Cheikh Anta Diop

Studies of the Mummified Remains in Kemet

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____

Grades 6 through 12 interdisciplinary Research Simulation Task

Essential Question

How did Diop use mummified remains to investigate Kemet’s African history, and what can his evidence support?

NJSLS Social Studies

6.2.8.GeoHE.2.a connects geography and river valley societies. 6.2.8.HistoryCC.2.a examines their achievements and legacy. Across grades 6 through 12, inquiry practices include evaluating sources and developing evidence based claims.

NJSLS English Language Arts

RI.CR.6.1 and W.AW.6.1 support evidence and argument. High school connections include RI.CR.9–10.1, W.AW.9–10.1, RI.CR.11–12.1, and W.AW.11–12.1. Use the teacher guide for grade band tasks.

CCLS Literacy Connections

RH.6–8.1, RH.9–10.1, and RH.11–12.1 address historical evidence. WHST.6–8.1, WHST.9–10.1, and WHST.11–12.1 address argument. RST.6–8.8 distinguishes facts and reasoned judgments in scientific text. These are Common Core literacy connections.

Interdisciplinary and Amistad Alignment

History examines African scholarship and the interpretation of Kemet. Geography uses the Nile corridor. Science evaluates observations and sampling. Mathematics uses mean and range. This supports Amistad instruction on African history and challenges to racial exclusion.

Day 1 Kemet and an African Research Question

Do Now

Why does the location of a civilization matter when we study its history?

Source A Diop Frames the Question

Kemet is used here for ancient Egypt, a civilization in northeastern Africa. Cheikh Anta Diop, a Senegalese scholar, challenged accounts that separated its achievements from African history. His research joined historical writing, language comparisons, and physical evidence. In his chapter on the origins of ancient Egyptians, he presented mummified skin as evidence that could be examined in a laboratory. [1]

A research question guides an investigation. For this packet, ask how preserved tissue might help investigate pigmentation and what additional evidence would be needed to describe a population. A sample is the material actually examined. A population is the larger group about which a claim is made. Confusing those two can turn a limited observation into an unsupported generalization.

Quick Write

Explain Diop’s research question and distinguish a tissue sample from the population it might be used to study.