

Egypt



Egypt is sometimes referred to as the "gift of the Nile." This is because about 96 percent of Egyptian land is desert, and without the Nile River flowing between the Western and Eastern Deserts, it would be almost impossible to live there. The vast majority of Egypt's population lives on 4 percent of the land. Cities are strung out along the Nile and the Mediterranean Sea, which borders Egypt on the north. The capital city is Cairo.

Egypt is a Muslim nation that has good relations with the West. It is a republic whose government is headed by a president. The president is selected by the legislature, although his or her approval depends on a direct vote of the people. The president in turn selects a cabinet to head the various departments of the government.

Tourism is a very important part of Egypt's economy. Visitors come to see the ancient sights, and there are many to see. Possibly the most popular sight is the Great Pyramid at Giza. This pyramid was built by the Pharaoh Khufu, or Cheops. It contains more than two million limestone blocks and stands more than 450 feet (137 m) high. Situated near it are two smaller pyramids and the famous Sphinx. The Sphinx is a statue that has the head of a man and the body, legs, feet, and tail of a lion. It was constructed at the site to guard the tombs of the pharaohs interred (buried) there.



Project #1

Both men and women in Ancient Egypt wore beaded necklaces. Make your own beaded necklace using the materials listed below.

Materials

- self-hardening clay
- toothpick
- yarn
- scissors

Directions

1. Cut a piece of yarn long enough to make a necklace. Allow enough space at each end so you can tie it around your neck.
2. Form bead shapes with clay. Insert a toothpick through the middle to make a hole large enough for yarn to fit through.

3. When clay has dried, use paint to decorate your beads. When dry, string them on yarn to create your necklace.

