (or decorate the invitation as such) detailing the adventure they are about to embark on. If you are able to, attempt to apply a picture of each guest to their passports...perhaps they won't be allowed into your 'foreign country' without the appropriate passport. What great fun it would be to have a government official at the entrance to the party/event, checking each guest's 'papers' before allowing them to enter!
- 9 Invitations can be rolled up and tied with ribbon, torn material, or (my personal favorite) coarse rope twine.
- 10 Disguise your invitation as a travel itinerary from a local travel company - detailing the exotic stops the guest will make during the party/event.
- 11 Don't invite them to a party. Invite them to an adventure! - "Join an archeological dig in Thebes!"
- 12 Decorate the invitation like an issue from an old Chicago newspaper - or even from Egypt itself. Some of the articles might be fun and fictitious, while the others (main one) would include all the details for the party.
- 13 Guise the invitation as a call for a new archeological team, awaiting to explore a previously unopened ancient tomb or temple.
- 14 Download from the Internet (or photocopy) images from adventure movie stills (*Cleopatra*, *The Mummy*, etc.) Cut small comic strip blurbs/bubbles out and clue them to the image - allowing the characters to say something. Now put funny words in the mouths of the characters, inviting guests to the party. You might want to make one master copy with the bubble(s) and words, then photocopy the others for the invitations (unless the words on each

invitation are to be different - i.e. including the name of each of the guest in the bubble.)

- 15 The following is an excerpt from *Ultimate Treasure Hunts* (a downloadable e-book from Quest Experiences)

BAKING PAPER

When I make antique treasure maps, however, I use a different method of aging the paper. Although it can be time consuming, the result is well worth the time spent. Once I have the map image copied onto the standard stock white copy paper (the cheaper the paper, the better), I give it a crispy, water soaked feel by treating it in the following way. Preheat a standard kitchen oven to BROIL. Please do not confuse this with the BROILER of the oven. Place an old, flat cookie sheet on the top rack of the oven. With any can of cheap aerosol laundry spray starch, spray a single piece of paper and quickly lay it flat on the hot cookie sheet you have in the hot oven. Keep a close eye on the paper as the oven does its work. Initially, the paper will probably begin to curl and then finally flatten again. As it flattens, keep your eye on it. The brown discoloring can happen rather quickly. Once the paper is the desired color, remove the paper from the cookie sheet with an oven mitt and repeat the previous steps until you have aged all your maps and clues. The process gives the paper a stiffer effect, like paper that was once soaked in water and then left out in the sun to dry. To further the effect, leave the paper in the oven longer. The paper will get darker, however the image should still be readable. Due to the prolonged time in the oven, the paper will become extremely brittle. Now, your guests will have to make sure they take extra care of the map/clue or else it will break into several pieces.

WATER SOAKING PAPER

There is another method for aging your paper. As with the above example, you need to make sure that your image is already on your paper. With this method in particular, it is highly recommended that the image be photocopied onto your paper, rather than applied with a pen, marker or other 'wet' medium. Take your paper and crumble it up into a ball as tight as you can. Then, open the paper flat. Now, crumple it up again, creating as many new wrinkles in the paper as possible.

Open it up once more. Now, in a small bucket, mix some brownish water using any of a number of things (i.e. acrylic paints, clayish mud, etc.) Make sure that your murky solution is dilute enough or else when you dip your paper into it, your image will not be legible. I have heard of using coffee for this kind of staining, but I have not been able to think of a way to explain why the map or clue would have smelt like coffee. Tea works better, if you go this route. Now, fully immerse the paper in the murky water, squeezing and releasing like a sponge until the water has worked completely into the paper. Finally, lay the paper flat in the sun to dry outside. When it is completely dry, you will find that your clue or map has become water-soaked aged and is quite leathery - a real neat trick.

BURNING PAPER

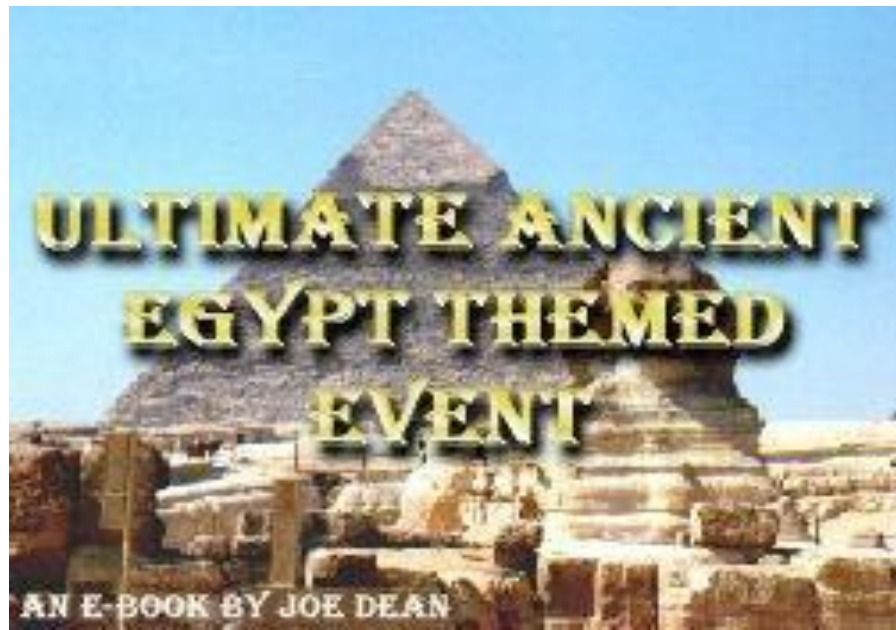
Once you've treated your paper, try burning the edges. Sometimes burning off a mere corner is enough. Other times, extensive burning might be the only way to achieve the look you want. Either way, follow these helpful steps to ensure success. First off, make sure that you are in a safe, well-ventilated place away from flammable materials. Also, make sure you are safe from any breezes. The best flame source is a small votive candle. They are stable and inexpensive. Place the candle on a small plate or piece of cardboard before lighting it. This will catch all the melted wax these candles are notorious for. Holding the paper horizontally over the flame, bring it closer until the edge barely ignites. Let the paper burn slowly until you have reached either the desired burn or the flame is beginning to get out of control. It is better to do several small controlled burns, than one out of control one. At this time, sandwich the paper in between an old, folded over towel and pat it down until there are **NO BRIGHT ORANGE CINDERS** on the edge of the paper. Different papers have different chemicals. Some paper, unless you completely blot them as described, will continue burning very slowly, consuming the whole sheet if you allow it. Repeat this process until you have achieved the desired look. For the best results, let the paper burn unevenly. As a fun idea, you might want to put a small note on your maps saying something like "To quickly find the treasure, go to..." and then burn that last part off. The effect is that the map once had the answer the teams will be looking for, but it was burned off.

