

PUFFIN BOOKS PRESENTS



CHATTERPACK

An Egyptian-themed pack of
resources around **Rick Riordan's**
eagerly awaited new series



read
the reading agency

Chatterbooks is a network of children's reading groups run in libraries and schools
and co-ordinated by The Reading Agency – www.chatterbooks.org.uk



www.puffin.co.uk
www.kanechronicles.co.uk
www.rickriordan.com

WELCOME TO THE KANE CHRONICLES CHATTERPACK

Dear Librarian

Puffin Books is proud to present this Chatterpack dedicated to the enthralling new adventures from the master of myth – Rick Riordan.

Fresh from escapades with the Greek gods in the bestselling Percy Jackson books, Rick has turned his pen to Ancient Egypt in *The Kane Chronicles* – the fast-moving adventures of Carter and Sadie Kane featuring gods, monsters, prophecies and curses. Blending ancient myths and modern-day thrills, it's a sure-fire hit that will be lapped up by all adventure fans. The first *Kane Chronicles* book – *The Red Pyramid* – is published on 4th May 2010, with two more exciting stories to follow.

Because Ancient Egypt fascinates young readers, Puffin Books has put together this exclusive pack of resources, stuffed full of activities, games and discussions around Rick Riordan's stories and settings. Everything has been specially designed to help get Chatterbooks groups interested in both *The Kane Chronicles* and Ancient Egypt. In the following pages you will find:

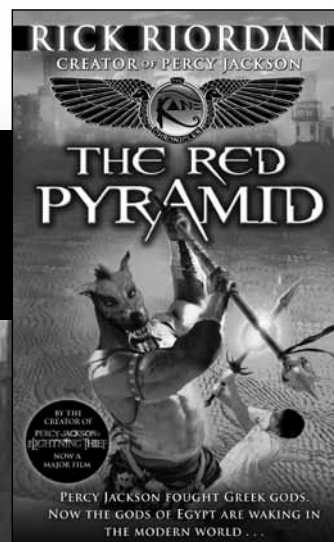
- Guides to Rick Riordan and his brilliant books from Puffin
- Fun activities using Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics
- A guide to the strange and wonderful gods of *The Red Pyramid* plus a quick quiz to test children's knowledge
- A special Egypt and *Kane Chronicles* Wordsearch
- Instructions for Senet, a popular Ancient Egyptian board game
- A drawing activity to get kids sketching their own characters
- Topics for lively discussions and research, plus a guide to further resources.

We hope you enjoy both *The Kane Chronicles* and the chance this pack gives you to get kids hooked on books and history.

With best wishes,

Everyone at Puffin Books

THE RED PYRAMID BY RICK RIORDAN



PUFFIN
9780141384948
£12.99
4TH MAY



www.puffin.co.uk
www.kanechronicles.co.uk
www.rickriordan.com

ABOUT RICK RIORDAN

Rick Riordan is a writer who lives in Texas in America. Before starting to write he worked as a teacher, and got the idea for his Percy Jackson series of books from talking to his pupils and children about Greek mythology. The Percy Jackson books have since become some of the most popular titles for children in the last few years, and are now being adapted for a series of films. Rick now concentrates on his writing full-time. Here's a little more about this great author and how he came to research and write *The Kane Chronicles*.

When did you start writing?

I wrote a lot of short stories when I was young, but I was never serious about writing at university. I focused most of my creative energy on music, and was lead singer in a folk rock band, if you can believe it. After college I became a teacher, and was quite happy with the idea of doing that for the rest of my life. But I read a lot of mystery books in my spare time, and eventually decided, on a lark, that I would try writing a private eye novel. I wrote grown-up mystery novels for about seven years before I started the Percy Jackson series for young readers.

What appealed to you about switching from Greek mythology in the Percy Jackson books to Egyptian mythology in *The Kane Chronicles*?

Egyptian mythology is a constant source of fascination for kids and adults. Mummies, pyramids, curses, hieroglyphics – there is just so much great material. The gods of Egypt are quite complex, and I liked the challenge of modernising a mythology that is not as well known or understood as the Greek, but every bit as colourful.

