

Nubia/Kush notes

WORDS FOR THE DAY: CULTURE: The way of life of a people—their shared practices, judgments, attitudes, and ideas. **SYMBOLS:** things that stand for other things, like a flag standing for a country.

1. This will be a good introduction of several topics to the kids. One is the ancient world. Another is the concept of culture, (including ethnocentrism and prejudice). And another is the notion of race and slavery.
2. Make sure you make it clear to them that Kush and Nubia are the same thing, but most of the time the people of Kush were called Nubians (only rarely Kushites).
3. You might find some way of letting them know just how far back in time 701 BC was. (You should probably avoid confusing them with the more academic BCE designation.) You might say that this was 700 years before Jesus was born. You should explain (obviously) that in ancient times there was no electricity or indoor plumbing or cars. People got around mainly on donkeys, as there still were no camels in Africa at this time.
4. You might also explain the fact that people who are raised in one culture tend to be more satisfied with their own ways than they are with other cultures they come in contact with. Ask them if they've ever come in contact with a group of people who seemed so different that it made them feel uncomfortable (make sure you let them know this is natural).
5. The Ancient Egyptians demonstrate in their tomb art that they had a keen sense of physical differences by the way they colored the people. It is not clear, however, if they looked down on people of different colors or just acknowledged their differences.
6. Slavery took place in the ancient world. It almost always was the result of war—where prisoners of war became the victors' slaves. But slavery was never based on race in ancient times. In fact it was only in modern times that slavery was based on race.
7. Most kids have received some education on ancient Egypt, even if it is only in popular films. But rarely do they receive an education on the black African kingdoms. So this is a good story to start with.
8. The belief in Amun-Re was very close to monotheism. In fact, the description of this deity is very much like the description of the God of the Jews, Christians, and Muslims.
9. The writing of its time was hieroglyphics. But it is uncertain how many people of the time could read it.
10. Like many of the KaTS stories, this story follows the genre of historical fiction. That means that most of the historical information in this story is true (per archaeological and written evidence), but the characters and the actual story are fiction.

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