For another interesting effect, try lowering the paper upon the flame vertically. The flames will create black burning streaks, rising up the edge of the paper. Although tricky, it produces some great results. **SAFETY TIP!!! DO NOT ROLL THE PAPER WHEN BURNING THE EDGES!!!** The funnel you create can cause fire to shoot up inside the tube, possibly burning your hands or face.

Although I am reluctant to mention this for safety reasons, it IS possible to burn a small (or large) hole in the MIDDLE of the paper. Look over the candle directly from above as you lower your paper onto the flame. Use the bright light of the flame as it shows itself through the thin paper as a guide. Place the flame directly under where you want the hole to be. The flame slowly thinks about breaking through, but does not immediately. Then, suddenly, the flame will break through with a small (or large) PUFF and you will have a small fire to put out. Quickly put the paper in between the towels and smother out all of the bright orange cinders as described above.

A final note when dealing with burning paper...it can be very messy. The ashes that burn off tend to make a black mess. In addition, your paper will now be equally as messy (especially around the edges). You might want to run the towel along all the burnt edges to scrape or break off any pieces that are still attached. Perhaps not, though. If you are going for the extremely brittle approach as previously described, you may want to leave all the burnt ashes still attached to your edges.

Once you have your paper, you can take things a step further. Try treating the envelope. You might want to burn a corner off the envelope. A neat trick, though it requires spending a little money, is to go to a craft store and purchase a small wax sealer. They are great fun to use and really make your piece look from another time.



Food

Drinks

- 1 Put gummy worms in the punchbowl. Plastic/rubber bugs and snakes work great, too.
- 2 This is a neat little trick I learned at Halloween. Put small plastic spiders in the ice cube trays before you freeze them. This way, when the ice cube melts, a surprise is waiting for your guest.

Cake

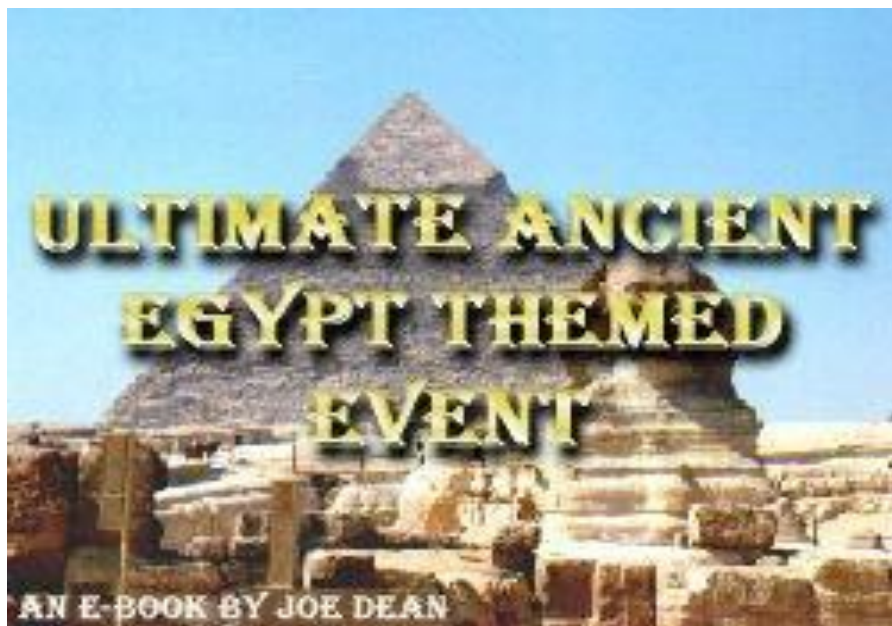
- 3 Hide a plastic treasure or jewels and coins INSIDE the cake (they can be pushed into the cake after it cools but before it is frosted.)
- 4 These are great for decorating just about any dessert. With a small tube of black cake icing, draw a small spider (with eight legs) and a body about the size of an M&M. The entire spider should be about the size of a quarter. Where the body is (where you've placed the small glob of frosting), place an actual M&M here (writing side down.) You are going to love how great these look (not to mention how easy they are to make.) These look great when they completely COVER a cake or a plate of cupcakes
- 5 Ask around for anyone who might have a Lego Adventure Set (one of the old sets from a few years ago). These are great set-ups/scenes to set up as cake toppings...and, best of all, because they are Lego, they can be made into what you'd like, fitting your cake!
- 6 Design a treasure map or one detailing the path of the Nile River. Where the X is, hide treasure underneath as described above - for the guest of honor.
- 7 Crush up graham crackers to use as sand.
- 8 Visit your local candy store. You'd be surprised at all the different kinds of candy you can purchase (and this way you can purchase as few quantity of each kind as you need). These are great for chocolate coins, realistic candy rocks, candy rope and bugs and candy necklaces.

- 9 A real neat touch is to buy a lot of specially colored M&Ms at your local candy store. Buy mostly yellow, with some white, tan and dark brown. Place these candies all over the edge of the cake in a cobblestone fashion (making sure the top row is uneven). The effect will be an old temple wall that is crumbling. This is most impressive!

Misc.

