An Ancient Egyptian Adventure: Colors of Mummies

**Background:** Whether preparing their dead for burial or creating jewelry and artwork, Ancient Egyptian beliefs about life and death permeated all aspects of daily living. Color was an essential part of life and used to illustrate the attributes of gods and goddesses as well as for protection of the living and the dead. Through a dynamic 50 minute interactive program, students will have the step-by-step mummification process demonstrated while participating in activities that will teach about the significance of color in Egyptian mythology. In addition, students will color their own pectorals, protective amulets of jewels and precious metals, as they learn about the mummification process.

**Focus Questions:**
- What are the six basic colors of Ancient Egypt?
- What are hieroglyphs and what were they used for?
- What is a pectoral and for what was it used?
- How is a mummy made?
- Why mummify?

**Student Objectives:**
- Discover the 6 colors of Ancient Egypt.
- Name 3 Ancient Egyptian colors.
- Create their own Hieroglyphs that represent the meaning behind Ancient Egyptian colors.
- See the step by step process of Egyptian mummification.
- Create an Ancient Egyptian pectoral necklace.
- Know why the Egyptian’s mummified their dead.

**Materials:**
- One Egyptian color palette falcon worksheet for each student
- One pectoral worksheet for each student
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers (Red, Blue, Black, White, Yellow, & Green)
- Yarn or string, cut in 16-20 inch lengths, one for each student

**Vocabulary Words:**
- **Pectoral:** a necklace or protective amulet worn in life and death on the chest, usually made of precious metals and semi-precious stones.
- **Shabti:** figurines that represented workers and servants for the afterlife.
- **Scarab:** because of the life cycle, the amulet was placed with the dead in ancient Egypt.
- **Falcon:** sacred to the god Horus, guardian of the Egyptian rulers.
- **Hieroglyphics:** of or pertaining to hieroglyphs ("sacred writing"), the style of writing used by ancient Egyptians.
Teacher Preparation:
Make a copy of both worksheets for each student. Cut yarn in 16-20 inch lengths for each student.

Procedure:
Before starting your adventure, collect all materials for each student along with colored pencils, crayons, or markers, and yarn. Distribute the materials when indicated by the MPM presenter. Students will work on coloring the palette and pectoral worksheets during the program. Connect to Milwaukee Public Museum. Should you have any difficulty connecting, call 414-412-7059. After the conclusion of the program, have the students cut out their pectorals and string them on the yarn to complete the project.

Assessment:
What is a pectoral and for what was it used? What are the basic colors of the Ancient Egyptian color palette and what did they mean? Why did the Ancient Egyptians mummify their dead? How are mummies made?
Help the pharaoh’s falcon by drawing your own hieroglyph to represent the meaning of the six of the basic colors for the ancient Egyptians. Place your hieroglyph next to each color. Then use your crayons, colored pencils, or markers to fill in the feathers of his wing. Match your colors to the colors listed on each feather to learn more about the meaning of ancient Egypt’s color palette.