



## Artist & Composer Study

This session features Ancient Egyptian Art. We've included six art selections for your kids and teens to use for picture study. They are:

- *Craftsmen, Tomb of Nebamun and Ipuky*
- *Book of the Dead of Hunefer*
- *Tomb of Nebamun*
- *The Mask of Tutankhamun*
- *The Bust of Nefertiti*
- *Hieroglyphs on the Stele Minnakht*

Rather than include a specific composer, we have selected various music pieces from Ancient Egypt and the surrounding Mesopotamian area. We've included six pieces (with links to each) to listen to. They are:

- Ancient Music of Akkad
- Ancient Egyptian Love Song
- Nami Nami - Traditional Lullaby from Egypt
- Strings of Thebes
- Hurrian Hymn No. 6
- I Am Cyrus

Artist & Composer Study

# Ancient Egyptian Art



Ancient Egyptian artists had to follow a strict set of rules when creating the body in any form of medium: drawing, painting, relief, etc. These rules required that every body part be shown from the most familiar point of view:

- The head, arms, legs, and feet were always shown in profile (or the side).
- The eyes and shoulders were always shown from the front.

These rules resulted in painting and relief sculptures that looked distorted and unnatural. Yet, the skilled Egyptian artisans kept the distortion to a minimum so that the style didn't detract from the overall work.

The reason for these rules was that the Egyptians were greatly concerned about life after death. Paintings and relief sculptures of

the dead were meant to serve as "substitutes" for the body. So when artists created images of pharaohs and dignitaries, it was of utmost importance that all parts of the body were clearly shown. Style was far more essential to them than anatomical accuracy.

To them, a complete image was vital. If an arm or leg was hidden behind the body in a relief sculpture or painting, it would mean that the ka (spirit) of the individual would spend eternity in a deformed state. Therefore these rules were developed over time to ensure that the dead would be whole in the afterlife.

Another custom of the ancient Egyptians was to have a pharaoh's wife, servants, and slaves sealed in the tomb with him when he died! Then when he arrived in the next world, they'd all be together for eternity. Later on (and probably to the great relief of royal families), this custom was discontinued. Instead, artists would paint relief sculptures inside the tomb with images substituted for real people.



*Craftsmen, Tomb of Nebamun and Ipuky*



Book of the Dead of Hunefer



Tomb of Nebamun



*The Mask of Tutankhamun*



*The Bust of Nefertiti*



Hieroglyphs on the Stele Minnakht

# Picture Study

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Created: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Mediums Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Further Study: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Use the box to draw a picture inspired by this artwork.**

