

Forms of Address in Ancient Egypt and Social Class

Lacy Lefkowitz

Claremont Middle School

Grade Level 6

Topic or Unit of Study Egypt

Objectives:

1. Academic learning objectives
Students will be able to understand the different levels of Egypt's social structure and the political position that the King has.
2. Social/moral development objectives (specify domain and developmental objectives)
Social convention- Students will construct understandings of how social conventions (such as forms of address) are used to differentiate among people in complex hierarchical systems of society

Lesson Summary

In this lesson students will work in groups to consider why we use titles for teachers and principals in a time pair share. They will then work in groups answering questions about titles both in Egypt and in their real life. Finally, students will have an all star Socratic where students who choose discuss why(or why not) titles are important.

Procedure

1. Step by step description of lesson
 - a. Do Now-Why do certain people have titles before their names (Dr., Mr., etc.)? 5 min.
 - b. Time Pair Share with the following questions "Why do we use titles for teachers but not for students? What do titles tell us about how school is structured? What would happen if we did away with titles? 10 minutes
 - c. Read the following statement and ask clarifying questions- "Throughout most of its history, Egypt was ruled by kings. These kings were thought to be representative of the gods. Using the king's name directly was considered disrespectful so people referred to him by his residence. They call him the "per aa" or pharaoh which meant "great house" in Egypt. 5 min
 - d. Then students will get into groups and answer the following questions using numbered heads(they discuss, I ask to hear from one of the numbers in the group). "Why do you think the people of Ancient Egypt had a special title for their ruler? Explain. DO you think it would have been

OK for a regular person to greet the pharaoh by saying “Hey Tut, how’s it going? Why or why not? What is the proper way to greet the President? Why can’t we call him Barack? Why are people expected to call him Mr. President or President Obama? Suppose someone does not like the president. Would it be okay to express this lack of regard by addressing the president without a title? Why is using a title like President more respectful than using the person’s first name – it is the person’s name afterall? Some people would argue that not using the president’s title is disrespecting the country and not just the person. Do you agree?

e. All-Star Socratic-Students who choose come in the middle and answer the following question: “Could we have a society that doesn’t use titles for people in different positions such as Dr., or Your Honor? How would that change society? (How does calling the judge “your honor” affect the proceedings of the courtroom?)

f. Homework-Why do you think the people of ancient Egypt had a special title for their ruler? Explain. What does that tell us about how Egyptian society was structured? Some people would argue that it is disrespectful for a regular person to address someone like the president by his first name? What makes that disrespectful? Some people would argue that not using the president’s title is disrespecting the country and not just the person. DO you agree? Why or why not?

Managing learning Environment

If students cannot handle numbered heads I will change it to four corners or thrash out.