



CHARACTER CARDS—EGYPT

(Blue) Sheet 1 of 2

**Horus**

Hello, my name is Horus. I am one of the most important gods in Egyptian mythology. According to the myth, after my Uncle Seth killed my father, my mother became magically pregnant with me. When I grew up, I avenged my father's death and fought great battles against my uncle for control of Egypt. After I defeated him, I became king of Egypt. Every pharaoh was thought to be me in human form.

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress as a god with the head of a falcon. While speaking, show everyone a picture depicting the eye of Horus. After speaking, re-enact a short battle with a teammate portraying your Uncle Seth (practice beforehand).*

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**Isis**

Hello, my name is Isis (*Eye-sis*). I am one of the most beloved goddesses in Egyptian mythology. I am the goddess of life and motherhood. According to the myth, when my husband Osiris was killed by his evil brother, I traveled far and wide to search for his body. After he was found, he became ruler of the underworld. Ancient Egyptians believed that the Nile River flooded every year with the tears I shed for my husband.

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress as a goddess. Note: Isis is often depicted with the horns of a cow on her head with the solar disk between them. While speaking, carry your young child, Horus, in your arms. After speaking, kneel down and pretend to cry into the Nile River.*

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**Jochebed**

Hello, my name is Jochebed (*Jock-uh-bed*). According to the Hebrew account, I am the mother of Moses. When the pharaoh ordered all male Hebrew babies to be put to death, I hid my son in a basket and floated him down the Nile. He was found by the pharaoh's daughter who took him as her own and raised him as an Egyptian prince. When Moses grew up and discovered he was Hebrew, he demanded the Hebrews be released from slavery, but the pharaoh refused.

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress as an Egyptian servant. While speaking, hold a basket with a swaddled baby inside. After speaking, place the basket on the floor and pretend to push it down the Nile river.*

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**King Menes**

Hello, my name is King Menes (*Meen-eez*). According to legend, I was the first king to start the dynasties of ancient Egypt. I united the two lands of Upper and Lower Egypt into one country in 3100 BC. The kings of Upper Egypt wore white crowns and controlled the Nile River valley. The kings of Lower Egypt wore red crowns and ruled the delta area. Due to the combining of two lands, I started to wear the famous double crown of red and white. I was known as the Lord of the Two Lands.

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress as an Egyptian pharaoh and wear a two-colored (red and white) crown. While speaking, show a drawing of Upper and Lower Egypt. After speaking, hold the map up and say, "Two Lands Joined As One!"*

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**Osiris**

Hello, my name is Osiris (*O-sigh-ris*). I am the god of the setting sun and ruler of the land of the dead. I was considered a merciful judge in the afterlife. One of my titles is Lord of Love. According to Egyptian mythology, I, as king of Egypt, taught the people law, agriculture, religion, and other blessings of the civilization.

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress in mummy wrappings, with a green face. Carry a crook and flail. After speaking, gesture to your team to bow down and worship you in honor (practice this with your team beforehand).*

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**Queen Hatshepsut**

Hello, my name is Queen Hatshepsut (*Hot-chep-suit*). I am a queen of Egypt who is remembered for bringing peace and prosperity to my people. I wore a fake beard and dressed like a pharaoh to gain respect. Unlike my father, Thutmose the First, I wanted to focus attention on Egypt itself instead of increased military power. I restored temples and sent out trading expeditions. I had two obelisks erected in Karnack for the god Amon-Ra, which are still standing today.

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress as an Egyptian queen, with a beard attached to your chin. Hold a picture of the two obelisks. After speaking, hold up the picture and say, "Let us make Egypt prosper!"*

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## CHARACTER CARDS—EGYPT

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### Queen Nefertiti

Hello, my name is Queen Nefertiti (*Ne-fur-tee-tee*). I am the wife of Pharaoh Akhenaton (*Ack-ah-nah-tun*) and a close relative of King Tut. My name means “the beautiful one has arrived.” Along with my husband, I brought many changes to Egypt, which included the worshipping of only one god, Aton. Many statues and pictures were made of me because of my beauty.