- 10 Gold foiled Hershey kisses make nice 'treasures.'
- 11 Give your food/drinks alternate names (i.e. Pharaoh's Royal Punch, Stew of the Nile, Cleopatra's Snake Surprise, etc.)
- 12 Allow your guests to sit on the floor with lots of pillows for a more exotic feel to the meal.
- 13 Adventure and BBQs go together! Plan something exotic outside over open flames!
- 14 This is great for any age. Use all the techniques we grew up with building Christmas gingerbread houses to create an ancient Egyptian temple! Both kids and adults will have fun constructing and decorating their mysterious structures. One thing this has over the Christmas homes is that it can actually look BETTER if the gingerbread pieces are irregular or even broken. These make great centerpieces, as running activities during the party or even as a contest among small groups of guests. If you turn this into a contest, make sure that every team is given the same amount of gingerbread pieces...
- 15 Spider web cookies. These look great and, best of all, are VERY easy and quick. Make simple, round sugar cookies, using your favorite recipe. Once the cookies have had a chance to cool, put icing on each, covering the tops of all. Now with a different color (both colors of your choice) create concentric circles on top of the cookie (creating a 'bulls-eye' effect.) The more concentric circles you are able to fit, them better the look. Now, take a toothpick and begin by poking the center of the cookie. Now drag the toothpick point directly out to the edge of the cookie in a straight line. You'll see that the circles will be pulled, creating a web pattern. Rotate the cookie slightly and repeat the dragging from

- the center to the edge. Complete the dragging around the whole cookie and VOILA! You've got a great spider web pattern!
- 16 Allow the kids to decorate their own place mats. Give each child a piece of construction paper and a bunch of things to decorate with (markers, jewels, etc.) to turn their mat into ancient treasure map. It's a great way to keep the kids active - and they'll enjoy using them that much more!
 - 17 Set the food up in such a fashion as to simulate a marketplace trade stand. Use multicolored material swags, wheel barrels to hold the ice and drinks and use brass bowls and necklaces for any centerpieces needed.
 - 18 You can purchase actual alligator and other exotic meat at large grocery stores. This can be a lot of fun, just be sensitive to your guests.
 - 19 Tropical fruits and dates can look and taste great - making sure that they set the correct locale for your chosen destination.
 - 20 Crumple up graham crackers in a bowl and but gummy worms and plastic spiders buried underneath. Serve it like a salad.
 - 21 Purchase some cheap beige fabric (or colorful stripes if fitting more with your décor) as napkins. Cut them in squares, leaving the frayed edges for the more 'rustic' look.



Treasure Hunt

Below you'll find lots of ideas to plan a mini, ancient Egyptian themed adventure treasure hunt. Coming soon to Quest Experiences are five ancient Egyptian themed treasure hunt puzzles with a sixth puzzle interlocking the answers to the other five - to be released mid-November, 2003!

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[DOWNLOAD OUR ANCIENT EGYPTIAN THEMED TREASURE HUNT PUZZLES PACKAGE!!!](#) A complete 1930s archeology themed treasure hunt - all ready to be set up by you! FIVE, ready to be set up Indiana Jones style treasure hunt clues and puzzles - This treasure hunt is NOT just a bunch of random word searches and paper mazes...The whole treasure hunt is bound together by a story, in a way that only a professional treasure hunt designer can do! - Follow the trail of five national archeological teams from all over the world as they search for the tomb of Thutmose IV! Just fill in the locations specific to your playing area or city, make the needed

copies and you are ready to go! Already working on a treasure hunt of your own? No problem, these puzzles were cleverly designed to be inserted into a treasure hunt of your own! Use just one or use all five! To learn more about this item, click [HERE](#).

Other Ideas:

- 1 Provide an adventure for your participants...not just a treasure hunt. Come up with a storyline to drive your hunt. Was the treasure or idol they are looking for stolen by another archeologist? Or has it never been recovered with only the myth of its existence circulating the world? Have fun coming up with some side-plots to help drive your hunt.
- 2 Why not actually bury a treasure in a sandbox (elementary schools if on the weekend). **JUST MAKE SURE THAT NOT A SINGLE KID SEES YOU DO IT!!!** It will be far too irresistible for them to dig it up for themselves once you've gone. I am definitely speaking from experience on this one.
- 3 Provide a clue for the hunt in the invitations that you send out. The guests must bring the invitations with them to solve the adventure hunt. Different guests could have different clues on their invitations, inviting alliances to take place within the party in order to find the treasure or historical artifact.
- 4 Providing some other symbol or information on the invitations are also great ways to divide the guests into teams. (i.e. "Everyone who is a professor of the Chicago University of Antiquities are one team...Everyone with a who is a member of the Pharaoh's Royal Guard are another..." etc.)
- 5 Get the story going before the party even starts. A few days before the party/event, email each guest a piece of information from a 'character' in your treasure hunt. You can obtain a free email account from Hotmail.com - you can sign up under any name you want and it's simple - you can set it up in minutes!
- 6 Make it exciting! Perhaps they aren't looking for lost treasure, but rather a lost person/explorer. If the person

was kidnapped, let the participants find the ransom note to start the adventure off.

- 7 Give the illusion that an enemy 'force' of some sort is also on the same quest (whatever you've chosen it to be.) Perhaps another government or dirty art dealer is looking for the same idol as the participants in your treasure hunt adventure. Perhaps Lower Egypt is battling Upper Egypt...For an added touch, how about taking a picture of someone in costume and giving a warning to your guests in their invitations - "Beware of this man!" etc.



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Put your Egyptian theme party invitations on incredibly aged paper. Two styles to choose from. Also great for printing menus,

thank you notes or clues to an Egyptian themed treasure hunt!
Click on either image to order now!

- 8 Work a curse into the story of your adventure. For example, if you are sending your participants in search of a lost or forgotten Egyptian idol, attach a curse to whomever 'disturbs' it. Then, once the idol is found and taken, have a volunteer dressed as a mummy come out to 'haunt' the guests until they donate the idol to a local museum.
- 9 Have the participants sneak up on a sleeping mummy to steal a clue or artifact from him - without waking him.
- 10 Purchase a small 12-piece puzzle and place your own image on top. Then, with a hobby razor blade cut the pieces out again. These pieces can be used to find a temple or lost city.
- 11 Have a clue on the cake (written in icing.)