How do the Egyptian gods compare to the Greek ones? And who would win a battle between them?

The Egyptian gods were harder to pin down, as they were always changing form and combining attributes with one another. They were very powerful, but Egyptians believed you could actually battle gods or threaten them to grant your wishes if you were powerful enough at magic. I think the Greek gods would be confident of victory, but the Egyptian gods would be quite sneaky and might just pull off an upset.

Who is your favourite Egyptian god and why?

I like Bast, the goddess of cats, probably because I'm a cat lover. She was a popular protective goddess, and Egyptians wore her amulets during the unlucky Demon Days at the end of the year. I can appreciate the way Egyptians revered cats. They are fascinating creatures, and they know it!

How did you research Egyptian mythology and magic?

I did a great deal of reading and visited several museums, including the British Museum in London, the Metropolitan Museum in Manhattan and the Brooklyn Museum.

Have you ever been to Egypt? If not, do you plan to?

I haven't been to Egypt, but then again I had never been to Greece when I wrote the Percy Jackson books. I don't think you have to visit those countries to appreciate their stories and the impact they've had on modern civilization, but of course it helps! I'd love to visit Egypt one day.



ABOUT RICK RIORDAN

Can you tell us about *The Kane Chronicles*' heroes, Carter and Sadie Kane?

Carter is 14, and has traveled the world with his father, an Egyptologist, for six years since his mother died. He has never known a regular school or a regular home, but has lived out of a suitcase. He reads a lot, and is very knowledgeable about Egypt, but he doesn't really know much about being a normal kid. Sadie was raised in London by her maternal grandparents, and sees Carter and her father only twice a year. She has been raised as a normal British schoolgirl, but envies Carter's travels. The two siblings hardly know each other, and have little in common, but they are thrown together and must find out how to work together.

What is it about myths that attracts and intrigues you?

Myth is timeless, ancient, and surprisingly relevant. I love taking characters that are very old and making them seem like best friends to modern young readers. We can laugh at the gods or get angry at their jealous, selfish ways, but ultimately we understand them, because they are very human.

How hard or easy is it for you to make ancient myths real and relevant for young readers today?

It's actually easy for me, which I suppose is why I keep doing it, and why I love my job so much. Writing down the stories and polishing them up is a challenge, but coming up with ways to modernize the characters and events is easy. I suppose that proves how timely the myths still are.

What tips would you give for becoming a successful writer?

Read a lot! This is where you'll get your inspiration – the fuel for your writer's engine. Write a little bit every day – writing is like a sport, and the more you practice, the better you get. And don't get discouraged! Rejection is part of writing, but if you stick with it, you will succeed.

What are your hobbies?

Guitar, reading, online games and travel.

What's your favourite book?

The Lord of the Rings trilogy by J R R Tolkien.

And your favourite film?

Young Frankenstein.

If you hadn't been an author, what would you have been?

A teacher! I taught in schools for many years, and loved it. If writing didn't keep me so busy, I would definitely be back in the classroom.



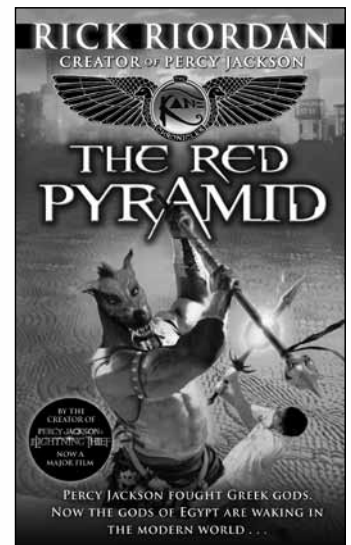
RICK RIORDAN'S BOOKS

THE RED PYRAMID

(Puffin, 9780141384948, £12.99)

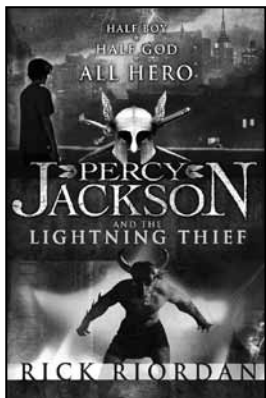
The Red Pyramid is the first book in *The Kane Chronicles* series – the gripping new series from myth master Rick Riordan.