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress as an Egyptian queen, with a crown and a lot of jewelry and carry the famous picture of your face that still survives today. After speaking, hold up your picture and ask dramatically, “Who wants to build me a statue?”*

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### Ra

Hello, my name is Ra. I am the sun god depicted with a human body and the head of a hawk. According to Egyptian mythology, I am the creator of the universe. If I imagined a creature, it would suddenly appear. My chief symbols are the sun disk and the obelisk (*o-blisk*). Worshipping me was adopted as a state religion. I became king of Egypt, but gave up being king so I could ride across the sky.

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress as a god with the head of a falcon. While speaking, hold up a drawing of the sun. After speaking, flap your arms to fly back to your seat.*

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### Rameses II

Hello, my name is Rameses (*Ram-uh-seez*) the Second. I am also known as Rameses the Great. I consider myself to be a great warrior. As king, I did battles with the Hittites (*hit-tights*) and eventually reached peace with them, later marrying the king’s daughter. I was a popular king known for my building projects and the many statues I had constructed in my honor. Egypt was very prosperous during my reign.

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress as an Egyptian pharaoh. While speaking, show a picture of the Temple of Rameses. After speaking, hold the picture up and say, “I am Rameses the Great!”*

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### Thutmose III

Hello, my name is Thutmose (*Thoot-mos*) the Third. I am considered the Napoleon of Egypt. When I was old enough to rule, I replaced my stepmother, Queen Hatshepsut (*Hot-chep-suit*) on the throne and regained my rightful place as king. I led armies to conquer new lands and never lost a battle. I was a fair ruler and was loved by my people. The Egyptian Empire was at its **greatest** when I was pharaoh!

**Performance Instructions:** *Dress as an Egyptian pharaoh and carry a toy sword. After speaking, hold up your sword in victory and say “Egypt at its greatest!”*

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## CHARACTER CARDS—GREECE

(Blue) Sheet 1 of 2

### Alexander the Great

Hello, my name is Alexander the Great. I am one of the greatest military leaders of all time. At thirteen years old, my father, Philip, King of Macedon, hired the philosopher, Aristotle, to be my teacher. After my father was assassinated by his bodyguard, I took his place on the throne. I won my first victory at age eighteen and went on to never lose a battle. I conquered Persia as well as Egypt and continued my empire to northern parts of India. I cried because there was nothing left to conquer. I died in Babylon at the age of 33.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Macedonian warrior and carry a toy sword. After speaking, pretend to defeat Egypt then drop to your knees to cry and finally, pretend to die.

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### Athena

Hello, my name is Athena. I am the goddess of wisdom. According to Greek mythology, my father, Zeus, was angry with my mother, so he turned her into a fly and ate her. He did not know that she was about to give birth to me. He soon became ill with a horrible headache and cried out. The other gods came and split his head open. I jumped from my father's skull fully grown (**acting instructions: jump forward as if jumping out of your father's skull**). I am pictured on the seal of California.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Greek goddess and carry a poster-size Seal of California with the picture of Athena (Minerva). After speaking, hold the poster up for everyone to see. Follow the acting instructions within your speech.

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### Heracles

Hello, my name is Heracles (Hair-uh-kleez). I am better known by the name the Romans gave me, Hercules! I am the most popular of the Greek mythological heroes. I am known for my extraordinary strength and courage. I performed 12 great labors for my cousin, the king of Argos. Because of these feats, I won immortality and became a god.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress in a Greek tunic over a shirt. Stuff your shirt with tissue or cloth to appear as if you have big muscles and carry a toy club. After speaking, raise your club in the air and strike a victory pose and say, "HERACLES!"

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### Homer

Hello, my name is Homer. I am a blind man who created epic poems. I am the author of The Iliad (il-ee-uhd), the story of the siege of Troy, and The Odyssey, the story of the journey home from the Trojan War. My stories are based on fact and are still used today to study Greek traditions and culture. My famous works were done around 700 BC.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress in a Greek tunic and carry a walking stick. While speaking, use your stick to walk around the presentation area as if you are blind.

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### Pericles

Hello, my name is Pericles (Pair-uh-kleez). I am a great general and leader of Athens. After the war with Persia, I had three major goals for the destroyed city. My military goal was to protect Athens. My political goal was to strengthen democracy by spreading the power evenly among the poor as well as the rich. My artistic goal was to make Athens beautiful. I chose the best architects to create famous structures such as the Parthenon, which still stands today.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Greek general and carry a picture of the Parthenon building. After speaking, hold up the picture and say, "This Parthenon will stand for all time!"