- 12 If your participants can't read (i.e. small children) use photos, rather than words, as clues. Another option is to have an adult 'archeologist' go with them to guide the children through the adventure.
- 13 Each stop could be a different country city of excavation site along the way. In this way, once they have finished their adventure, they will have been 'all over ancient Egypt.'
- 14 If you incorporate the above idea, then you might provide your guests with mock passport books to have 'stamped' in each city. This could also double as a check to make sure that the participants did indeed arrive at every stop. For stamps, check your local stamp/craft store. You can find stamps with just about every image under the sun!
- 15 A clue could be hidden within the pages of an old book (if you've chosen to recreate a research desk vignette as described in DECORATIONS.)
- 16 If the guests are attempting to find a lost idol, here are some ideas for creating a back story to their adventure:
 - i. It has been missing for centuries, no one knows its whereabouts
 - ii. It was recently stolen, but by whom?
 - iii. Nobody has ever found...just waiting for your participants.
 - iv. Perhaps its very existence is a myth.

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[DOWNLOAD OUR ANCIENT EGYPT THEMED TREASURE HUNT FOR PREREADERS!!!](#) Just because your child isn't quite old enough to read doesn't mean you can't plan a fun and creative Ancient Egypt themed treasure hunt! They've been good and they deserve something special! Plan a creative Egyptian themed treasure/scavenger hunt activity...using all images instead of words! To learn more about this item, click [HERE](#).

- 17 One of their stops could be to meet up with an archeology professor (a friend who would be willing to volunteer to play the role for the sake of the hunt) who could translate some ancient hieroglyphs either on a map or a found artifact the participants acquired along their journey.
- 18 In the invitations, give the guests instructions to do a little 'research' before the day of the event/party. Use this information as answers to your puzzles or clues to solve during the adventure. It's a great way to get your participants into the story before they even arrive. They will be eager to know why they were asked to look up certain facts and information.

- 19 They make giant foam floor puzzle squares that link together (found at toy stores - young children departments.) Use these as pieces of a large map. When you do, though, it's probably best if the overall shape of the map is not the usual square or rectangle. Otherwise, it might be too easy to assemble the pieces. You can decide this level of difficulty based on the guest list.
- 20 Prior to the party, providing it is centered around a single person, such as a birthday, et. al., send a clue of some sort (in the way of a letter or phone call) to the special person. This could then be used during the adventure (if everyone is working together as one team) or a great way to start the adventure.
- 21 At the end of their adventure, pass out glasses of sparkling apple cider ('Champaign') for celebrating the success.
- 22 Start your participants out with some gold coins or jewels. Throughout their adventure, they'll have to spend them wisely. Perhaps they'll meet a mapmaker who will sell them a map for a couple coins. Later on, they might need to buy a clue or artifact from an art dealer. Perhaps even further they'll need to bribe a government official...When you use this component, you might want to consider inserting ways for teams to earn coins along the way as well.

Kids

Games

- 1 As you divide the kids into different teams, explain to them that they must first form different 'archeological' teams. Allow each team to come up with a country to represent. For added fun, they can also come up with their own specialties (to divide up some of the activities of the day) such as Anthropologist, Historian, Egyptologist, Cartographer and Linguist.
- 2 Get your hands on two metal detectors. Line two teams up in single file lines with a large plot of loose dirt or sand at least 10 feet away. Create relay races where players must take turns running to the soil and use the detectors to find a 'treasure.' Be sure to put distracting things like washers and nails to throw off their search (especially if using this game for adults or older kids.)
- 3 Throughout the party, allow the guests to collect gold coins (or points, etc. -this would also work for adults.) At the end of the event, post a chart showing rankings based on how many they've earned. For example, for five or less they earn the title of 'Tourist,' for 10-20 maybe they've earned the title of 'Explorer' and for 50 or more, the title of 'Pharaoh.' You can give other titles in between as determined by the number of coins/points possible.
- 4 This is a great game no matter what the age of the participants. Find several copies of the EXACT same publication (NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC works great because of the subject content. There is also a publication called ARCHEOLOGY.) Divide the participants in groups no larger than three, each equipped with their own magazine. When everyone is ready, call out an item (from a list you've prepared ahead of time) that can be found inside the magazine. Make sure everyone hears the image before you say 'Go!' No one is to open their magazine until you say 'Go.' - however, when you do, each team is to frantically storm through the magazine looking for the image. For example, you might call out images such as "A native holding a spear" or "An Egyptian tomb." It

takes a couple of items to get everyone warmed up...but you'll find that it won't take long before you'll here things like "Oh, wait! I remember seeing that somewhere in the back" or "I'm not sure where, but it's on one of the pages in the upper right corner" as the players get more familiar with the magazine.

- 5 This is definitely an oldie. However, here's a new twist. In ancient Egypt, families were often buried together. Have each team stand in a circle, facing outward. The team must unravel the toilet paper around the entire team's circle, holding onto the wrapping as the roll is passed around. Believe me, it is much more difficult (and a lot more fun) than it would first appear.
- 6 Create a small network of tunnels using boxes taped together. Make sure that you have two separate entrances into the labyrinth. Inside the boxes, put different objects (such as two hand shovels, two plastic spiders, two skull rings, etc.) Have the children form two different archeological teams that will compete against each other in a relay race. Then, have the children form two lines some distance from the box caves. When you say go, the first kid from each team runs in to find an object you call out (each running/crawling through a different entrance - each team has their own assigned entrance.) For instance, the first race you might say "Plastic spider, GO!" Then the first two team members must run inside the tunnels, looking for a plastic spider. The first one to find the object and run back to their team earns a point. Then send the next two kids in for looking for a different object. Kids really love this one...
- 7 Take a room or other private area and make sure that none of the kids have access to it while someone hides several different small items (coins, jewels, plastic spiders, small rubber snakes, etc.) Explain to the kids that on your mark you will let them enter the room and they are to collect as many items as they can (be sure to tell them ahead of time what kinds of objects they are looking for otherwise they will start grabbing everything off the shelves hoping it will yield some points.) The coins are worth 1 point each (the easiest to find), the jewels are worth 3 points each (a little harder to find) and the plastic spiders are worth 5 points each (not many of them and very

hard to find.) In the same fashion, assign points to the other objects. Once all the items have been found, everyone adds up their points and a winner is determined. HINT: Make sure you know ahead of time how many of each kind of treasure is hidden so that you will know when to end the game. For added fun, hide a couple items that are VERY hard to find and only one of them...these could be worth a lot more points to the lucky finder.

