

## Lesson Title

How to Draw King Tut Portrait (Crayon + Gold Tempera) Ancient Egypt Art Lesson for Grades 2, 3, 4, & 5

## Grade Levels

Grades 2–5 (easily adjustable up/down)

## Lesson Objective

Students will create a stylized **King Tut portrait** inspired by ancient Egyptian imagery, using **facial proportion + symmetry** to draw the face and **repeating pattern** to design the striped nemes headdress, then finish with **blue crayon + gold tempera** for bold contrast.

## NCAS Visual Arts Standards

(Condensed across grades 2–5; same anchor skills, grade-coded where appropriate.)

- **VA:Cr2.1.2/3/4/5a:** Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials. ([nationalartsstandards.org](http://nationalartsstandards.org))
- **VA:Cr2.3.2/3/4/5a:** Demonstrate understanding of safe and proficient use of materials, tools, and equipment. ([nationalartsstandards.org](http://nationalartsstandards.org))
- **VA:Re7.2.4a** (and related grade-band skills): Analyze components in visual imagery that convey messages. ([The Wadsworth](http://TheWadsworth.com))
- **VA:Cn11.1.5a** (grade 5 connecting): Identify how art is used to inform or change beliefs, values, or behaviors of an individual or society. ([nationalartsstandards.org](http://nationalartsstandards.org))

## Lesson Description

Students learn quick, kid-friendly context about **King Tutankhamun** and ancient Egyptian portrait style, then practice **symmetry** and **facial placement** (eyes halfway, nose centered, mouth spacing, etc.). The headdress stripes are the sneaky “math-ish” part: **repeat, space, mirror**. Finish with **blue crayon** for stripes and **gold tempera** for that “treasure” glow.

**Teaching notes (because reality is loud):**

- For **2 x 30 minutes**, do drawing day 1 and color/paint day 2.
- For **one 45**, keep the drawing simple, paint last 10–12 minutes, and have a “fast finisher background pattern” ready.

## Vocabulary

- **Pharaoh:** A ruler/king of ancient Egypt.
- **Portrait:** Artwork showing a person's face/head (sometimes shoulders).
- **Symmetry:** When both sides match or mirror each other.
- **Proportion:** The size relationship of parts (eyes, nose, mouth).
- **Nemes headdress:** The striped headcloth worn by pharaohs in ancient Egypt. ([egyptianmuseumcairo.eg](http://egyptianmuseumcairo.eg))
- **Contrast:** Big difference (like blue vs. gold) that makes art pop.

## Materials

### For a class of 20–35:

- White watercolor paper (9x12 or 12x18)
- Pencil + eraser
- Black marker or black crayon (for final outlines)
- **Blue crayons** (one per student—try to avoid the “only-broken-blue” situation)
- **Gold tempera paint** + brushes (medium brush works best)
- Water cups + paper towels/sponges
- Paint palettes/plates (or muffin tins)
- Optional: reference image printouts of King Tut portrait

### Prep + sanity tips:

- Pre-pour gold tempera into small cups/plates before class (paint traffic jams are real).
- Teach “**dip-wipe-paint**”: dip brush → wipe one side on cup → paint. Less dripping, less crying.
- If gold paint is thin, do **two light coats** instead of one gloopy one.

### Affiliate disclaimer (for your Curriculum Club page):

Some links in this materials list are affiliate links—meaning I may earn a small commission at no extra cost to you, and I only share the exact stuff I'd use in my own art room because your sanity (and your supply budget) matters.

## Lesson Sequence

Choose-your-timeframe options:

### Option A: Two 30-Minute Classes

#### Day 1 (30 min)

- **Introduction (5 min):** Quick King Tut + ancient Egypt visual style (symmetry, bold lines, symbols).
- **Guided practice/demo (10 min):** Facial placement + symmetry tricks.
- **Independent practice (12 min):** Students draw King Tut portrait and headdress stripes in pencil; outline in black at end.
- **Clean up (2 min):** Pencil/marker caps, names on paper.
- **Closure (1 min):** “One symmetry win you nailed today?”

