The Ancient Near East

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Documentaries

Ancient Egypt
[Schlessinger Media, 2004] (26 min)
"The wonders of ancient Egypt, a civilization that began along the fertile banks of the Nile River more than 5,000 years ago, have fascinated the world for centuries. Explore King Tut’s tomb in the Valley of the Kings and discover the golden treasures that were to accompany the pharaoh into the afterlife. Expert engineers and architects, the ancient Egyptians built spectacular pyramids and monuments at the direction of their kings. Their intricate writing system of hieroglyphs mystified archeologists until the discovery and translation of the Rosetta Stone. Students will learn the mysteries of this remarkable civilization that exhibited both a joy for life and a fascination with the world beyond death"
Curriculum Lab. Juvenile Media DT61.A58 2004

Ancient Mesopotamia
[Schlessinger Media, 2004] (27 min)
"Today, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is a barren desert. But centuries ago, this area in modern-day Iraq and southern Syria was known as Mesopotamia, a fertile plain that served as home to some of the earliest civilizations. Discover the Sumerian civilization, the first to successfully irrigate the region, form a government and develop a written language. The program explores other civilizations that formed following the demise of the Sumerians—the warlike Assyrians and the prosperous Babylonians, who invaded Jerusalem under King Nebuchadnezzar"

The Dead Sea scrolls: A common heritage
[Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2003] (33 min)
"What can the Dead Sea scrolls tell modern theologians about 1st-century Judaism and the roots of Christianity? Drawing on the experiences of Frank Moore Cross, of Harvard University; Emanuel Tov, chief editor of the Dead Sea scrolls publication project; James Charlesworth, of Princeton Theological Seminary; and other experts, this program describes the battle for open access to the scrolls while exploring the common heritage that links both faiths. In addition, Barbara Thiering airs her radical hypothesis. Footage of the Pope in Jerusalem and readings from the Dead Sea scrolls beatitudes and the Thanksgiving scroll are included"
Media Collection BM487 .D433 2003

The Dead Sea scrolls: The end of days
[Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2003] (36 min)
"About 2,000 years ago, a group of people lived at Qumran, on the shore of the Dead Sea. Were they really the Essenes? And did the inhabitants write the more than 800 scrolls that were found there? In this program, Geza Vermes, of Oxford University; Lawrence Schiffman, of New York University; archaeologist Hanan Eshel; and other experts search for the answers. The startling counter-theories of Norman Golb and Yitzhar Hirschfeld are also considered. Close-ups of scrolls and pottery fragments, footage of the dig at Qumran, models and drawings, and reading from the War scroll, Temple scroll, and Copper scroll are included"

Media Collection BM487 .D432 2003

The Face of Tutankhamun: The Great Adventure
[A&E Home Video, 1993] (86 min)
"In 1922 deep beneath the desert in the Valley of the Kings, archaeologist Howard Carter discovers the tomb of the boy-Pharaoh, Tutankhamun. Host Christopher Frayling follows Carter’s footsteps from rural England to the Valley of the Kings in an adventurous "dig" for the facts behind the myths and legends. This video series presents the story of Tutankhamun from the moment of Carter’s discovery to the current problems modern civilization faces trying to preserve the treasures for future generations."

Curriculum Lab Juvenile Media DT87.5.F33 1993

The Gates of Jerusalem: a History of the Holy City
[Questar, 1996] 2 videocassettes (125 min) Dir. Rick Ray
"This fascinating video presents the story of Jerusalem and the Holy Land against the backdrop of history and prophecy. Of the eight gates found in the walls surrounding Old Jerusalem, one of them, the Golden Gate, is being watched continuously by Christians, Muslims and the Jewish faithful. Millions around the world believe it holds the key to world history and our futures."


The Great Pyramids of Giza and Other Pyramids
[A & E Home Video, 1997] (47 min)
"Explores the ancient mystery, beauty and grandeur of the great pyramids. Marvels of architecture and design, pyramids have graced the deserts of Egypt and the lands of South America for centuries. Yet, they remain an enigma to modern historians and architects. How were these ancient peoples able to build such perfect examples of symmetry and geometry without any of the modern machines or technology available to later generations?"