Activities

- 1 Order some exotic beads (Try a company called Firemountain) and allow the kids to make their own ancient, treasure necklaces. They can either be fancy beads or rustic ones with ancient/adventure paraphernalia such as scarabs and bones.
- 2 Take the children to visit your local Natural History museum. Many have EXCELLENT, hands activities for the kids to participate in.
- 3 Simple satchels can be sewn for each child ahead of time. These can be used by the children to put the objects in they collect throughout the party. If sewing isn't your thing, have the kids bring a small suitcase (as though they were traveling) and use it in the same way.
- 4 Although it can be a pain in the wazoo to collect them, attaching a lot of large boxes (refrigerator, washer/dryer, etc.) can make a terrific ancient temple for kids to explore (even high school age, if done appropriately.)

Some options:

- * Have characters/mummies positioned inside the temple that can chase the guests through as they look for their way out.
- * Have characters that sit inside, behind sliding walls. When guests crawl by, the wall may be slid shut. However, every once in a while, the character is instructed to open the door for a short period of time, allowing a few guests to find their way into a new section.

* This is/can be the best idea with these yet (that I've seen, at least.) Create a series of small tunnels that empty into opened rooms. For example, create a small tunnel system that opens up into an open area enclosed by large sheets of cardboard (these can be easily found at warehouse stores such as Costco and Sam's Club - they separate the layers of products on the flats and can be saved if you call them ahead of time...) Fashion them like walls with a small opening on the other side, where the tunnel system continues. If you have the resources, have a couple of tunnel choices available from this room. Here's the effect - the guests crawl through the initial box network and quickly see the other opening. They will be tempted to think to themselves 'Oh, that was too easy...' - until they get closer, that is. Upon looking out the tunnel exit, they see an enclosed area (large or small) with a tunnel opening on the other side. HOWEVER, there are also mummies in the room that they must run past in order to get to that opening! Place a few of these 'rooms' in your network and you'll create something even the high school kids will be talking about!

- 5 Set up a craft table where the kids can decorate their own ancient coffins (shoeboxes work great for this.) Give them paper to cover the boxes, sticks, gold markers, construction paper, jewels, paint and other fun stuff to stick on their sarcophagi. Award a prize for the best as voted on by everyone else.
- 6 This is a FANTASTIC activity! Gather enough boxes as needed for the number of guests that you are expecting to come to your party. You might want to consider three children per box. The boxes should be as large as you can get them (washer/dryer boxes are great, but large U-Haul boxes would also work.) Allow the children to create their own ancient temples. Once they are complete (if done at the beginning of the party) they'll make great decorations for the rest of the party.

Tips and ideas for the activity:

* Before the guests arrive, either spray paint the boxes a flat tan or cover with black butcher paper (to give the kids a head start.)

* Allow the children to design the location of their 'secret' doors and windows FIRST, notifying an adult when finished so that the adult can cut them out with a packaging knife.

* Provide lots of fun items for the children to add to their temple (i.e. glitter, construction paper, scissors, glue, small rocks and sticks, jewels, plastic spiders, etc.) - anything and everything to let their imaginations run wild.

* Offer prizes for the most mysterious, most creative and/or most artistic.

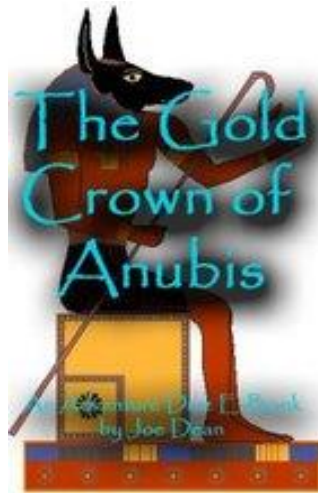
* Although paints CAN be used, you'll find that providing many different colors of construction paper is much easier to deal with than the paint.

7 Create a maze of boxes (taping them to each other in a creative way) and call it The Forbidden Temple. This single activity will amuse most young children for hours on end. No kidding. For extra fun, make some of the walls with sliding doors, cut some windows, and make some dead ends. Hang green streamers on the inside making a jungle. Blue streamers draped down could be a waterfall. For further fun, hide a treasure or ancient idol somewhere in the caves. The kids will have a great time searching for it. Snakes and spiders (with the webs) also work great inside.

8 Take a small treasure (see TREASURE section for ideas) and place it on top of a lot of sand. Now, pour plaster on top of it, slowly, rolling the treasure in the sand as you go. When you've poured enough plaster to mask the object, give the 'lump' one last roll, making sure that all sides and angles are covered with sand. Set this in the sun to dry. Making several of these for the kids to find and 'excavate' are great fun. Give them small hammers to free the treasure from the 'earth.'

- 9 Provide each child with an archeological journal (any bound paper pad or small spiral notebook) and a writing instrument. Throughout the party, they can write down notes of their findings and discoveries. This is also a great way to make sure that each child has a piece of paper and something write with for any other games that you have planned for the party. For an additional activity, have them decorate their journals.

