

# Examine the Case

## TOP 20 TIPS FOR THE VBS DIRECTOR

Whether you're a first time recruit or a seasoned director, here are some tips just for you.

1. Pray and study God's Word. "We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). You *will* be busy, so keep in mind that the busier you get, the more you need to pray and study! God will multiply your time if you give Him your best.
2. Read through the various guides thoroughly and early. Become familiar with the Director's Resource CD-ROM, which contains clip art, logos, printable and customizable versions of the forms mentioned throughout this guide, and more. If you're a first time director, ask past directors and VBS veterans what's been done in the past. It helps to receive counsel! At the same time, don't be afraid to try something new.
3. Read through the FAQs on p. 7. This is a good resource for you and a good reference for volunteers or parents who have questions.
4. Many hands make light work. Be careful not to over-extend yourself. Delegate areas of responsibility to people and allow them the joy of serving, even if it is not quite how you would do it.
5. Build a team spirit within your own family so VBS will not seem like just *your* project, but theirs, too. Include them in discussions and preparations.
6. When working with people, there *will* be conflicts. Resolve conflict with prayer and gentle answers based on principles from God's Word. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).
7. Have a backup plan in case the weather turns nasty and you need to be inside all day.
8. Have fun. Directing your VBS should be a joy for you. At the same time, though, remember you are in a spiritual battle, with an enemy that will try to throw darts your way. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
9. Label file folders with different areas of VBS, and use these to file ideas and suggestions.
10. Help your church catch the significance of this event by sharing that VBS is a huge, God-given opportunity to reach many with the gospel of Christ.
11. Get enough sleep.
12. Make people feel loved, appreciated, and needed.
13. Communicate well. Make announcements. Require attendance at the training workshops. Send emails. Keep everyone informed.
14. Be enthusiastic! Your excitement is contagious and makes others want to be in on the fun.
15. When deciding on the ages to include in your VBS, keep in mind that this VBS is written to appeal to not only young children, but older elementary, too. It has real answers from God's Word for real issues all kids face.
16. Be the *director*. Don't commit to teaching or any other VBS leadership role during VBS week. Stay as free as possible to greet, encourage, and troubleshoot.
17. Carry a walkie-talkie during VBS week. Leave one at the VBS counter so you can be reached throughout the building.
18. Prepare two bins for each Team Leader. See p. 26 for more information.
19. After VBS is over, survey your staff so you can make improvements for next year.
20. Keep a list of answered prayers and praises. Share your list with others. Continue praying, even after VBS is finished, for God to grow the seeds He planted and to bring more fruit over the next months. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

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## TERRIFIC TRIVIA TIDBITS

### Did you know . . . ?

- An ancient Egyptian would place his right hand on an onion when taking an oath.
- Pharaohs often married their sisters or half-sisters.

Use these fun and fascinating facts, along with the ones below, to get your mind thinking about our fun theme (ancient Egypt) and our spiritual theme (the mystery of life). These trivia tidbits can be shared ahead of time at staff meetings with adults and during the week of VBS with kids. They are available on the Director's Resource CD-ROM and can be used at arrival and dismissal time or during any down time while kids wait to get to their next rotation.

### Part One: Ancient Egyptian Information

- You know how football players get stickers to put on their helmets as a reward for a good game? In ancient Egypt, the Pharaoh awarded golden flies, which people wore on necklaces, for acts of bravery.
- Do you think the saying "Can I give you a hand?" came from ancient Egypt? In war, when an Egyptian soldier killed someone, he cut off his right hand. Then the hands were counted to keep a total of how many people had been killed.
- Crime didn't pay in Egypt. If you didn't pay your taxes, you were beaten. If you committed a more serious crime, you might get your nose cut off. And if you touched the Pharaoh without permission, you could be sentenced to death!
- Strange, but true. Ancient Egyptians kissed by rubbing noses.
- Did you know most girls married by 12–13 years old, and boys by age 14?
- The earliest known toilet seat was made in Egypt. So were the first known pancakes, candy, lighthouse, and makeup.
- Here's an unusual way to make some money. Egyptian women and young girls were sometimes hired to weep and wail at funerals.
- How would you like a pet baboon? Egyptians trained baboons to pick figs from trees.
- What is the world's largest desert (outside the polar regions)? The Sahara Desert, which is partially in Egypt.
- What is the world's longest river? The Nile River in Egypt.
- Have you ever sniffed the earth? In ancient Egypt, this term was used for prisoners or foreigners when they approached the Pharaoh. They were expected to touch their noses to the ground as a sign of humility, which was termed "sniffing the earth."
- Grrrrrr! King Ramses II had a pet lion he kept at his side.
- Each block of a pyramid weighs as much as 2½ elephants. That's one heavy block!
- Egyptians had an interesting way of scaring birds away. Instead of using scarecrows, they hired young boys who had loud voices and could handle a sling-shot well.
- One Egyptian statue is so large the big toe is the size of a man!
- School's out—forever! In ancient Egypt, there was no school, unless you wanted to be a scribe or a doctor. Instead, the boys worked with their dads, and the girls worked with their moms.
- Talk about a headache! Ancient Egyptians didn't use pillows when sleeping but instead used wooden or stone headrests.
- Ever fall out of bed at night? Rich Egyptians might have had that problem because they slept in tilted beds, allowing their heads to be higher than their feet. They solved that problem, however, by creating footboards for the bottoms of their beds.
- Watch out for hippos! Believe it or not, hippos were quite dangerous to Egyptians because they knocked over boats, dumping the people into the crocodile-infested Nile River.
- The Egyptians thought it was good luck to enter a house left foot first.