Curriculum Lab Juvenile Media DT63.P9885 1997

Heritage: Civilization and the Jews
[Home Vision, 2002] (540 min)
“Nine one-hour episodes present the history of the Jewish people and their interactions with, and influences upon, various civilizations.”

Media Collection DS117.H465 2002

The Hidden Pearl: The Syrian Orthodox Church and Its Ancient Aramaic Heritage
"A 2001 documentary created by the Syriac Orthodox Church. Volume 1 deals with the pre-Christian Old Aramaic period, covering the Aramaean city states, the Neo-Assyrian, Achaemenid and Seleucid periods, including the kingdoms of Palmyra, Petra and Hatra. Volume 2 addresses Middle Aramaic tradition and literature, the Aramaic of Jesus and classical Syriac literature. Volume 3 focuses on the current situation of the Syriac Orthodox Church and the Syriac diaspora."

Media Collection BX173.3.H53 2001

"Documentary exploring the city of Jerusalem with historian Sir Martin Gilbert as guide. Gilbert uses aerial photography and models to show the growth of the city from biblical times, profiles important Biblical figures, traces the rise of Islam and Zionism, discusses Arab-Israeli relations and describes archaeological discoveries."


"Aryana Farshad’s ... spiritual odyssey deep into the heart of in her native Iran after a 25-year absence. At the risk of confiscation of film equipment and the threat of drug traffickers, Farshad embarked on a ... cinematic tour to capture on film rites and rituals hidden for centuries. From the women’s chamber at the Great Mosque to the temple-caves in the land of Zarathustra, to the sacred dance of the Dervishes in Kurdistan, she gained access to religious ceremonies and locations never before seen by the outside world."

Media Collection BL2270.M97 2008

"For more than twenty years Nefertari was the beloved queen of one of history's most celebrated and powerful rulers—Rameses the Great. This video takes the viewer on a journey through the tomb, revealing the brilliant images that depict Nefertari's search for eternal life."

Arts Library NS2863.N4413 1993

“Towerimg, majestic and timeless, the great pyramids of Giza have fascinated explorers and engineers for thousands of years. Despite centuries of research, the pyramids have yielded few of their secrets. How were they built? Were they built as tombs for royalty?"
How do experts explain similar pyramids found thousands of miles away in Central America and Asia?"

Curriculum Lab Juvenile Media DT63.P9885 1997

**Queen of the Mountain**
[Women Make Movies, 2005] (56 min) Dir. Martha Goell Lubell
"Theresa Goell started her career as an archaeologist with four strikes against her: she was a female, divorced, a Jew working with Muslims and hearing impaired. But Goell abandoned her comfortable lifestyle to pursue her passion at Nemrud Dagh, a site that had eluded archaeologists for centuries. Lubell’s tender film brings this epic adventure to life through breathtaking archival footage, family photographs and Goell’s letters and oral history"
Media Collection DS156.N45 T44 2005

**Secret Egypt**
[Mystic Fire Video, 1995] (50 min) Dir. Maxine Harris & Sheldon Rochlin
"Travelogue of a journey in search of elements of mysticism in contemporary Egyptian culture, filmed in Cairo, Luxor, the Valley of the Kings, and other locations. Women and men are seen in various trance dances, some involving spirit possession, exorcism and healing. Also depicted are stick and sword dances, wedding celebrations, belly dancing, and dancing and music by a family of snake handlers. The narration includes numerous quotations from the Sufi poet Rumi."
Media Collection DT70.S427 1995

**The secrets of the Dead Sea scrolls**
[Questar, 2003] (50 min)
“Discusses the Dead Sea scrolls, a combination of the oldest written version of the Bible and the rules of the Essene community. Talks about the discovery of the scrolls and about their restoration, and examines evidence that Qumran was the site of the Essene community.”
Media Collection BM487 .S43 2003