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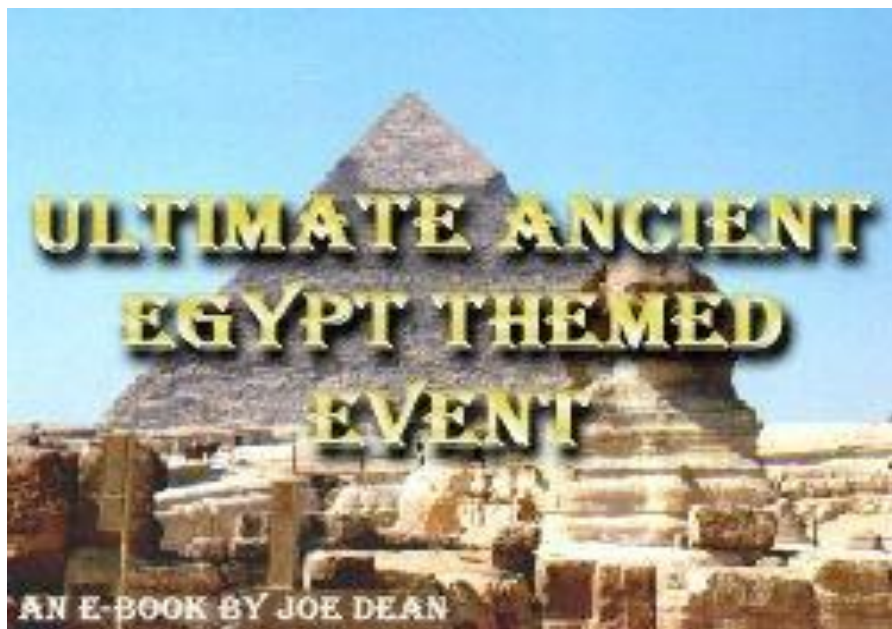
In order to successfully continue on with the adventure, they must complete multiplication computations (using two six sided dice) and learn several vocabulary words about ancient Egypt.

Have students face-off against each other and/or hold tournaments! Your students will love playing it as much as they are learning from it - [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!](#)

- 10 Check out a storybook from the library about Egypt/mummies and read it to them during a 'down-time.' For a great selection, check out the Choose Your Own Adventure Series. If you are not familiar with this series, you are in for a great treat. You read a page or two then are faced with a decision to make within the story. Different decisions lead to different pages read...the story actually changing with every decision. You could also use *The Gold Crown of Anubis* (a separate download offered at the QE website), allowing each child to roll the dice with each new turn. The following are two possible ways to incorporate such books into your party:
- a. Have everyone sit on the floor as someone reads the story aloud to everyone. The group must decide (majority rules) on which actions to take in each scenario.
 - b. Break the group into two different teams. Once you get to the first decision, each team decides independently on which action to take. As soon as the two teams choose a different direction, their stories will split. It may take a clever head to keep track of the two simultaneous stories running parallel, but with fingers saving your place, you shouldn't have much trouble. The game comes in when you introduce a system of points. Each team gets one point for every decision that continues the story. You see, some decisions quickly end their story (for good or bad) while others prolong it. If any of this is unclear, visit your local library and check one of these books out. By reading just a few pages you'll get a better understanding of how the game will unfold.
- 11 Pinatas are great for any party. Instead of all candy, put some small maps rolled up with ribbon, plastic spiders and small rubber snakes, coins, jewels and pennies inside as well. Pinatas are also great because they come in so many different shapes to fit the theme (snakes, alligators, hippos, cats, etc.)
- 12 Have all the children show up in plain white t-shirts and blue jeans. Provide archeology paraphernalia for the children transforming them all into archeologists as the party progresses. They could either all get their costume pieces in

the beginning, or a little bit as they participate in each activity. Some costume pieces could include empty treasure pouches (to put items in that they collect during the party), small journals to write notes of their findings, pencils for writing, gold coins and other artifacts, small brushes for brushing away dirt while excavating, small canteens of water, plastic binoculars, etc.)

- 13 For goodie bags, make little burlap sacks that are tied at the top with rough twine/rope. They look great and the kids will love to get them (and keep them long after the party is over!)



Adult Activities

Remember, this theme does not have to be restricted to children's parties. In fact, you could plan an event where only adults are invited, due to the mature content present (I don't mean inappropriate behavior, but rather dark rooms, foreboding characters, strange food, loud noises, etc.) Make it thrilling for a mature crowd!

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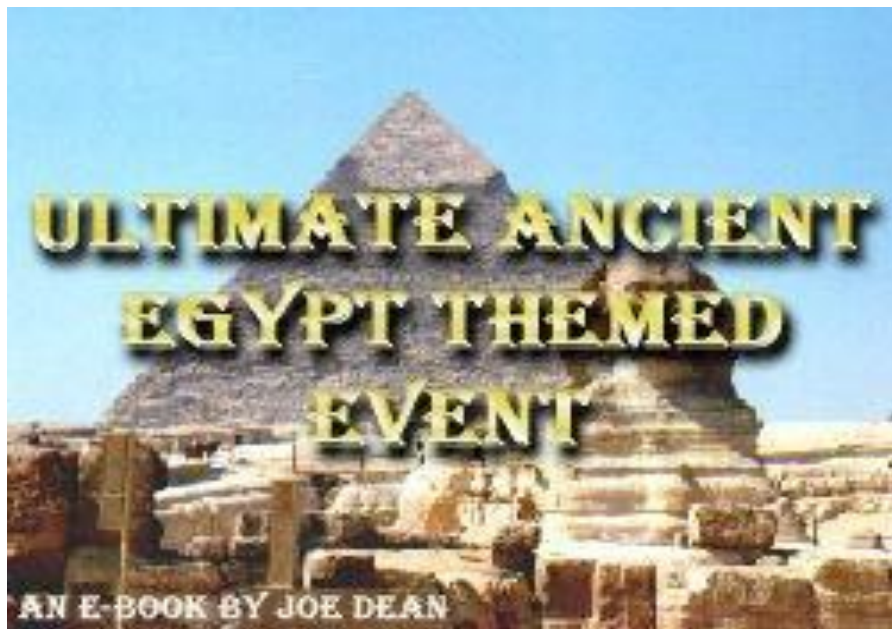
Other Ideas:

- 1 This game would work for older children as well. Depending on the location you've chosen to recreate or take your guests to, choose an appropriate foreign language and look up how to say

the following words: Yes, No, Please and Thanks. Provide these words and translations for each of your guests and explain that the English versions of these four words are not to be used (either for a specified period of time or for the duration of the party/event.) Additionally, arm each guest with three markers (coins, skull rings, etc.) If a guest uses one of the four English words in any way (even in casual conversation) the first other guest to notice gets to ask for one of the 'violators' markers. At the end of the specified time, the one with the most markers wins.