## Day 2 (30 min)

- **Warm-up (3 min):** Show how to color blue stripes neatly; remind pattern repetition.
- **Demo (5 min):** Gold tempera technique + clean brush routine.
- **Independent practice (17 min):** Blue crayon + gold paint.
- **Clean up (3 min):** Brushes washed, tables wiped.
- **Closure (2 min):** Quick gallery walk: “Find one artwork with super-even stripes.”

## Option B: One 45-Minute Class

- **Intro (5 min)**
- **Demo (10 min)**
- **Work time (22 min)** (pencil → outline → blue crayon)
- **Gold paint (6–8 min)** (quick but effective)
- **Clean up + closure (3–5 min)**

## Student Art Examples

Show 3–5 examples that vary (some with thick outlines, some with super-neat stripes, different eye shapes, etc.). This helps kids understand: **same directions ≠ same results**, and that’s the whole point.

Little teacher script you can steal:

- “Your King Tut doesn’t have to match mine—mine’s just *one* solution.”
- “If your stripes are uneven, congrats—you’re officially doing art like a human.”

## Step-by-Step Instructions

Link to the [King Tut PDF Tutorial](#)

## Lesson Videos

Link to [King Tut Video Short](#) (1 min)

Link to [King Tut Video Full guided](#) (5 min)

## Google Slides

Link to Google Slides: [Draw a King Tut Portrait](#)

## Cross-Curricular & Extension Resources

**Resource 1 (Social Studies/History):** Kid-friendly facts about Tutankhamun (age, tomb discovery, why he's famous). ([Britannica Kids](#))

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Tutankhamen/353879>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/the-discovery-of-king-tuts-tomb>

**Resource 2 (Art/Artifacts):** The famous mask + the **blue-and-gold striped nemes** connection (great for visual reference). ([The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#))

<https://www.metmuseum.org/hubs/tutankhamun-100>

<https://egyptianmuseumcairo.org/artefacts/mask-of-tutankhamun/>

## Differentiation Strategies

1. **Break it into “mini-wins”** (especially helpful grades 2–3):
  - Step stop points: “Show me just your guidelines,” then “just the eyes,” then “just the headdress.”
2. **Two-session structure for confidence:**
  - Session 1: Drawing + outline
  - Session 2: Blue + gold + finishing details
3. **Early finisher challenges (no extra prep):**
  - Add a patterned background (simple Egyptian-inspired shapes)
  - Create a second version with a different stripe pattern (thin/thick/zigzag)
  - Write a 2–3 sentence “museum label” for their artwork

## Assessment & Reflection

### Simple Rubric (4–3–2–1)

Criteria (score each 1–4):

1. **Facial Proportion & Symmetry:** Features placed thoughtfully; left/right balance is clear

2. **Pattern & Craftsmanship:** Stripes repeat consistently; careful coloring/painting
3. **Use of Color/Contrast:** Blue and gold areas clearly planned; neat application
4. **Effort & Focus:** Student used class time well and followed steps

## Two assessment options

### Option A: Quick + informal (perfect for a tight day):

- Teacher circulates with a checklist: guidelines used, symmetry attempted, pattern repeated, clean materials habits.

### Option B: More formal (great for grades 4–5):

- **Self-reflection slip** (choose 2):
  - “My symmetry success was...”
  - “One thing I would refine next time...”
  - “I used pattern by...”
  - “Blue and gold contrast makes my artwork feel...”
- **Peer glow/grow:** One compliment + one suggestion using vocabulary.

## Call to Action

When your kids finish, I want to see that glittery gold goodness. ✨

**Submit photos of students working + a few finished portraits** (with first names covered if needed) so I can feature your class and inspire other teachers in the club.