

Worksheet 2

The Pyramids

Construct a Model Pyramid

There are various simple ways to construct a model of a pyramid but if you want to design it in traditional pyramid style, it needs to be created with blocks.

Where do I start?

A great way to envisage your pyramid is to build a temporary model using small wooden blocks. Start by building a square base and move up one level at a time. This will not only give you a good idea of how you should place the blocks but you'll get a fairly good idea of approximately how many blocks you will need to complete your actual model.

What materials can I use?

There are two great options for making the blocks for your model pyramid.

Option 1: You can pour Plaster of Paris into old ice cube trays to form the pyramid blocks. Be sure to coat the trays with a petroleum jelly (such as Vaseline) beforehand so that the cubes are easier to remove when the plaster hardens. Once the plaster is completely dry, sand the edges of the pyramid with sandpaper.

Option 2: You can construct your target number of blocks using modelling clay. Once the pyramid is built, trim off the edges carefully with a sharp knife.

What else should I consider?

- ✓ Use a spirit level to make sure each layer of blocks is completely flat.
- ✓ Seal your model with a sealant to help protect it from getting damaged.

Task 1: Write a design brief.

Before creating your model pyramid, use the information above to create a 'design brief'. The information in the brief should include:

- A sketch of your model pyramid
- A list of the materials you require
- Instructions explaining how you plan to create your model (procedure text)

Task 2: Construct your model following your design brief as closely as possible.

Task 3: Present your model to an audience and give an oral presentation explaining how it was created. You might like to include some background information about the Ancient Egyptian pyramids and why they were built.

Extension Activities:

- The ancient Egyptians believed in many different gods and goddesses. Choose an Egyptian god or goddess to research. Describe their appearance and identify the role they played in maintaining the peace and harmony of the land.
- Egyptian hieroglyphs were one of the earliest known forms of formal writing. Present an oral report about hieroglyphs OR another ancient form of writing e.g. Mayan glyphs, Chinese characters, Hebrew, the Greek alphabet, Sanskrit, Arabic, Latin etc.