Carter and Sadie are the children of expert Egyptologist Julius Kane and an archaeologist mother who died in strange circumstances when they were young. Brought up separately, they meet up at the British Museum in London for a research project – but things go terribly wrong when the Rosetta Stone explodes and unleashes the evil Egyptian god Set, who imprisons their father. Carter and Sadie must travel the globe to battle the gods, free their father and unlock the secret of their family's link to an old temple of magic. Set against the backdrop of Ancient Egypt, this is a dazzling fantasy adventure – destined to become a firm favourite.



PERCY JACKSON

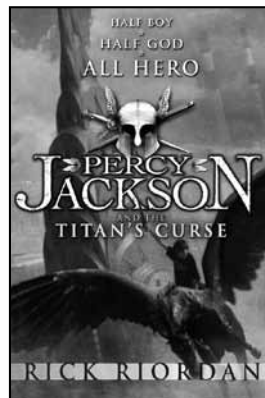
Before starting *The Kane Chronicles*, Rick Riordan wrote the hugely popular and award winning Percy Jackson books, now adapted for an equally successful series of films. Here's a guide to the Percy Jackson titles available from Puffin.



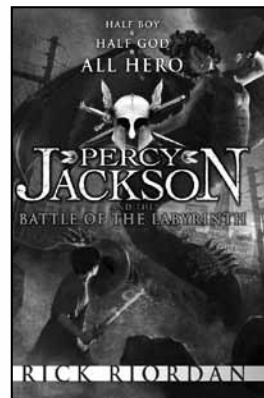
PERCY JACKSON AND THE LIGHTNING THIEF
(film tie-in edition, 9780141329994, £6.99)
The first book in the series and now a blockbuster film. Percy, half boy and half god, has upset Zeus, god of the sky, and must find his lightning bolt before it's too late.



PERCY JACKSON AND THE SEA OF MONSTERS
(9780141319148, £6.99)
When the borders of Half Blood Hill are threatened by invading demons and monsters, Percy must cross the Sea of Monsters to track down the Golden Fleece.



PERCY JACKSON AND THE TITAN'S CURSE
(9780141321264, £6.99)
Percy gathers together a troupe of five friends to battle the strange manticore – half human, half lion – and rescue the missing Annabeth.



PERCY JACKSON AND THE BATTLE OF THE LABYRINTH
(9780141321271, £6.99)
When Percy's arch-enemy Luke tries to invade the camp via an ancient labyrinth, the battle to defend it goes deep underground.



PERCY JACKSON AND THE LAST OLYMPIAN
(9780141321288, £6.99)
It's Percy's 16th birthday – but there's no time to party as an ancient prophecy has predicted terrible events. Can Percy save Mount Olympus from rampaging Titans?

Also available:
PERCY JACKSON: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE (9780141331577, £7.99)
and **PERCY JACKSON: THE DEMIGOD FILES** (9780141331461, £4.99).







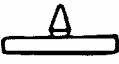


















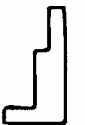


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www.rickriordan.com

FUN WITH HIEROGLYPHICS

Hieroglyphics was the writing system used by Ancient Egyptians to express themselves and communicate with other people. Some hieroglyphs look like birds or strange creatures, while others seem little more than squiggles – but they would all have meant something in the time of *The Kane Chronicles*.

Egyptians used lots of different hieroglyphs, which were sometimes based on drawings of objects or the sound of particular words. In fact, there may have been several thousand different hieroglyphs, each representing a word, letter or concept.

As a result, there are lots of different versions of the hieroglyphic alphabet, but here is one guide to the equivalent letters of our own familiar A to Z.

A 	B 	C 	D 	E 	F 	G 
H 	I 	J 	K 	L 	M 	N 
O 	P 	Q 	R 	S 	T 	U 
	V 	W 	X 	Y 	Z 	








FUN WITH HIEROGLYPHICS

You can use this alphabet to write anything you like. And because only people with the same alphabet will be able to understand your words, it's a great way to write in code! Using our guide to the hieroglyphic alphabet, try writing your name in the space below.

