Programa de Educación Humanitaria del
Colegio de Médicos Veterinarios de P.R.

Rediscover Cats in Ancient Egypt

Grade: 7th-9th grade
Topic: Treatment of Cats in Ancient Egypt and Today
Duration: 60 - 120 minutes
Related Subjects: Social Studies, History, Art and STEM.

Objectives

Use technology to explore Ancient Egyptian artifacts and gather information on the treatment of cat during this time. Compare the treatment of cats then and now. Use critical thinking and group collaboration to imagine if that type of treatment would be considered appropriate in today's modern society. Use creativity to recreate Ancient Egyptian cat artwork with modern techniques and styles.

Materials

- Merge Cube or print out (attached)
- Scissors
- Clear tape or glue
- Information source (Library or internet access.)
- Cell phone or tablet
- Object Viewer App installed on phone or tablet
- Art supplies: markers, colored pencils, paint, brushes, etc.
- Paper, air dry clay, or art app (Depending on the artwork each student will work on.)

Preparation

Teacher and students must download the Object Viewer App installed on their phone or tablet and have an account created with Merge Edu. *https://dashboard.mergeedu.com/signup*

Opening

- Start by asking if anyone knows how cats where domesticated.
- Explain briefly the origin of the domestic cat. (Use fact sheet if necessary.)
- Ask if they think the treatment of cats have changed since when they where domesticated. Discuss briefly.
- Hand out the Merge Cube print and have each student build it according to the instructions. If working in groups only hand out one per group.

Activity

- Have students use the Merge Cube app called Object Viewer to look for Ancient Egypt artifacts of statues related to cats. (There are 3 objects to view directly related to cats: a cat statue and The Sphinx. Also, there is a black cat.) They can also view tombs, pyramids and sarcophagus to get an idea of their style.
- Have them take notes of their observations.
- Meanwhile, if working in groups, another student can search for information on the history of cats in Ancient Egypt.
- Once done observing with the Merge Cube and finding historic information, they can begin filling out the Venn Diagram comparing cat treatment then and now. Guide students by asking questions and suggesting some ideas such as, the food cats are given know, death rituals, and reasons why people decide to have them as pets for example.
- The final part is to create artwork based on Ancient Egypt but adapted to modern art styles. Encourage them to use one of the objects from the Merge Cube as a inspiration for their creation.
- For example, they can create a replica of the cat statue with writing in a language they use. Also, they can change the look of The Sphinx by adding a cool hat or sunglasses.
- Artwork can be a drawing, painting or sculpture.

Closing

- Have each group talk about their findings, most importantly their comparison of cat treatment then and know.
- They present their artwork and explain it to the group.
- You can finish with a brief discussion about the reasons they believe cat treatment has or has not changed.
- Support them with facts.
- Artwork can be exhibited.

Suggestions

To save time, have everyone download the Object Viewer App and register before this lesson starts.

Please consider that these apps on occasions change the objects available to view. This may affect the lesson. Verify beforehand that the objects related to Ancient Egypt are available. There are other app options that work with the Merge Cube. If not available, this activity can work well without the Merge Cube by using a regular web browser to search for images instead.

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Information Sheet
Key facts about the treatment of cats in Ancient Egypt.

- In Ancient Egypt cats were considered magical beings, even gods.
- They believed that cats where the physical form of the goddess Bastet, who had a feminine body with the head of a cat.
- Cats where believed to bring good luck to a home.
- Some royalty accessorized their cats with jewels and gave them the highest quality food.
- When a cat would die, they were mummified and would be with their guardian when they passed away.
- Cat guardians would shave their eyebrows in signs of grief.
- Anyone who mistreated or killed a cat would be severely punished.
- Cats are present in artwork, tomb carvings and statues as a way to honor their beloved companions.
- The african wildcat was domesticated as they were brought into homes and crops to handle pests.

Now you know why cats are "that way".

