

Distance Lesson # 3 - The Land of the Pharaohs?

Hello,

Today we will do something completely different from everything we've done **so far** (= **até aqui, até agora**). I've decided we could study a bit about one of my passions: Ancient Egypt. I've always loved reading about the history of Ancient Egypt, since I was a child. This is one of the reasons why I've gone back to college, to study History.

Before we start, think about these three questions:

*** What is the first thing you think about when you hear the name Egypt?**

*** Have you ever been to Egypt? Do you know anybody who has?**

*** Would you like to visit this country? Why/Why not.**

As in our previous online lessons, all you need to do is to follow the links, & **note down whatever doubts** you may have, so you can ask me about them later.

Have a great class!

Cheers,

Rodrigo

1. Introduction - The Land of the Pharaohs

Ancient Egypt is known as the "*land of the pharaohs*". The pharaohs were the Egyptian kings, and this nickname was given because when we think about Egypt, our first thoughts are usually related to **temples, pyramids, statues & the wonderful masterpieces of monumental architecture**, the marvellous *remnants* (= *remanescentes*) left by the ancient Egyptians. These constructions were *erected* (= *erigidas*) to honour the pharaohs, and above all, their gods (the pharaoh, as the supreme ruler was considered a god on Earth). The Egyptians *worshipped* (= *adoravam*) a great number of gods (they were *polytheists*), such as the sun (Ra), Isis, Osiris and Horus, among others. So, many gods = many temples & architectural wonders!

Today, modern Egypt is an Arabic-speaking nation, and the ancient Egyptians no longer exist; however, their treasures have been kept in many museums all over the world.

But here's an interesting question: **was Ancient Egypt only the land of the pharaohs ?**

2.Vocabulary: Preparing to watch a video.

First, study these words and their definitions in English. Can you **translate all of them in your mind**? Check the **next page** for the correct translations.

word from the video	definition
<i>a turmoil</i>	<i>a great confusion</i>
<i>a looter</i>	a thief (war times)
<i>gilded (adj)</i>	covered in gold leaf
<i>an auction</i>	a public sale
<i>to track something down</i> <i>(phrasal verb)</i>	to find something through investigation
<i>a break-in</i>	an invasion
<i>outdated (adj)</i>	old, out of date
<i>a chariot</i>	a car taken by horses
<i>to disclose</i>	to reveal (information)
<i>a puzzle</i>	a type a game with lots of pieces to be put together

Now, check the translations (they follow the same order as above). **Can you remember the words in English?**

translation
um tumulto
um saqueador
dourado
um leilão
rastrear algo
uma invasão
datado
uma carruagem
revelar (uma informação)
um quebra cabeças

3. You are ready to **watch a short BBC video** about the biggest history/archaeological museum in the world:

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20181101-in-egypt-the-worlds-largest-archaeology-museum>

4. More than just pharaohs: The Dual Land

The greatest part of the Egyptian territory is desert land (**the Sahara**, which is an Arabic word meaning "*the desert*").

The modern word "Egypt" comes from a Greek word. The ancient Egyptians had several different names for their own land. Sometimes they called it **Kemet**, which is a very old Egyptian word meaning "black". Scientists are not sure why the Egyptian *called their land so* (= *chamavam sua terra assim*), but they believe it had to do with **the colour of the Nile valley** (the land around both sides of the river), **after the river's annual inundation**. The Nile flows from Upper Egypt (the south, called Upper because the land is higher) to Lower Egypt, in the north (called Lower because the land around Memphis & Cairo is low, as it is closer to the Mediterranean Sea). After the inundation, the Nile left the desert *soil* (= *solo*) **entirely black**, because it deposited *silt* (= *limo*), which made the desert soil **fertile**. The Nile was the most important source of water, food & life to ancient Egyptians.

The Egyptian also called their land **Tawy**, which means "**the dual (double) land**". Most scientists believe this is related to the division of Lower Egypt (the north) and Upper Egypt (the south). **There is another possible association, however:** the **Nile valley** is fertile and green (with trees, water and animals), while **the desert** is mostly red, without trees, and is home to very few animals.

So, in this part of the class, you will learn more about **another Egypt**, which we rarely see or hear about: the Egyptian desert.

5. In this exercise, you will **read a photo-reportage** about the Egyptian desert.

First, look at the photographs & *marvel at them* (= *maravilhe-se com elas!*), and **read** the short texts that accompany them. In the texts, you will find lots of unknown words, but *never mind them for a bit* (= *não se preocupe com elas por enquanto*). Read the text normally and **try to guess the meanings of the words you don't know**. You will have another chance to work on them after you complete the first reading.

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200329-bahariya-and-farafra-egypts-bizarre-desert-landscape>

<p>TIP: You can enlarge the photos & create a presentation if you click on the icon at the top, on the right, on the first photograph.</p>

Now, before you read it again, think about these words:

1. **remnants** of other species
2. **harshest** regions
3. sulphur-**scented** waters
4. **healing** properties
5. black **powder**-covered hills
6. to **marvel at** something
7. a stone **boulder**
8. **outcrops** of rock
9. great **depths**
10. **limestone**
11. **chalk**-like outcrops
12. **pristine**

Definitions:

1. something that **remains**, something that is left behind
2. superlative (adj + **est**) of **harsh**: very difficult
3. related to **smell** or perfume
4. related to **cure** (for a disease)
5. we usually use chocolate **powder** (= ground into fine grains) to make a cake; we also make coffee with coffee **powder** (= ground coffee beans).
6. to be amazed at something
7. a large piece of rock
8. a rock **formation** that protrudes out of the surface
9. the noun (= substantive) for **deep**
10. **limestone** (= look this word up in an English-Portuguese dictionary !)

11. chalk: a **white material** with which teachers write on a black board
12. in a perfect condition, unspoilt.

6.Optional Exercise:

If you'd like to practice a bit more, how about **writing a short text**?

I could be about Egypt; you could write a paragraph or two stating your opinion about the video & the photo-article.

Another alternative, is to write about **a beautiful place you have visited** & that you marvelled at (= *maravilhoso*). It can be anywhere in the world. Describe the place in your own words, and say how the experience of visiting this place made you feel.