



The Geography of Ancient Egypt

Analysing the Narmer Palette

You may remember that a pharaoh called *Narmer* was mentioned in the programme. He was the man who united the two regions of Egypt in the archaic period, and is depicted on this artefact. Called the *Narmer Palette*, this artefact was discovered by archaeologists in Egypt.

Task: Look at the image of the front and back faces of the artefact. Study the symbols used to record Narmer's achievement in unifying the land of Egypt then answer the questions.



1. What do you think the creatures with linking necks symbolise?

2. What other animal and bird symbols represent the power of the pharaoh?

3. What specific characteristics of these creatures did the artist want to associate with Narmer?





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4. What is Narmer holding in his left hand?

5. What does this object appear to symbolise?

6. What has happened to Narmer's enemies? Refer to the photo of the artefact for this.



7. Can you see the lotus plant (symbolising Upper Egypt) and the papyrus plant (Lower Egypt's symbol) represented on the artefact? Circle them on the image.

8. Can you see a walled city depicted on the palette? Circle it.

9. Is there a boat represented anywhere on the palette? Circle it.

10. Which part of the palette would have been used to hold paint or ink? Circle it.

11. Narmer is wearing three items that carry the following symbolic meanings. Identify each item.

_____ - symbolising that his leadership carries the power and strength of a bull

_____ - symbolising his birth in Upper Egypt

_____ - a type of armour symbolising his readiness to go into battle

12. Can you see two men depicted under the feet of Narmer? What might they symbolise?