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Merge Cube Guide

- The Merge Cube is sold online on their website *www.mergecubeedu.com*.
- There is a printable free version available as well.
- The official Merge Cube app is called Object Viewer.
- This app requires to create a free account.
- Use this "Step by Step" guide on how to create your Merge Edu account: *https://support.mergeedu.com/hc/en-us/articles/9733899352077-Signing-up-for-a-Merge-EDU-Account-inside-Merge-EDU-Apps*
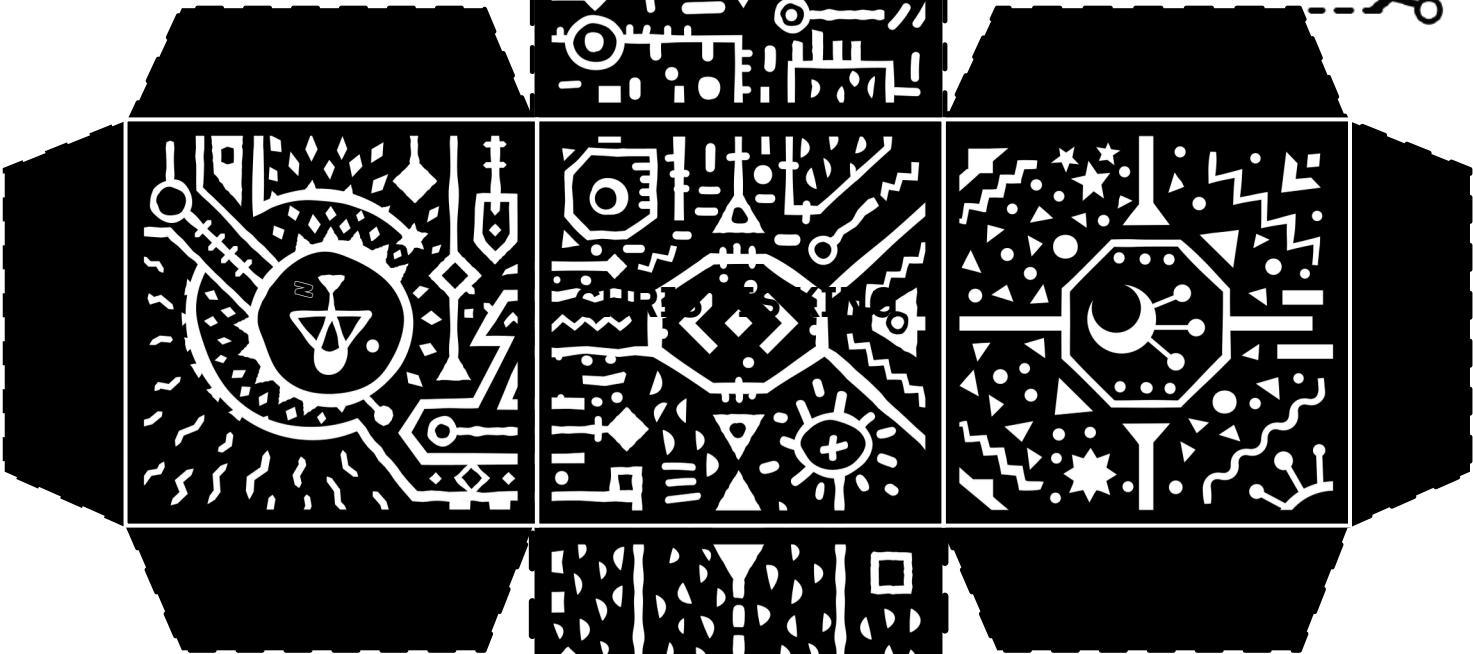

- There are subscriptions available at a cost. Also, there are free trials available that offer a larger variety of functions.
- Student may create a Merge account to interact and share with you. Find the "Step by Step" guide on how to create a student account here: *https://support.mergeedu.com/hc/en-us/articles/9897557052429-Using-Free-Content-in-Merge-EDU-Apps-With-Your-Students*

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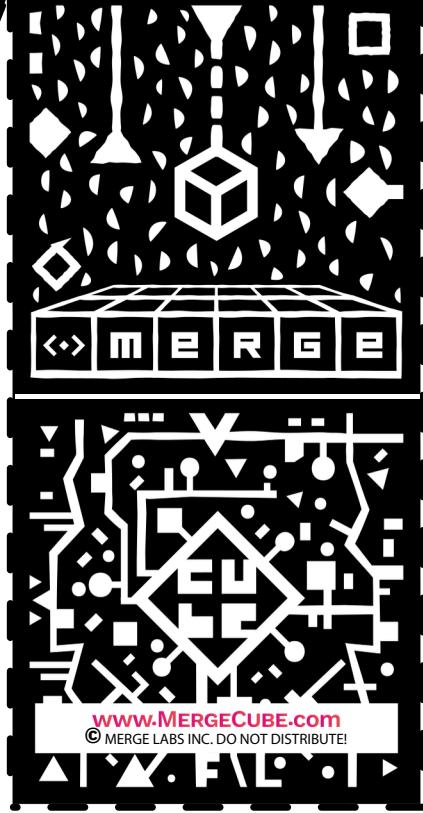
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