- 2 Everyone loves a good haunted house. Well, don't wait until Halloween...give them some great fun at your ancient Egyptian themed party! Instead of a 'haunted house,' create a haunted mummies tomb. Use all the tips and tricks in the DECORATIONS section to create a spooky network of tunnels for your guests to 'safely' get through. Of course, lots of mummies along the way will make them quicken their steps! This could work as a separate activity...or something fantastic to walk through in order to enter your party or event!
- 3 Put a large number of jewels or gold coins in a chest or large, see-through wine flask. Have everyone guess how many jewels are inside. A prize could be given to the one closest without going over. In the odd event that there is a tie, allow the finalists to make a second guess based on their first. A winner can then be determined as the one who guesses closer once more without going over. If they both go over, then the one closest wins.
- 4 Make sure that every guest has a sticker-tag with the name of a fictitious archeologist, grave robber, art dealer/smuggler, etc. on it. Then, below that name, write a small fact about that fictitious character (i.e. Was trapped in an Egyptian temple, was thrown in an Egyptian prison, works at the Oxford Museum of Antiquities, etc.) Then, give every guest a pencil and piece of paper. Explain to your guests that they must write down the names of every 'character' present in the room while they are having conversations and meeting others (a great way to initiate mingling.) Be sure to tell them ahead of time how many guests there are so that they know when they've found them all.

Throughout the evening, call out at different times ways to cross names off their list. You see, one of the characters in the room has just found an ancient map (for example) - but which one? At some point you might give a clue "The character does not have a Spanish Name" - then everyone would cross those names off their list. A half hour later, you might say "The character has never been to England" - then they would know to cross off the name who had that detail (they may need to go searching again among the other guests to remind themselves who had that fact on their sticker...) Again, it's a casual game that can keep the party moving, without asking a lot from your guests.



Fundraising

- 1 Community organizations are always looking for fun and creative (not to mention cheap) ways to raise money while also involving the community. Why not plan an entire archeological adventure event! Invite vendors to come and sell their wears, food stands, entertainers who will work for tips (open hats for gratuities), etc. If you are extra persuasive, you could encourage (or insist?) that they all dress up in appropriate attire. Each vendor would then pay a small fee to set up their booth at the event - raising money for you. In this way, you would be creating your very own adventure world. For fun, have strolling characters (much like a Renaissance Faire) mingling with the guests making sure everyone is having a great time. Have fun with it and so will your guests!

Below are some additional ideas that can be used in the event described above. However, they could also be used solo for light fundraising.

- 2 Purchase a bunch of gold coins from Oriental Trading Company and make sure that everyone converts their dollars to them (currency of the realm.) Your guests will have a lot more fun at the event - and you'll end up making money on every coin not used.
- 3 Make the dungeon cell as described below. Have an Egyptian government official man the cell. Guests can pay a couple of coins (or dollars, whatever currency you are using) to have the official approach someone at the party (the paying guest choosing which one) to have arrested for being a grave robber and to be taken to jail. They must stay in the jail for 5-10 minutes. It's not a long time, but it feels like it when you are inside - but it's all in great fun and I have found that this single activity can raise a lot of money with a rambunctious crowd!

Making a jail cell: Purchase PVC piping, enough for the desired size of your cell. Cut poles of equal length for the height (at least six feet tall is suggested with one foot cut pieces for bottom and top separations.) Purchase the needed connectors to construct the cell (they sell PVC connectors at any hardware

store.) Finally, paint the cell a flat black (spray paint works fine.) For an added touch, using your hands, smear some browns and rusts, slightly watered down acrylic paints. This will give an older look.

- 4 Auction off volunteers as slaves at an exotic marketplace. This is done in the usual way where the audience bids on individuals, the highest bidder gets to have their slave for the rest of the day (to serve them drinks, hold their items, etc.) This CAN be very successful if done right. Some pitfalls to be careful of are making sure that your volunteers are very well liked and very confident. You want to make sure that the crowd will place bids or that person will not only feel terrible, but you won't make that much money, either. For additional fun, make up funny stories about each volunteer as they are being auctioned off (i.e. He was caught switching mummies in some of the tombs, etc.)
- 5 Of course, there is the tried and true treasure hunt. The main thing to consider on this one is making sure that the clues cannot be tampered with (i.e. have a volunteer at every location making sure that nothing fishy is going on) and that the playing area is large enough for your crowd. You can either offer a single prize for the first place team, or several prizes for the first five teams, etc. I have found that more money is raised when the participants know that there is more than one prize - they are more optimistic about a good chance of winning a small prize than a slim chance of winning a large one. For more treasure hunt fundraiser details, check out the TREASURE HUNTS section above. Either sell tickets to participate (with the winning team sharing in the proceeds) or have an outside vendor donate a prize in exchange for advertising on the maps and clues.

Miscellaneous

The following are ideas that don't nicely fit into any of the above categories, but ones that I wanted to make sure were mentioned.

- 1 Stage a scene where characters invade the party/event, kidnapping a guest (with that guest's complete foreknowledge.) Perhaps a local government has found out that the 'archeological team' (the guests) are planning to grave rob a local historical site. This 'volunteer' could then be put in a jail cell (see FUNDRAISING IDEAS for constructing a cell) where the guests must figure out how to free him/her. This could catapult an exciting treasure hunt.
- 2 Locate your local carnival supply company (the Oriental Trading Co. is who I've always used. Check out their website for ordering online) for purchasing small plastic spiders and snakes. These look great coming out of the mummies. Preferably, have them exiting one of the nine holes of the body (I'll let you do the counting...) The eyes and mouth are perhaps the most popular. The reason why I mention companies such as Oriental Trading is the fact that they have great rates for larger quantity purchases. For instance, you could buy a bag of 100 spiders for what you might spend on 20 at a retail toy store. Plus, you'll find the selection noteworthy.
- 3 If planning a very large event, find some cultural dancers to highlight Egypt's rich culture. Each culture has a preservation society of some sort that actively looks for opportunities to keep their culture alive through presentations. You may get lucky to have one such a presentation given for free!
- 4 Mail a letter to the guests a few days after the event from one of the characters they met at the party. For example, if they recovered a lost idol during an activity, they might receive a letter from the Director of Antiquities of the local natural history museum thanking them for their donation to the museum. It's a great way to punctuate the party and remind your guests of the great time they had.

