

Upper Elementary

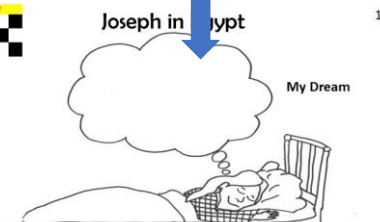
Joseph in Egypt

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Checklist

- ☐ Goblet (or fancy-looking cup)
- ☐ 3 grape clusters
- ☐ 3 baskets
- ☐ bread

Topic:	Joseph in Egypt
Intro:	What is the strangest dream you can remember ever having? Do you think it had a meaning?
	In the Bible, dreams were sometimes how God spoke to people. There are only two stories in the Bible about people who were able to interpret the dreams of another person. Joseph was the first one.
	Joseph was sold as a slave in Egypt. His owner, Potiphar, liked him and promoted him to be in charge of his household. But Potiphar's wife got upset with him and decided to tell her husband that he had committed a crime which he hadn't. Joseph wound up being thrown in prison unfairly. How do you think this made Joseph feel? Would you still trust in God if after doing the right thing, you still got punished?
Genesis 40:1-8	<p>After these things, the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker offended their lord, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cup bearer and the chief baker. He put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound. The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he took care of them. They stayed in prison many days. They both dreamed a dream, each man his dream, in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the cup bearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were bound in the prison. Joseph came in to them in the morning, and saw them, and saw that they were sad. He asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?" They said to him, "We have dreamed a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it." Joseph said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Please tell it to me."</p>
	The Bible doesn't tell us what the butler and baker were accused of, or whether they were guilty. What do you think it could have been? Do you think they were accused of the same crime, or different ones?



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Genesis 40:9-13

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2

goblet and 3 grape clusters

Have one volunteer try to squeeze grapes into the goblet. Is this easy? Do they want to drink it?



Grapes grow on vines in clusters. The juice of grapes is believed to be the oldest kind of drink.



Three Branches = _____

the King's Cup = _____

Review the meaning of the dream.

Genesis 40:16-23

When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and behold, three baskets of white bread were on my head. In the uppermost basket there were all kinds of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head." Joseph answered, "This is its interpretation. The three baskets are three days. Within three more days, Pharaoh will lift up your head from off you, and will hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from off you." On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants, and he lifted up the head of the chief cup bearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. He restored the chief cup bearer to his position again, and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand; but he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet the chief cup bearer didn't remember Joseph, but forgot him.



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2

3 baskets

Have one volunteer try to balance three baskets on their head. Have other students hold arms up and hands behind their heads and try to peck at the baskets to knock them over.



Bread is considered one of the most important human inventions. It is associated with humans living in settlements, instead of wandering as hunter-gatherers.



Review the meaning of the dream.

Three Breadbaskets= _____

Birds Pecking at Head = _____

Genesis
41:1-7

At the end of two full years, Pharaoh dreamed, and behold, he stood by the river. Behold, seven cattle came up out of the river. They were sleek and fat, and they fed in the marsh grass. Behold, seven other cattle came up after them out of the river, ugly and thin, and stood by the other cattle on the brink of the river. The ugly and thin cattle ate up the seven sleek and fat cattle. So Pharaoh awoke. He slept and dreamed a second time; and behold, seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, healthy and good. Behold, seven heads of grain, thin and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy and full ears. Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream.



Genesis 41:1-7

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What would you have thought if you dreamed this? How would you feel in the morning?

Genesis 41:25-27 Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dream of Pharaoh is one. What God is about to do he has declared to Pharaoh. The seven good cattle are seven years; and the seven good heads of grain are seven years. The dream is one. The seven thin and ugly cattle that came up after them are seven years, and also the seven empty heads of grain blasted with the east wind; they will be seven years of famine.

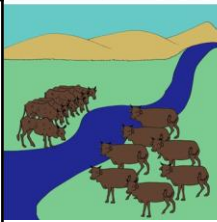
Review the meaning of the dreams.