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## Part Two: Human Body Information—Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

- Watch out! A sneeze can blast out of your nose at 100 miles per hour.
- Here's a mystery. Babies have about 300 bones, and adults have just 206 bones. Where do they go? Some bones fuse together, making one bone in place of two.
- Almost all of the dust in your house is made from dead skin that's fallen off your body. Thank you for the donation!
- Guess which nail grows the fastest? It's the nail on your middle finger. If you are left-handed, it's your middle left finger. If you are right-handed, it's your middle right finger.
- Go figure! Fingernails grow almost four times faster than toenails.
- Your body grows a new stomach lining every three to four days.
- During your lifetime, you'll make enough saliva in your mouth to fill two swimming pools.
- Zzzzz! People can go longer without food than without sleep, so go take a nap.
- Smile! It takes just 17 muscles to smile but 43 to frown.
- Do you know you are shrinking? You are about 1 centimeter taller in the morning than in the evening. As the day goes on, the cartilage between your bones gets smooshed, making you just a little shorter in the evening.
- Tickle! Tickle! Actually, it is impossible to tickle yourself.
- Do you need to sneeze? If so, you'll probably be closing your eyes because it is nearly impossible to sneeze with your eyes opened.
- Hey there, sleepy head! You spend one-third of your life sleeping. That's 25 years for an average lifetime!
- In 30 minutes, a body gives off enough heat to bring a half-gallon of water to a boil.
- Children have more taste buds than grown-ups. No wonder they don't want to eat those brussel sprouts.
- OUCH! A man named Charles Osborne had the hiccups for 69 years.
- While you are sleeping, more than a dozen bugs find their way into your mouth each year. But don't worry—you swallowed most of them!
- Did you know food will get to your stomach even if you're standing on your head?



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## PHARAOH'S FUNNIES

### Jokes—Egypt

- Why did the crocodile cross the Nile?  
To get to the other tide.
- What did one Egyptian baby say to the other Egyptian baby?  
I want my mummy.
- What do you keep a crocodile in?  
A croc-pot.
- When is the best day to take a walk in the desert?  
Sun-day.
- What does one leopard say to the other leopards before going hunting?  
“Let us prey.”
- What kind of coffee did King Tut drink?  
De-coffin-ated.
- What has a mouth and a fork, but doesn't eat?  
The Nile River.
- What did one pyramid say to the other?  
I see your point.
- How do Egyptians hide?  
They wear camel-flage.
- What's a mummy's favorite music?  
Wrap.

### Jokes—The Body

- What can you catch but not throw?  
A cold.
- Why was the skeleton crying?  
Because he had no “body” to play with.

- What has a neck but no head?  
A shirt.
- What part of the body likes a good joke?  
The funny bone.
- What did one archaeologist say to the other archaeologist?  
I've got a bone to pick with you.

### Knock-Knock Jokes

- Knock-knock.  
Who's there?  
Desi.  
Desi who?  
Desi know that Pharaoh never let his hair be seen?
- Knock-knock.  
Who's there?  
Albert.  
Albert who?  
Albert you didn't know there were women pharaohs!
- Knock-knock.  
Who's there?  
Heaven.  
Heaven who?  
Heaven you heard that the average Egyptian man was only five feet tall?

### Tongue Twisters

- The Sphinx drinks soft drinks.
- Gregory gobbles great grapes.
- The sun shines sometimes.

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## EGYPT FROM A TO Z

Imagine life in ancient Egypt. What words and images come to mind? Use this list to begin the brainstorming process and to create class names, word searches, and crossword puzzles ([puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com](http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com)).

- A** Abydos, acacia tree, Alexandria, Am-hotep, archaeologist, artisan, astronomer
- B** baboon, barley, bartering, beetle, boat builder, bricklayer
- C** Cairo, camel, caravan, carpenter, cartouche, chariot, Cleopatra, cobra, copper-smith, crocodile
- D** dates, delta, desert, doctor, dynasty
- E** Egypt, Egyptologist
- F** false gods and goddesses, festivals, figs, fishing, flax, flood, flute
- G** Giza, gold, gold mines, granite, grapes, gymnastics
- H** harp, hawk, headdress, hieroglyphs, hippo, historian, honey
- I** ibis
- J** jewels, jeweler, judge
- K** Karnak, King Tut, kohl
- L** leapfrog, leatherworker, leeks, lentils, linen, locust, lotus flower, lute
- M** makeup, marsh, mastaba, mathematician, medicine, melon, mirage, mud bricks, mummies
- N** Nile River, nobleman, Northern Africa
- O** oasis, obelisk, olive tree, open air market, ostrich
- P** palace, palm tree, papyrus, peacock, peasant, Pharaoh, pomegranate, potter, prince and princess, pyramid
- Q** quarry, queen, Queen Nefertiti
- R** Ramses, reeds, reliefs, riverbank, Rosetta Stone, royal baker, royal cupbearer
- S** sand, sandals, sand dunes, sarcophagus, scribe, scorpion, servant, slave, snake, sphinx, step pyramid, stonecutter
- T** tamarisk tree, tambourine, temple, tent, tomb, tomb robbers, torch, treasure, tug-of-war
- U** ushabti
- V** Valley of the Kings, viper, vizier
- W** wall paintings, wardrobe keeper, water clock, weaver, wigs, woodcarver
- XYZ** zither, zoo (around the palaces)