Teacher's notes and answer key

Osiris – the King Who Had to Die Twice

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 12 (B1) | Video: 9:11 min

Answers B

1. Ra had cursed Nut so she could not give birth on any day of the 360-day year. Thoth won five extra days outside the calendar in a board game against the moon god – Osiris, Isis, Set and Nephthys were born on them.

2. Farming, wine-making and ordered laws; under him Egypt became a civilisation.

3. He had a chest built to Osiris's exact measurements and offered it at a feast to whoever fitted inside. When Osiris lay in it, the lid was slammed shut, sealed with lead and the chest thrown into the Nile.

4. In Byblos – inside a tamarisk tree that had grown around the coffin and stood as a pillar in the palace.

5. He cut the body into fourteen pieces and scattered them across Egypt.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

D1: Osiris stands for the black, fertile land by the Nile, Set for the red desert sand – the myth frames the world as order against chaos. D2: loyalty and persistence; her cult spread as far as Rome.

E: Coming back to life ↔ the yearly Nile flood that makes new grain grow; rebuilding the body ↔ the origin of mummification; judge of the dead ↔ the judgement where the heart is weighed against the feather of Maat (Book of the Dead); Horus on the throne ↔ the living pharaoh counts as Horus, a dead one becomes Osiris.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 12. The video describes Osiris's murder and the cutting-up of his body and hints at how Horus was conceived. Please preview the video.

Sources of the retelling: Egyptian tradition, above all the continuous account by Plutarch (“On Isis and Osiris”) and the Book of the Dead.

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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