- 5 Another great post gift and thank you for your guests is to create an old newspaper front page of the day's events. You might include some pictures of some of the guests enjoying themselves along with articles with amusing anecdotes from the day's festivities.
- 6 A great way to make mummy wrapping is to use tea stained cheesecloth (what cooks use - especially on turkeys and other large fowl.) Have fun playing with it...it won't take you long how to figure out how to wrap it. (A note about wrapping, make sure that the strips are NOT all in uniform length or width... remember, these mummies have been around for centuries and the wrappings have all been nearly disintegrated!)
- 7 These days, everyone seems to know someone who has a pet reptile. Ask them to show up to your party/event with their 'pet' (i.e. snake, spider, etc.) and walk around, allowing brave guests to pet it or just admire it from afar...
- 8 To keep the theme alive, have different small events happening throughout the event (i.e. a marketplace haggler approaches guests trying to sell tacky objects for outrageously high prices, a professor asking guests about the whereabouts of different locations on his map, a local official looking in the crowd for known grave robbers, etc.) Know anyone with a British accent (or can fake one)? Have them walk around as an Egyptologist discussing his latest finds and exploits.
- 9 Have a 'guest book' at the entrance to the event. However, label it as a sign up ledger to join an archeological team that is about to travel around the world in search of treasure and historical artifacts. It's a great way to get your guests in the fun frame of mind needed to enjoy your event to the fullest.

SENET

Before you begin cutting out the game pieces, it is advised to first photocopy the originals onto cardstock (something heavier and sturdier for game play.) In order to play Senet, first begin by cutting out the two board pieces and attaching them end to end as seen in Figure B (below.) Next cut out the 10 player pieces (five white and five black.) Finally, cut out the four black rectangles (the dice sticks.)

Once the pieces are cut out, read the directions as follows...

Directions

21	20	1
22	19	2
23	18	3
24	17	4
25	16	5
26	15	6
27	14	7
28	13	8
29	12	9
30	11	10

Figure A

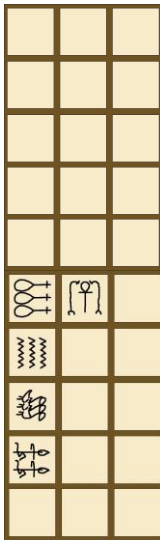


Figure B

Senet is a game for two players. Each player attempts to beat the other in racing around the board, being the first to bear all his pieces off.

Each player has five playing pieces, either black or white. The player pieces are moved around the board along the path as seen in Figure A (beginning with 1 and moving through to 30, then finally off the board.) Figure B shows the board in relation to the numbers in Figure A.

The game begins by placing all the player pieces on spaces 1 through 10, with the black pieces placed on the even numbered squares and the white pieces placed on the odd numbered squares. In order to determine the number of spaces a player moves a piece, four, two-sided rectangle dice sticks are thrown. The dice sticks score are as follows:

- One dark side up = 1
- Two dark sides up = 2
- Three dark sides up = 3
- Four dark sides up = 4
- Four non-dark sides up = 5

In order to determine which player will move first, each player is to take turns throwing the dice sticks until someone throws a 1. The first player to move is given the black pieces and must begin by moving the piece on space 10 to space 11. After that first move, the same player continues to throw the dice sticks. If the player throws a 1, 4 or 6, the player then moves any piece that number of squares along the board and then throws again. If a 2 or 3 is thrown, then the player moves a piece the indicated

number of squares and the turn passes to the opponent. The second player must make the first move from square 9 but succeeding throws may move any of his playing pieces. The turn ends with the throwing of a 2 or 3. To clarify, each player's turn always ends when a 2 or 3 is thrown.

If a piece lands on a square which is occupied by an opponent's piece, the opponent's piece is considered to be 'under attack' and is moved back to the square vacated by the piece in play. Two pieces of the same color cannot occupy the same square, but two pieces which occupy consecutive squares, such as 16 and 17, protect each other from being 'under attack' by the opponent's pieces.

Three pieces of the same color in a row form a block and cannot be attacked or passed by the opponent's pieces, although they do not block the play of pieces of the same color. Any dice stick throw which cannot be used to make a forward movement must be used to move a piece in the reverse direction. If the move backwards lands a piece on a square occupied by an opponent's piece, then the opponent's piece is moved forward to the square just vacated by the piece in play. That is, they exchange places. If no move is possible in either direction, then the turn of the player ends.

Square 27, marked by the three zig-zag lines (water) is the trap. Any player's piece landing on this square must return to square 15 (the only picture square in the middle column). If square 15 is occupied, then the piece must return to the start of the game. The penalized piece then begins its journey again forward completing the game.

Safe Squares

Squares 26, 28 and 29 (the three remaining picture squares) are 'safe,' where pieces are protected and not vulnerable to being 'under attack' by the opponent's playing pieces. A player doesn't have to move off of these safe squares unless he chooses to do so.

Bearing Off

A player may not begin to move pieces off the board until all of his pieces are out of the first row. It is not necessary to land exactly on square 30 before bearing off. If you throw a number higher than required, you may use this bonus amount to move another playing piece the amount of the throw left over from the amount used to bear the first piece off the board.

If any of the player's pieces are attacked and moved back to row 1, then pieces of that player which remain on the board in the third row cannot bear off the board until all of the player's pieces are once again out of the first row.

The first player to bear off all of his pieces is the winner.

If players wish to keep score on the outcome of a series of games, then the winning player is awarded one point for each opponent's piece left on the third row and three points for each piece in row one or two.

Have fun!

