

The Legend of Isis and Osiris

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



One day, Isis and Osiris were walking around the town when, suddenly, Seth appeared in front of them. "Hello brother," Seth said. "I am having a party next week. Would our pharaoh be able to join in?" Seeing no reason to refuse, Osiris agreed and told Seth that he would see him next week.

Late that night, as Osiris slept, Seth climbed into his room and measured him from head to toe. Osiris slept undisturbed and Seth disappeared into the night.

The night of the party arrived and hundreds of excited guests made their way through the doors of Seth's home. Isis and Osiris dined on the finest foods and had a wonderful time. Then, towards the end of the night, Seth stood up to make an announcement. "Thank you all for coming tonight," he said, looking across the crowd of people. "Before you go, I have one final surprise."

With a click of his fingers, a group of servants began to carry in a beautiful, golden box. Everyone was astounded. It was clear that the box was very valuable. Seth waited for silence before saying, "If anyone can fit perfectly inside this box, they 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. Before long, it was Osiris's turn. As soon as he lay down in the box, it was clear that he fit inside perfectly. However, before he could celebrate, everything went dark.



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Seth had sealed the lid on the golden box. He ordered his servants to throw it into the river. The box containing Osiris quickly floated out of sight.

Over the coming weeks, Isis walked the banks of the river looking for the golden box. Eventually, she found it trapped between the reeds. However, she found that the box was sealed too tightly and she couldn't open it. While she wept, a shadow fell over her. Seth had tracked her down. He flew into a fit of rage. He tore the box and Osiris into 14 pieces before scattering them across the whole of Egypt.



Isis spent the next few months gathering the pieces from the vast deserts of Egypt. Eventually, with the help of the god Ra, she was able to make Osiris whole again. Once he had been mummified, Osiris began his journey to the underworld. Isis hoped that they would see each other again one day.

Questions

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

- Seth measured Osiris from head to toe.
- Seth tracked down Isis.
- Seth revealed a golden box.
- Seth invited Isis and Osiris to a party.

2. Who threw the box into the river? Tick one.

- Seth
- the servants
- the other guests
- Osiris

3. Which of the following statements is **true**? Tick one.

- Only Isis and Osiris went to the party.
- A few guests went to the party.
- Hundreds of guests went to the party.
- Thousands of guests went to the party.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Lots of people attended... ●

Isis found the box... ●

Ra helped to put Osiris together... ●

Osiris began... ●

● in the reeds.

● and he was mummified.

● his journey to the underworld.

● Seth's party.

5. Find and copy **two** different words that are used to describe the box.

- _____
- _____

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6. Why did Osiris agree to go to Seth's party?

7. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise Seth's plan to trap Osiris.

8. Explain how the story might be different if Seth **hadn't** measured Osiris before the party.

Answers

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

- 2 Seth measured Osiris from head to toe.
- 4 Seth tracked down Isis.
- 3 Seth revealed a golden box.
- 1 Seth invited Isis and Osiris to a party.

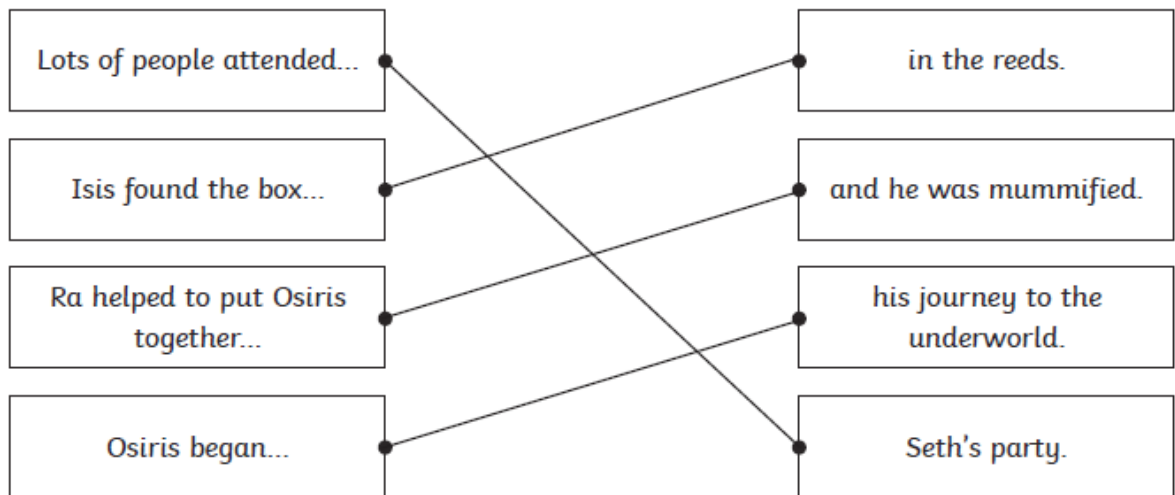
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3. Which of the following statements is **true**? Tick one.

- Only Isis and Osiris went to the party.
- A few guests went to the party.
- Hundreds of guests went to the party.**
- Thousands of guests went to the party.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.



5. Find and copy **two** different words that are used to describe the box.

Accept two of the following: beautiful; golden; valuable.

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6. Why did Osiris agree to go to Seth's party?

Osiris agreed to go to Seth's party because he could see no reason to refuse.

7. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise Seth's plan to trap Osiris.

Pupils' own responses, such as: First, Seth measured Osiris without him knowing. Then, he made a box the same size before tricking Osiris into getting inside and closing the lid.

8. Explain how the story might be different if Seth **hadn't** measured Osiris before the party.

Pupils' own responses, such as: If Seth had not measured Osiris before the party, he might not have fit inside the box. If Osiris had been too big for the box, Seth wouldn't have been able to close the lid and would have had to think of another way to trap him.