My Name in Hieroglyphics

Now try using the alphabet to work out what these five words mean. They are all connected to *The Kane Chronicles* and Ancient Egypt.

	_ _ _ _
	_ _ _ _
	_ _ _ _ _
	_ _ _ _ _ _ _
	_ _ _ _ _ _ _



EGYPTIAN GODS A GUIDE

A quick guide to some of the weird and wonderful characters of *The Red Pyramid*.

ANUBIS:

God of funerals and death. Son of Set and Nephthys. He was often painted on tomb walls as he was thought to protect the dead. Shown as a jackal or wild dog.

BAST:

Goddess of cats, women and children. A cat-headed woman, she can be both gentle and fierce. Welcomed in Egyptian homes as goddess of hearth and home.

GEB:

God of the earth. He is husband to the sky Goddess Nut and father to Osiris, Isis, Horus, Set and Nephthys. Geb was one of the most important of the gods. His parents were Shu, the god of winds, and Tefnut, the goddess of moisture.

HORUS:

God of the sky. He is another of the most important gods in the Egyptian pantheon and son of Isis and Osiris. Horus is known as the Falcon god and is believed to have given power to each pharaoh. Horus lost his eye fighting Set.

ISIS:

Goddess of motherhood and love, wife and sister of Osiris and mother of Horus. She recovered Osiris's body and brought him back to life after he was killed by Set.

NEPHTHYS:

Goddess of the night. Daughter of Geb and Nut, sister of Osiris, Isis and Set, and mother of Anubis. Nephthys was the wife and female counterpart of Set, but was also a faithful sister of Isis, and helped her to reconstitute the body of Osiris.

NUT:

Sky goddess. Wife of Geb and mother of Osiris, Isis, Horus, Set and Nephthys. She gave birth to her children on the five extra days of the Egyptian calendar, defying Ra's decree that she could not bear children during any month of the year.

OSIRIS:

God of the dead. Husband of Isis, father of Horus and son of Geb and Nut. Osiris is shown as a bearded man wrapped like a mummy wearing an atef crown. His hands hold a crook and flail, two symbols of power in ancient Egypt.

RA:

God of creation. Ra was almost universally worshipped as king of the gods, and appears as a pharaoh wearing the sun disk on his head.

SEKHMET:

The lion-headed goddess of medicine and war.

SERQET:

Scorpion goddess, thought to have power over venomous snakes and scorpions. A servant of Set, she was a protective goddess with a dark side.

SET:

God of evil, chaos, and darkness. Son of Geb and Nut, husband and brother of Nephthys, and brother of Osiris and Isis. He killed his brother Osiris, scattered pieces of his body and plucked out the eye of Horus. Associated with the colour red.

SHU:

God of winds. Father of Nut, the sky goddess, and of Geb, the earth god. Under the edicts of Ra and Ma'at, Shu kept Nut and Geb eternally separated.

THOTH:

God of wisdom and writing. He had two forms: the ibis bird and the baboon. He helped Isis bring Osiris back from the dead.



EGYPTIAN GODS QUIZ

How well do you know your Egyptian gods? Use the guide to some of the characters of *The Red Pyramid* to answer these ten questions.

1 What animal does Bast have the head of?

2 Who is the father of Nut?

3 Which god lost his eye after fighting Set?

4 What is the name of Set's wife?

5 Who is the goddess of medicine and war?

6 Thoth is sometimes depicted as a baboon and which other creature?

7 Who killed Osiris?

8 Which god is often depicted as a wild dog?

9 What does Ra, the god of creation, wear on his head?

10 With which colour is Set associated?

MY SCORE: OUT OF 10



ANCIENT EGYPT WORDSEARCH

The 15 words or names below are all connected with Ancient Egypt and *The Kane Chronicles*. How many can you find? Words can run from side to side, up and down or diagonally. Good luck!