Genesis 41:33-38 "Now therefore let Pharaoh look for a discreet and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint overseers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt's produce in the seven plenteous years. Let them gather all the food of these good years that come, and store grain under the hand of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. The food will be to supply the land against the seven years of famine, which will be in the land of Egypt; so that the land will not perish through the famine." The thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"



5
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Seven Fat Cows = _____
Seven Skinny Cows = _____
Seven Ripe Heads of Grain = _____
Seven Scorched Heads of Grain = _____



6
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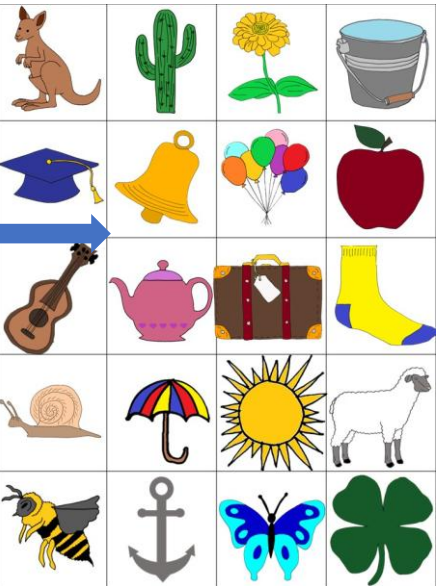
Life in ancient Egypt was based on farming, and the growing season lasted eight to nine months. Wheat, fruits and vegetables were the main crops. Egyptians lived along two narrow strips of farmable land lining either side of the river Nile. Just beyond the farmlands were enormous deserts.

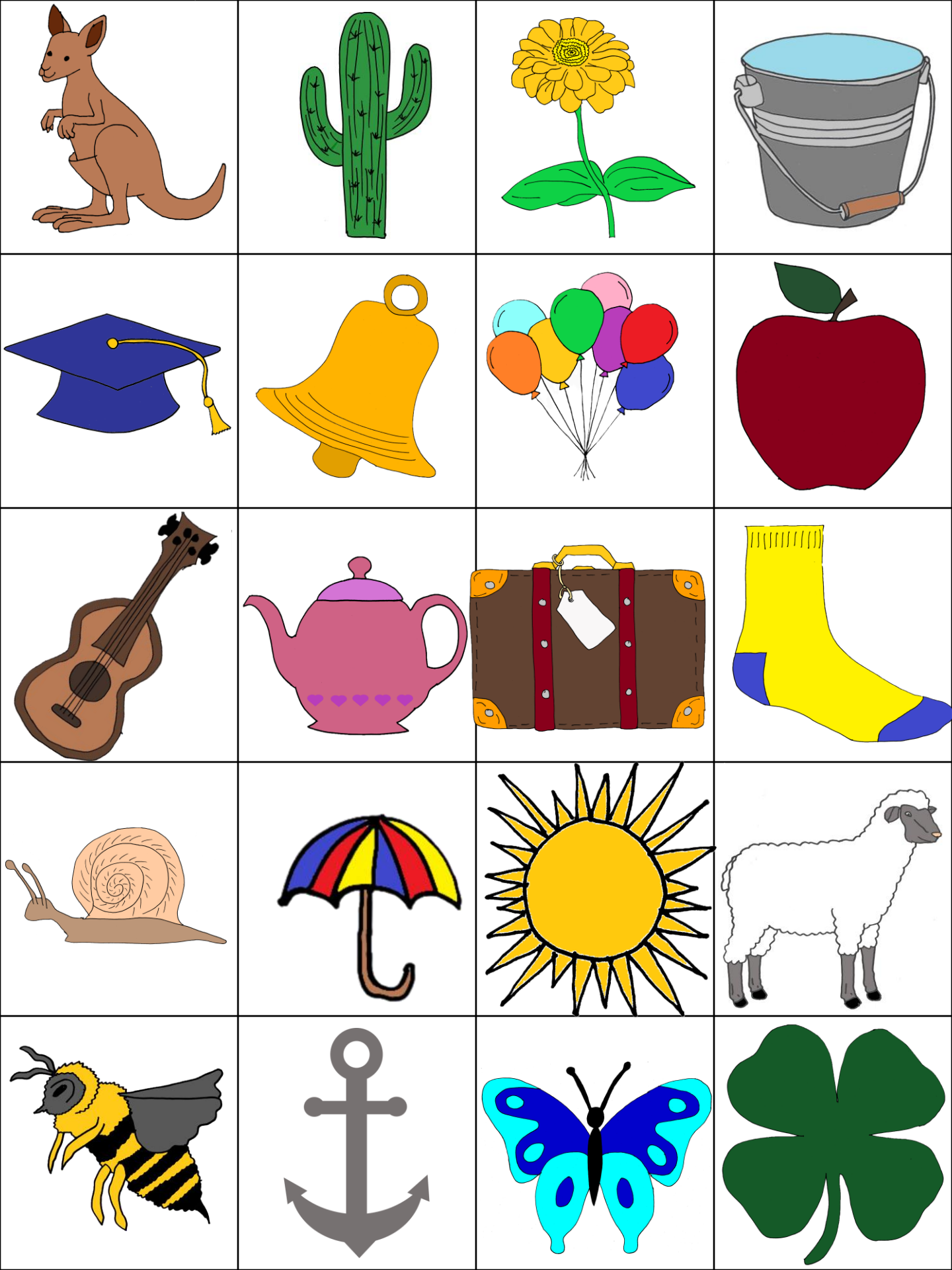


The king acknowledged that God had shown the meaning to Joseph. If Joseph had not been sold as a slave, would he be there to help? If he had not been thrown in jail, would he be there to help? Would God have been noticed by Pharaoh? Egypt was a big country with many people who would have starved if no one told them to prepare for seven years of famine. Why do you think God let Joseph suffer for so many years?

