**Helpfulness Element 10 Hidden Gifts from History**

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| **History** | **Hidden Gifts from History** |
| **Age Level**  7 – 18  **Time:** 30-40 minutes  **Resources**  Reading Material  Videos/online reading sources for additional research (optional)  **Objectives**  Students will:   1. Understand the relationship of history and gifts that last in the future 2. Learn about two very different places and time periods 3. Comprehend the value of helpful gifts at turning points in life 4. Commit to giving acts and gifts of lasting helpfulness | **Teachers, Parents or Self-Guided Learners will:**   1. Study introductory information about Egypt and King Tut. 2. Consider the properties of honey as a nonperishable food and bees as long-term contributors of this food source. 3. Conduct additional research online 4. Read a story about a French family in World War II. (Older students may explore more online research on this topic.) 5. Journal their own opportunities to give lasting gifts. |

**Hidden Gifts from History**

**A Story from Egypt**

Some gifts are so helpful, they last a lifetime or longer. In ancient Egypt, when wealthy pharaohs passed away, their families put them in tombs (large graves with many rooms). They placed in the tomb the gifts they thought their loved one would need in the afterlife. 

In 1922, excavators found the tomb of one such pharaoh, Tutankhamun, nicknamed King Tut, who died in 1325 B.C. The treasures in his tomb were carefully preserved for a century, then assembled for a traveling exhibit. At museums around the world, people can see the traveling exhibit with King Tut’s mask, various pieces of artwork and the many treasures that represent the beliefs and craftsmanship of early Egypt.

Somehow, his family knew enough to pack the food that would never spoil for the young king to enjoy for eternity: Honey! When explorers opened the tomb after so many centuries, the airtight containers of honey held their precious syrup intact. Imagine that. Bees had no idea they had created a gift for the ages. Sometimes we cannot see how helpful our gifts will be in the future.

Meanwhile, click here to learn more about the history of Egypt and the life of the young boy who inherited the life of a king.

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=L0IR%2B4Mj&id=BA7A8AEE8240C53D2E6E0BC4AA817D702A8911B9&thid=OIP.L0IR-4MjBAG928hOvoTzwgHaFj&mediaurl=http%3A%2F%2Fimage.slidesharecdn.com%2Ftutankhmunsmallgroup-120409015655-phpapp02%2F95%2Ftutankhamun-2-728.jpg%3Fcb%3D1410246151&exph=546&expw=728&q=Year+King+Tut+died&simid=608036823642606654&ck=55E46EF2E7DC300522B9CEBD7711086B&selectedindex=6&form=IRPRST&ajaxhist=0&vt=0&sim=11>

**A Story of the Holocaust**

*If you have access to the following story, listen to it in the words of the teller on the link. If not, read it here.*

A lady from France, Francine Christophe, shared a story about her childhood. Born in the 1930s, she survived WWII as a child. She and her mother were captured and sent to live in a concentration camp. As a very young child, she felt frightened, and because they could only take a few things, her mother tucked away a little bit of chocolate, saving it for a moment when her daughter would need it for extra encouragement.

One day, very frail pregnant woman in the camp came to the mother, about to give birth. The mother asked her little girl, “Can I please give this lady your chocolate? She will need the extra strength to have a new baby in a concentration camp.” The little girl wanted so much to be helpful, and so she gave up her only comfort, the chocolate.

The infant was born too weak to cry, but at least both the new mother and baby survived. At the end of the war, they were all freed, and at last, they unwrapped the feeble baby, and it let out a cry of relief.

Many decades later, the girl telling the story had become an elderly lady. She was urged to give a lecture about what it would have meant to have counsellors to help the families through their experience. She told her story about the chocolate.

Finally, the last speaker, came to the front of the room and stood up to talk. She first turned to Francine and handed her a piece of chocolate, saying, “This is for you, for your helpful kindness. I was that baby.”

<https://www.huffpost.com/entry/holocaust-survivor-shares-amazing-story-of-kindness-in-a-concentration-camp_n_560e94bfe4b0768127019f17>

**About the War:**

WWI (World War II) lasted from 1939-1945 and involved many countries. Eventually, Germany, Italy and Japan were defeated by the UK, with its allies in the US, France, China, and, at that time, the current Soviet Union. The war broke out when Germany invaded Poland and began attacking all Jewish people. Hitler’s effort to eliminate minorities is called the Holocaust.

Much research about the war and about the concentration camps exists online, both here and in other places.

<https://www.yadvashem.org/holocaust/france/camps-in-france.html>

**Your Challenge**

If you could create a gift for the ages—something you think will outlast your lifetime—what would it be?

Think about it. Write about it. Watch for the opportunity.

Keep a journal to write or draw each day a helpful gift or action you gave that may last in someone’s memory.