

Virtual Archaeology Task Sheet 1 | Lives After Death: Pyramids of Giza



We can only hope to understand the past by looking at evidence. This includes both **secondary** evidence from thinkers, artists and others who weren't actually there, imagining what life might have been like, and **primary** evidence, including objects that have survived from the past into the present day. This is the work of historians, archaeologists and others who try to expand our knowledge of history.

Today you will be conducting a sort of virtual archaeology by exploring a digital version of the Pyramids of Giza and the surrounding landscape, re-created in Fortnite. This Fortnite island reimagines the site based on the latest historical research, as it might have looked in around 2,500 BCE. At that time, one of the pyramids, and many of the surrounding temples — even the Great Sphinx itself! — were still unfinished.

With your group, explore the island and collect evidence that responds to the following statement in some way:

The pyramids and their surrounding statues, temples and tombs were a form of "afterlife insurance" for the pharaohs and their families, symbolically connecting them to the gods and ensuring their souls' safety after death.

Look for features — the architecture, its layout, the landscape, the objects and the way they are used — that back up this statement in some way, and record this evidence by either:

- Taking screenshots
- Recording short videos or GIFs
- Putting together an itinerary for a virtual tour of the island

The island does have a series of objectives for you to complete, but you do not need to complete all of them to finish this task.

You will also need to **prepare a short presentation** of your collected evidence for your fellow classmates, explaining how it supports the statement above. Your presentation should also include:

- One thing that you found that surprised you, or challenged what you thought you knew about Ancient Egypt,
- One thing that you found which made you feel that the people of Ancient Egypt were not that different from you,
- One thing that posed more questions than it answered — questions that may never be answered because of a lack of surviving evidence.

This presentation could take the form of a short tour of the Fortnite island itself, a slide presentation of your screenshots and videos, a talk, or another format if agreed on first with your teacher.