

# The Legend of Isis and Osiris

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



One day, Isis and Osiris were walking around the town when Seth approached them. "Hello Osiris," Seth said. "I am having a party next week. Would you be able to join in?" Osiris agreed and told Seth that he would see him next week.

When Osiris was sleeping that night, Seth climbed into his room and measured him from head to toe. Before Osiris woke up, Seth disappeared.

The night of the party arrived and the guests made their way through the doors of Seth's home. Isis and Osiris had a wonderful time. At the end of the night, Seth made an announcement. "Thank you all for coming tonight," he said. "Before you go home, I have one final surprise."

When Seth clicked his fingers, a group of servants carried in a heavy, golden box. 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. It was Osiris's turn next. As soon as he lay down in the box, it was clear that he fit inside perfectly. Suddenly, everything went dark.





Seth had put the heavy lid on the valuable box. He ordered his servants to throw it into the river. The box quickly floated out of sight.

For weeks, Isis searched the riverbank for the golden box. Eventually, she found it trapped between the reeds. However, the lid was too heavy and she couldn't open the box. As she tried other ways of opening it, a shadow fell across her. Seth had tracked her down. He was angry. He tore the box and Osiris into 14 pieces before scattering them across Egypt.



Isis spent the next few months finding all 14 pieces. With the help of the god, Ra, she was able to make Osiris whole again and he was mummified. Osiris began his journey to the underworld. Isis hoped that they would see each other again one day.

# Questions

1. How many pieces did Seth tear the box and Osiris into? Tick one.

- 11  
 12  
 13  
 14

2. Which of these words is **not** used to describe the box? Tick one.

- valuable  
 heavy  
 delicate  
 golden

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

- Isis looks for Osiris by the river.  
 A group of servants carry in a box.  
 Seth invites Isis and Osiris to a party.  
 Isis makes Osiris whole again.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence. One has been done for you.

|           |   |   |  |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| Ra...     | ● | ● | wished that he were the leader of Egypt. |
| Seth...   | ● | ● | could fit perfectly inside the box.      |
| Isis...   | ● | ● | helped Isis to put Osiris back together. |
| Osiris... | ● | ● | found the box trapped between the reeds. |

5. Find and copy one word that tells you that the box is worth a lot of money.

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6. Why did everything go dark after Osiris had climbed into the box?

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7. Explain why Seth needed to measure Osiris from head to toe.

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# Answers

1. How many pieces did Seth tear the box and Osiris into? Tick one.

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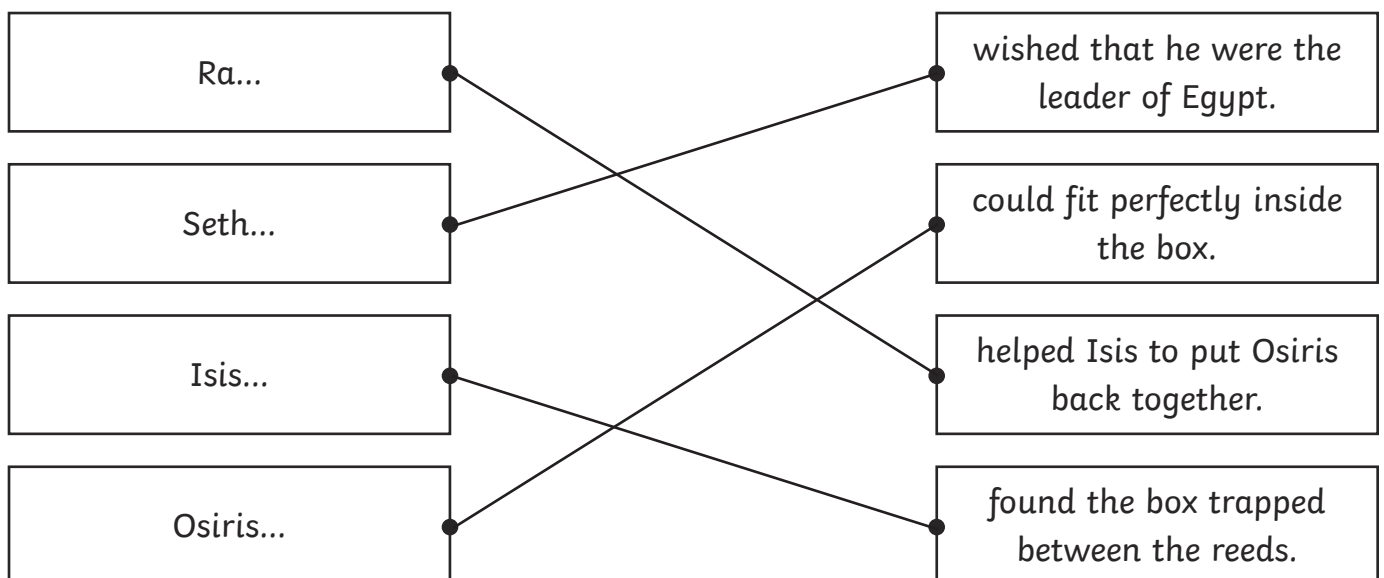
2. Which of these words is **not** used to describe the box? Tick one.