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### Ptolemy I

Hello, my name is Ptolemy (Tall-e-mee) the First. I am a general of Alexander the Great's armies. We were childhood friends and I became his trusted advisor. When Alexander the Great died, his kingdom was divided among his four generals, I was given Egypt and Libya to rule as king. I made Alexandria my capital and it became the most important city in the world. I wrote a book about Alexander the Great.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Greek general and carry a book labeled Alexander the Great. After speaking, walk up to the student playing Alexander the Great and shake his hand.

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CHARACTER CARDS—GREECE

(Blue) Sheet 2 of 2

**Pythagoras**

Hello, my name is Pythagoras (*Pith-ag-or-us*). I am a Greek philosopher and mathematician. I traveled widely in search of wisdom and truth. My followers made many discoveries in math and astronomy. I also made many important discoveries about shapes and measurements that are used today as part of geometry. I developed the Pythagorean theorem.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress in a Greek tunic and carry a large chart depicting the Pythagorean theorem. After speaking, hold up your picture and say, “‘A’ squared plus ‘B’ squared equals ‘C’ squared!”

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**Socrates**

Hello, my name is Socrates (*Sock-rah-teez*). I am a philosopher who taught my students by asking questions that were difficult to answer, such as “What is true justice?” “What is knowledge?” “What is goodness?” I taught Plato and he taught Aristotle. Many of my methods are still used today. The government thought that I was questioning its authority and put me to death by forcing me to drink poison.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress in a Greek tunic and carry a plastic bottle. Have two students from your team come up with you to sit on the floor and act as your students while you speak (practice beforehand). After speaking, drink from your bottle and pretend to die.

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**Sophocles**

Hello, my name is Sophocles (*Sof-uh-kleez*). Many consider me to be the most famous Greek dramatist. I wrote over one hundred plays. Only seven still exist today. Among them are the Greek tragedies *Oedipus Rex* (*eh-dih-pus rex*) and *Antigone* (*ann-tig-ih-nee*). I wrote stories with sad endings that tell of man’s conflicts and morals. I wanted to not only entertain my audience but educate them as well.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress in a Greek tunic and carry two drama masks, one depicting a sad face and one depicting a smiling face. After speaking, hold up one and make the same face that it has, then switch and make the face of the other!

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**Zeus**

Hello, my name is Zeus. According to Greek mythology, I am the supreme ruler of all the gods. I am the god of the heavens and the earth. I also control the sky and the rain. I am able to change myself or others into animals and mimic voices. I am a carefree god who loves to laugh out loud but I can become easily angered. When I do, I use my lightning bolt to strike down mortals who displease me.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Greek god and carry a lightning bolt. After speaking, walk over to your team and pretend to “strike down” the mortals with your lightning bolt.

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WALK THROUGH THE  
ANCIENT WORLD  
CHARACTER CARDS—ROME  
(Blue) Sheet 1 of 2

## Augustus

Hello, my name is Augustus. I am the first emperor of the Roman Empire. Under my rule, the Empire began a 200-year period of peace. I solved many problems by setting up a police force, a fire department, and a committee to feed the city. I supported the arts and built or restored many temples. I was so loved by the people, they put my picture on a coin 200 years after my death. I found Rome built of sun-dried bricks, and I left her covered in marble!

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Roman emperor and carry a drawing of a coin with your picture on it. After speaking, hold up the drawing and say *"They like me! They really like me!"*

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## Calpurnia

Hello, my name is Calpurnia. I am the third and last wife of Julius Caesar. I had premonitions of my husband's murder. Bothered by these dreams, I warned him against going to the Senate on the Ides of March. Alas, my pleas were ignored and he was killed. After my husband's death, I delivered all of his personal papers and most precious possessions to Mark Antony. I never re-married.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Roman queen and carry a stack of papers. After speaking, walk over to the Roman team and give the papers to someone representing Mark Antony.