Egypt
Pyramid
Hieroglyphics
Pharaoh
Temple

Mummy
Nile
Sphinx
Rosetta
Kane Chronicles

Julius
Carter
Sadie
Face of Horror
Rick Riordan

D	P	U	E	H	P	S	C	O	G	H	A	M	A	R
T	N	H	S	I	E	Y	P	A	E	D	T	U	T	Y
H	S	T	A	E	U	G	R	H	R	R	L	M	E	F
A	A	O	G	R	T	R	Y	A	Y	T	E	M	M	A
I	F	W	N	O	A	T	O	P	M	N	E	Y	P	C
H	Y	U	T	G	G	O	A	G	T	I	X	R	L	E
H	T	E	R	L	E	T	H	H	E	P	D	P	E	O
T	N	A	U	Y	J	U	L	I	U	S	K	E	I	F
A	O	O	F	P	R	T	E	T	I	F	L	E	S	H
O	T	B	T	H	O	E	F	S	L	W	E	T	M	O
I	S	R	R	I	C	K	R	I	O	R	D	A	N	R
K	A	N	E	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E	S	R
M	D	R	O	S	E	T	T	A	T	D	L	R	A	O
O	I	N	A	A	R	O	E	O	R	I	E	E	I	R
M	E	S	N	D	W	V	T	A	N	M	H	R	M	R



QUIZ AND WORDSEARCH SOLUTIONS

Quiz Answers

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1 Cat | 6 Ibis bird |
| 2 Shu | 7 Set |
| 3 Horus | 8 Anubis |
| 4 Nephthys | 9 Sun disk |
| 5 Sekhmet | 10 Red |

Wordsearch Solution

D	P	U	E	H	P	S	C	O	G	H	A	M	A	R
T	N	H	S	I	E	Y	P	A	E	D	T	U	T	Y
H	S	T	A	E	U	G	R	H	R	R	L	M	E	F
A	A	O	G	R	T	R	Y	A	Y	T	E	M	M	A
I	F	W	N	O	A	T	O	P	M	N	E	Y	P	C
H	Y	U	T	G	G	O	A	G	T	I	X	R	L	E
H	T	E	R	L	E	T	H	H	E	P	D	P	E	O
T	N	A	U	Y	J	U	L	I	U	S	K	E	I	F
A	O	O	F	P	R	T	E	T	I	F	L	E	S	H
O	T	B	T	H	O	E	F	S	L	W	E	T	M	O
I	S	R	R	I	C	K	R	I	O	R	D	A	N	R
K	A	N	E	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E	S	R
M	D	R	O	S	E	T	T	A	T	D	L	R	A	O
O	I	N	A	A	R	O	E	O	R	I	E	E	I	R
M	E	S	N	D	W	V	T	A	N	M	H	R	M	R



PLAY SENET

Ancient Egyptians loved playing board games, and Senet is a simple but fun one that anyone can try! To get started, set up your board. It should contain 30 squares as below – so either use this one or draw your own board on to thick card.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Each player now needs five small playing counters each. Choose different colour counters – tiddlywinks or small buttons work well. Arrange them alternately on squares 1 to 10. So, the first player lays counters on squares 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, while the second player lays them on squares 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10.

Now you're ready to play! The aim of the game is to move all your counters around the board until they have passed square 30 and left the board. You'll need a dice to roll – or you could do as the Ancient Egyptians did and use six small, thin sticks, coloured distinctively on one of the two sides, which you throw onto a flat surface. The number that land the coloured side up is the equivalent of a roll of a dice.)

Each player now takes turns to throw the dice or sticks to see how many squares they can move forward. Players must then choose a counter to move that number of squares around the board. You can move any of your counters that you like, BUT...

- You must not land on a square that already has one of your own counters on.
- If you land on a square that already has one of your opponent's counters on, you swap places.
- All counters must move around the board in a reverse 'S' shape, following the numbers in the corner of each square.
- If a player throws a one, four or six, he or she gets another throw.
- The first player to get all five of their counters off the board is the winner. Have fun!



DRAW YOUR OWN CHARACTER

Rick Riordan's *The Red Pyramid* is full of weird and wonderful gods, monsters and people. Why not use the space below to sketch what you think one or more of them might look like? You could choose Carter or Sadie Kane, the book's heroes. Or you might choose Set, the evil god of chaos, or one of the many other strange foes encountered by Carter and Sadie. If you're feeling really imaginative, you could make up your own mythical creature and give it a name of your own!