- valuable  
 heavy  
 **delicate**  
 golden

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

- 3 Isis looks for Osiris by the river.  
 2 A group of servants carry in a box.  
 1 Seth invites Isis and Osiris to a party.  
 4 Isis makes Osiris whole again.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence. One has been done for you.



5. Find and copy one word that tells you that the box is worth a lot of money.

**valuable**

6. Why did everything go dark after Osiris had climbed into the box?

**Everything went dark because Seth had put the heavy lid on the box.**

7. Explain why Seth needed to measure Osiris from head to toe.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Seth measured Osiris from head to toe so that he could make a box that Osiris would fit in perfectly and could be trapped in.**



# 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.





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 invites 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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# 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 invites 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...          | in the reeds.                  |
| Isis found the box...               | and he was mummified.          |
| Ra helped to put Osiris together... | his journey to the underworld. |
| Osiris began...                     | Seth's party.                  |

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

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

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.**

# The Legend of Isis and Osiris

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



One day, Isis and Osiris were out walking when, suddenly, Seth appeared in front of them. "Hello brother," Seth announced. "I am having a party next week. It would be wonderful if our beloved pharaoh could attend." Seeing no reason to refuse, Osiris agreed and told Seth that he looked forward to seeing him. As Seth walked away, his face shifted to form a menacing grin; he had a plan.

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

The night of the party arrived and hundreds of brightly clothed guests made their way through the doors of Seth's home. Throughout the night, Isis and Osiris dined on the finest foods and had a wonderful time. Towards the end of the night, Seth sought everyone's attention. "Thank you all for coming," 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 carried in an ornate, golden box. Gasps echoed around the room; it was clear that the box was the work of master craftsmen and that it was very valuable. A hush fell across the room and Seth declared, "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 declared to be 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. Delighted that he was to be the new owner of the golden box, Osiris began to sit up when everything went dark.



Isis looked on helplessly as Seth secured the lid on the golden box and ordered his servants to throw it in the river. Instantly, it was dragged out of sight by the current.

Over the coming weeks, Isis scoured the banks of the river for the golden box. Eventually, she found it trapped between the reeds. However, try as she might, there was nothing that she could do to open it. She leant over the box and began to weep. Just then, a shadow fell over her. With the help of his spies, 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 vowed to find all of the pieces and spent the next few months gathering them 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. What was Seth jealous of? Tick one.

- Osiris being a fair ruler
- Osiris being popular
- Osiris being wealthy
- Osiris holding better parties

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

- Everything went dark for Osiris.
- Seth tracked down Isis.
- Everything went dark for Osiris.
- Isis and Osiris arrived at Seth's party.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **With a click...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'highly decorated'.

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4. Who threw the box and Osiris into the river?

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5. Add in the missing words to complete the sentence.

Ra and Isis made Osiris whole again. He was \_\_\_\_\_ before  
he began his journey to the \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Discuss the characters of Osiris and Seth.

How are they **different**?

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7. Summarise the legend of Isis and Osiris using 30 words or fewer.

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8. Do you think that Osiris would have been safe if he didn't go to the party? Tick one.

yes

no

Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. What was Seth jealous of? Tick one.

- Osiris being a fair ruler
- Osiris being popular**
- Osiris being wealthy
- Osiris holding better parties

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

- 2** Everything went dark for Osiris.
- 4** Seth tracked down Isis.
- 3** Everything went dark for Osiris.
- 1** Isis and Osiris arrived at Seth's party.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **With a click...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'highly decorated'.

**ornate**

4. Who threw the box and Osiris into the river?

**Seth's servants threw the box and Osiris into the river.**

5. Add in the missing words to complete the sentence.

Ra and Isis made Osiris whole again. He was **mummified** before

he began his journey to the **underworld**.

6. Discuss the characters of Osiris and Seth.

How are they **different**?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: In the text, it says that Osiris is loved by many which must mean that he is kind to people. Seth locks Osiris in a box which is not a kind thing to do to someone.**

7. Summarise the legend of Isis and Osiris using 30 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Seth was jealous of Osiris so he trapped him in a box. When Isis found the box, Seth tore it up. Isis found the pieces and put Osiris back together.**

8. Do you think that Osiris would have been safe if he didn't go to the party? Tick one.

**Accept either 'yes' or 'no' provided that an explanation is given, such as: No, I don't think that Osiris would have been safe because Seth was able to go into his bedroom while he was sleeping so he might have tried to capture Osiris there instead.**