

The Legend of Isis and Osiris

Long ago, Egypt was ruled by a pharaoh named Osiris and his wife, Isis. Osiris's brother, Seth, was jealous and wished that he were the leader of Egypt instead.



One day, Isis and Osiris were walking around the town when Seth approached them. "Hello Osiris," Seth said. "I am having a party next week. Would you be able to join in?" Osiris agreed and told Seth that he would see him next week.

When Osiris was sleeping that night, Seth climbed into his room and measured him from head to toe. Before Osiris woke up, Seth disappeared.

The night of the party arrived and the guests made their way through the doors of Seth's home. Isis and Osiris had a wonderful time. At the end of the night, Seth made an announcement. "Thank you all for coming tonight," he said. "Before you go home, I have one final surprise."

When Seth clicked his fingers, a group of servants carried in a heavy, golden box. Seth waited for silence before saying, "Anyone who can fit perfectly inside this box can keep it."

Immediately, people queued to climb inside the box and lie down. Each person was told that they were either too tall or too short. It was Osiris's turn next. It was clear that he fit inside perfectly as soon as he lay down in the box. Suddenly, everything went dark.



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Seth had put the heavy lid on the valuable box. He ordered his servants to throw it into the river. The box quickly floated out of sight.

For weeks, Isis searched the riverbank for the golden box. Eventually, she found it trapped between the reeds. However, the lid was too heavy and she couldn't open the box. A shadow fell across her as she tried other ways of opening it. Seth had tracked her down. He was angry. He tore the box and Osiris into 14 pieces before scattering them across Egypt.



Isis spent the next few months finding all 14 pieces. She was able to make Osiris whole again with the help of the god, Ra, and he was mummified. Osiris began his journey to the underworld. Isis hoped that they would see each other again one day.

Questions

1. How many pieces did Seth tear the box and Osiris into? Tick one.

- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14

2. Which of these words is **not** used to describe the box? Tick one.

- valuable
- heavy
- delicate
- golden

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred in.

- Isis looked for Osiris by the river.
- A group of servants carried in a box.
- Seth invited Isis and Osiris to a party.
- Isis made Osiris whole again.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence. One has been done for you.

Ra...	•	•	wished that he were the leader of Egypt.
Seth...	•	•	could fit perfectly inside the box.
Isis...	•	•	helped Isis to put Osiris back together.
Osiris...	•	•	found the box trapped between the reeds.

5. Find and copy one word that tells you that the box was worth a lot of money.

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6. Why did everything go dark after Osiris had climbed into the box?

7. Explain why Seth needed to measure Osiris from head to toe.

Answers

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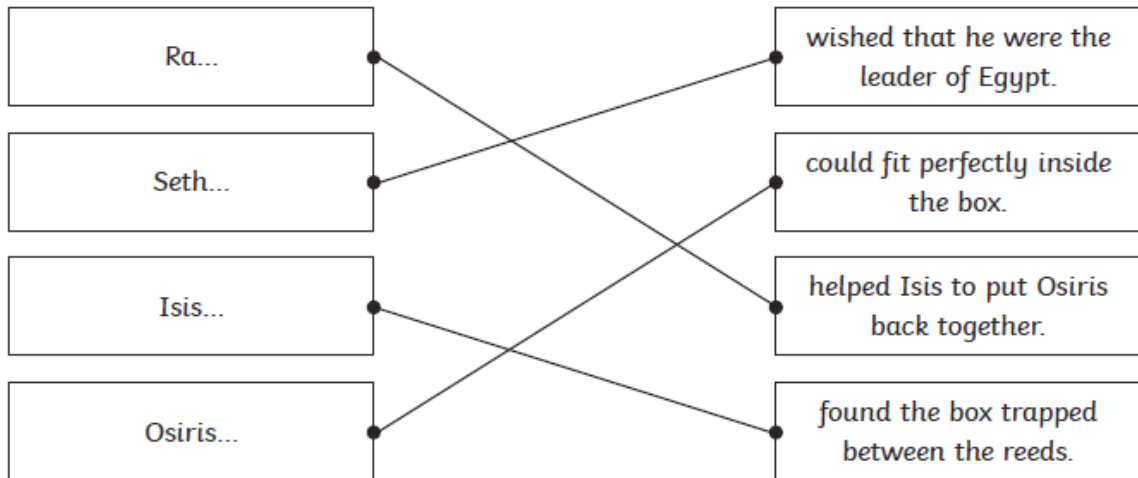
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- 3 Isis looked for Osiris by the river.
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- 1 Seth invited Isis and Osiris to a party.
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5. Find and copy one word that tells you that the box was worth a lot of money.

valuable

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6. Why did everything go dark after Osiris had climbed into the box?

Everything went dark because Seth had put the heavy lid on the box.

7. Explain why Seth needed to measure Osiris from head to toe.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Seth measured Osiris from head to toe so that he could make a box that Osiris would fit in perfectly and could be trapped in.