MY CHARACTER:



www.puffin.co.uk
www.kanechronicles.co.uk
www.rickriordan.com

DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH TOPICS

The Red Pyramid is a great springboard for group discussions and research projects. Ancient Egypt intrigues many children, so use the book as an opportunity to get them learning more about it. Here are six topics you could raise with Chatterbooks members plus some ideas for further library-based research around them.

LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

This is one of the most fascinating civilizations in world history. Discuss what children know about Ancient Egypt, and help them to learn more from relevant books and websites (there are some suggestions on the Further Reading page). You could look at life for children in homes, schools and temples, or things like food, festivals and religion.

FAMOUS BUILDINGS.

Ancient Egypt has a rich legacy of monuments including the Pyramids, the Sphinx, obelisks, temples and palaces. Ask children to choose one of these buildings to research. What is its history and significance to Ancient Egypt? What condition is it in now, and how is it being preserved? You could also ask children to draw one of the monuments from photographs they have found.

THE ROSETTA STONE.

This large inscribed stone, discovered during Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian campaign and now kept in the British Museum, has an important part to play in *The Red Pyramid*. It also greatly advanced our understanding of Ancient Egypt and of hieroglyphics in particular. Ask children to research its history, how it was found, and how it helped historians decode the language of Ancient Egypt.

MUMMIES.

The mummification process is one of the best known legacies of Ancient Egypt. Set children to researching the subject and producing a short presentation of what they find. What is a mummy, and where have they been found? Why were people mummified, and how is the process done? How do representations of mummies in films and books compare with the real history of them?

EGYPTIAN AND GREEK GODS.

Any children who have read Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson books will be able to compare them with the Egyptian ones in *The Red Pyramid*. How are they similar and different? Which of the two did they find most interesting? And what are the differences in the ways the Ancient Greeks and Egyptians viewed their gods?

THE RED PYRAMID.

What do children think about *The Red Pyramid*? Did they enjoy the stories and the characters? What didn't they like, and what ideas do they have for improvements? Did they become more interested in Ancient Egypt as a result of the story? What do they think might happen in the next instalment of *The Kane Chronicles*? Remember that children may be at different stages of the book, so try not to give anything away about the ending!



FURTHER READING

Children who have enjoyed reading and talking about Ancient Egypt and *The Kane Chronicles* might be interested in finding out more from these books and websites.

MORE BOOKS FROM PUFFIN, DORLING KINDERSLEY AND LADYBIRD

Mad About Egyptians

(978184649244, £1.99).

A basic introduction to the history of Ancient Egypt – ideal for younger children.

Ancient Egypt

(9781405334945, £4.99).

Good guide to the history and culture, packed with illustrations and activities.

Tales of Ancient Egypt by Roger Lancelyn Green

(9780140367164, £6.99).

A great collection of stories that originated in Ancient Egypt.

There's a Pharaoh in Our Bath! by Jeremy Strong

(9780141324432, £4.99).

Fun-filled story for younger children about a 40,000 year old Egyptian pharaoh called Sennapod who comes to stay in a family home.

The Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan

More rip-roaring adventures from the acclaimed author of *The Kane Chronicles*.

Time Riders by Alex Scarrow

(9780141326924, £6.99).

Gripping time-travelling escapades – perfect for thrill-seeking boys.

The Artemis Fowl series by Eoin Colfer

Fans of *The Red Pyramid* will love the 12 year-old mastermind of these bestselling books.

WEBSITES

www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egyptians

A great introduction to the history, people and places of Ancient Egypt.

www.ancientegypt.co.uk

A good interactive site built by the British Museum to help people learn more about Ancient Egyptian life, gods and goddesses and much more.

www.egyptianmyths.net

A straightforward guide to some of the beliefs, gods and goddesses of Ancient Egypt.

www.kingtutone.com/kids

A children-friendly guide, with lots of games.

www.kanechronicles.co.uk

Feature-packed companion site to *The Kane Chronicles*.

www.puffin.co.uk

Lots more information about *The Kane Chronicles* author Rick Riordan and all his books.

www.rickriordan.com

The official website of Rick Riordan.



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www.rickriordan.com