

Who Owns Antiquities?

Objectives

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Describe the controversy about ownership and display of antiquities
 - Give examples of several disputed relics
 - Compare western and eastern interest and controversies regarding King Tut
 - Describe the history of Ramses I and his return to Egypt
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Materials

- Student Handout: **The White Man's Burden**
 - U.S. Museum to Return Ramses I Mummy to Egypt
http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/04/0430_030430_royalmummy.html
 - "The Three Stooges: We want our mummy" part 1 and 2
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUfNBQWIo0w>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HU2Q9JVJi50&feature=related>
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References

- King Tut: African or European? *The Westside Gazette*, Commentary//Analysis, Niara Sudarkasa, Ph.D, Posted: Dec 07, 2005
news.ncmonline.com/news/view_article.html?article_id=24634a08ac06c9ae96400ee0728de9a0
 - A New Look at King Tut: Egyptian Pharaoh's Androgynous Features Noted by Teams Involved in Reconstruction. *Washington Post*
www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/10/AR2005051001522.html
 - NPR: King Tut Exhibit Prompts Debate on His Skin Color by Joel Rose
www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=13992421 (includes radio broadcast)
 - Dig days: The controversy over King Tut By Zahi Hawass
weekly.ahram.org.eg/2005/732/he2.htm
 - An incredible moment: The mummy of Tutankhamun went on public display.
weekly.ahram.org.eg/2007/870/eg10.htm
 - Dig Days: Is this Ramses I? By Zahi Hawass
weekly.ahram.org.eg/2002/590/hr2.htm
 - Mystery Mummy: A royal body may be that of Rameses I, but can we ever be sure? *Archaeology*, March/April. 2003 by Mark Rose
www.egyptianmuseum.com/article17_archmagApril2003.htm
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References

- The Mummy Returns. The Globe and Mail. Oct. 26, 2003. Associated Press www.egyptianmuseum.com/article18_return_GlobeMail.htm
 - U.S. Museum to Return Ramses I Mummy to Egypt news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/04/0430_030430_royalmummy.html
 - Will Britain lose its Marbles? www.museum-security.org/Will%20Britain%20lose%20its%20Marbles.htm
 - The Rosetta Stone <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/3084215.stm>
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Activities

1. Ask students to identify something they old from the United States (e.g. The Mayflower, the Constitution). Compare the approximate age of what they suggest with that of King Tut (1354 BCE or approximately 3500 years ago) and Ramses I (1298 BCE or 3000 years ago)
 2. Ask what they know about mummies and whether they have ever seen one.
 3. Have students read “U.S. Museum to Return Ramses I Mummy to Egypt”
 4. Ask students who should “own” historical artifacts
 5. Have students research differing views of King Tut on the internet (some links are below, particularly note those from Al-Ahram an Egyptian news source) using western and eastern sources
 6. Discuss stereotypical western reactions to non-western peoples an their history
 - a. For a history class you might tie this to colonialism and use Kipling’s “White Man’s Burden”
 - b. For younger students you might use the Three Stooges “We want our mummy” parts 1 and 2 and ask them to note stereotypes and the depiction of mummies
 7. Note that the interest in returning antiquities is not limited to mummies or Egypt. Articles about the Pantheon (Elgin) marbles and the Rosetta stone are listed below.
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The White Man's Burden

by Rudyard Kipling

Take up the White Man's burden--
Send forth the best ye breed--
Go bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild--
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half-devil and half-child.

Take up the White Man's burden--
In patience to abide,
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride;
By open speech and simple,
An hundred times made plain
To seek another's profit,
And work another's gain.

Take up the White Man's burden--
The savage wars of peace--
Fill full the mouth of Famine
And bid the sickness cease;
And when your goal is nearest
The end for others sought,
Watch sloth and heathen Folly
Bring all your hopes to naught.

Take up the White Man's burden--
No tawdry rule of kings,
But toil of serf and sweeper--
The tale of common things.
The ports ye shall not enter,
The roads ye shall not tread,
Go mark them with your living,
And mark them with your dead.

Take up the White Man's burden--
And reap his old reward:
The blame of those ye better,
The hate of those ye guard--
The cry of hosts ye humour
(Ah, slowly!) toward the light--
"Why brought he us from bondage,
Our loved Egyptian night?"

Take up the White Man's burden--
Ye dare not stoop to less--
Nor call too loud on Freedom
To cloak your weariness;
By all ye cry or whisper,
By all ye leave or do,
The silent, sullen peoples
Shall weigh your gods and you.

Take up the White Man's burden--
Have done with childish days--
The lightly proffered laurel,
The easy, ungrudged praise.
Comes now, to search your manhood
Through all the thankless years
Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom,
The judgment of your peers!