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## Cleopatra

Hello, my name is Cleopatra. I am a queen of Egypt who became involved with both Julius Caesar and his friend and successor, Mark Antony. Antony was fighting Octavian for control of our empire. We were defeated when our fleet of ships were destroyed. Legend tells that when I learned of my beloved Antony's death, I died by letting a poisonous snake bite me.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as an Egyptian queen and carry a toy snake. After speaking, re-enact the snake biting you and pretend to die.

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## Constantine

Hello, my name is Constantine. After having a vision of a cross shining in the sun, I became the first Christian emperor of Rome. Under my rule, Romans could choose their own religion, including Christianity, which eventually became the main accepted religion. I united the Roman Empire and made the important decision to move the capitol from Rome to Byzantium (Bye-zan-tee-um) which I renamed Constantinople (Con-stan-tih-no-pul), after myself. Today it is known as Istanbul (Is-tan-bull) in modern day Turkey.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Roman emperor and carry a large cross in your hand. When done speaking, kneel down as if you are praying.

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## Julius Caesar

Hello, my name is Julius Caesar. I am one of the most famous leaders of Rome. I was a great military general and, along with Crassus and Pompey, was elected consul to form the First Triumvirate (tri-um-ve-ret) which means leadership of three. I went against the others and declared myself dictator for life. I made many improvements for the Roman people, including developing the Roman calendar. Fearing that I would make myself king, the Senate assassinated me on March 15, 44 BC.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Roman general and carry a toy sword. After speaking, hold up the sword and say, *"I came, I saw, I conquered!"*

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## Juno

Hello, my name is Juno. According to Roman mythology, I am the goddess of marriage and childbirth and the wife of Jupiter. The Greeks call me Hera. My symbols are the pomegranate and peacock. As Queen of the gods, I helped settle disputes between spouses. I also protected the finances of the Roman people. The month of June is named after me and was considered the most favorable month to get married.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Roman goddess and carry play money. After speaking, walk over to your team and hand out some of your money.

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WALK THROUGH THE  
ANCIENT WORLD  
CHARACTER CARDS—ROME  
(Blue) Sheet 2 of 2

## Nero

Hello, my name is Nero. I am infamous for being one of the bad, evil emperors of Rome. I became emperor at the young age of 17 and thought of myself as a great artist. I murdered members of my family whom I didn't trust, forced citizens to listen to my concerts, and was blamed for setting half of Rome on fire to make way for my Golden Palace. I also had many Christians, including Paul, put to death. I committed suicide after my army abandoned me and the Senate declared me an outlaw.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Roman emperor and carry a toy violin, fiddle, or guitar. After speaking, shortly play your instrument. Then pretend to die.

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## Paul

Hello, my name is Paul. I am known by many as St. Paul or Paul the apostle. I was a highly respected Jewish leader who sought to arrest followers of "the way" known as Christianity today. According to the biblical account, I had a vision of Jesus and became a devoted follower of this new faith. Through my letters and 15 years of missionary journeys, I spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. My letters make up over half of the New Testament found in the Christian Bible. In 64 AD, I was killed for my beliefs.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress in a Roman tunic and carry three scrolls of paper representing the New Testament. After speaking, walk over to your team and hand each scroll to a teammate.

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## Romulus

Hello, my name is Romulus. According to Roman legend, I am the first king of Rome. It is told that my brother Remus and I were orphaned and raised by wolves and then a shepherd. When we were grown, we decided to build a city. (**Acting instructions: while reciting the rest of your card, re-enact the following fight scene with a student from your team pretending to be Remus**) We fought over where to build it and I killed him. I built the city where I had wanted to and named it after myself, Rome!

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Roman king with a "fur" shawl and a crown and carry a toy sword. Practice the acting instructions within your speech with a teammate beforehand.

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## Spartacus

Hello, I am Spartacus. I am a famous gladiator. As a slave, I was used for entertainment in the Roman circuses. I was trained to fight bloody battles against other slaves and wild beasts. Wanting freedom, I led an army of 100,000 gladiators in a revolt against the Romans. It was called the Gladiator War. After two years of fierce fighting, I was killed in a battle against Pompey the Great and my army was defeated.

**Performance Instructions:** Dress as a Roman gladiator and carry a toy sword. After speaking, re-enact a gladiator fight with a teammate in which you are defeated. Practice the battle with your teammate beforehand!

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