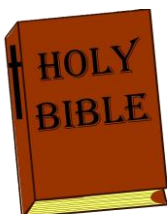
What gifts did God give Joseph? (he could interpret dreams, he had wisdom to suggest a good plan to the king) Did Joseph use his gifts in a good way? (yes) How was Joseph rewarded for all his suffering? Did he get rewarded right away? How can we be patient when we are waiting for an unfair situation to get fixed?

Closing: Show children charts with different pictures for five seconds each. Have them name the items in order after looking away for ten seconds. Did everyone get all of them right? (probably not) We all forget things. But God never forgets. He always remembers everything about our lives. Even when it seems like He may have forgotten us, He knows exactly how many hairs are on our heads (and that changes every day as new ones grow in and old ones fall out).





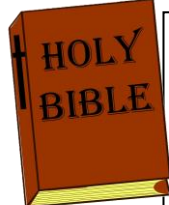
Joseph in Egypt



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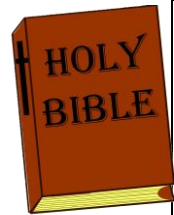


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Three Branches = _____

Holding the King's Cup = _____



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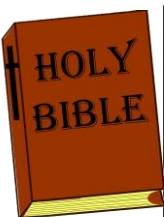


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Genesis 41:8-13a

In the morning, his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all of Egypt's magicians and wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh. Then the chief cup bearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, "I remember my faults today. Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, with the chief baker. We dreamed a dream in one night, he and I. Each man dreamed according to the interpretation of his dream. There was with us there a young man, a Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard, and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams. He interpreted to each man according to his dream. As he interpreted to us, so it was. He restored me to my office."

It took _____ years for the butler to remember his promise to Joseph.



Ancient Egyptians worshipped many gods and believed special ceremonies were necessary to have a good life after death. This is why they buried so many treasures with their kings. The court magicians were expected to interpret dreams, make potions and perform spells which they believed controlled the lives of both the living and the dead.



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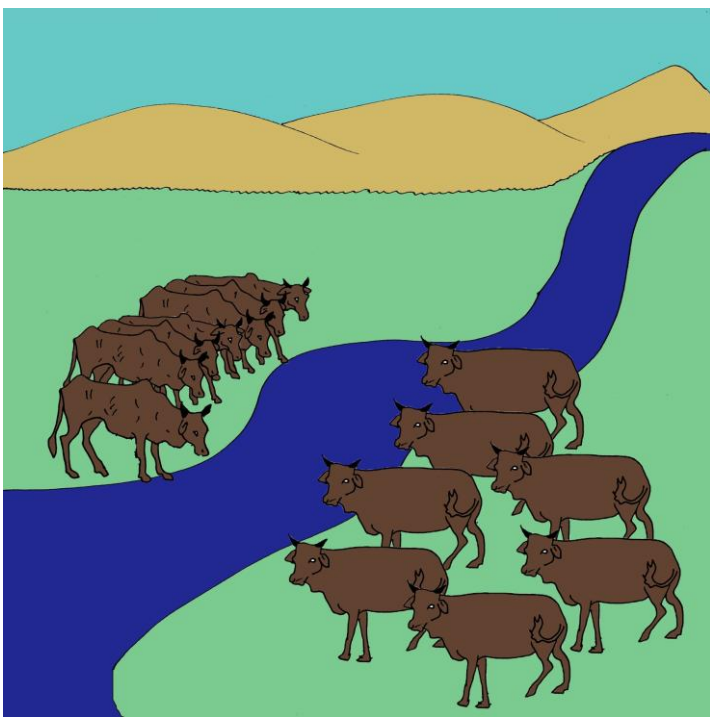


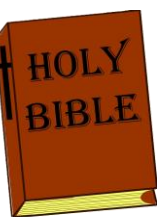
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Joseph in Egypt

Name: _____

Egypt, Potiphar, baker, butler, grapes, bread, Pharaoh, dreams

roptphia _____

rspgea _____

haahorp _____

bader _____

typeg _____

armdse _____

rebka _____

reulbt _____