

OI EPICS WORKBOOK



ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

WHERE'S GILGAMESH?

Keep an eye out for our Gilgamesh clay plaque as you look at the next picture; he appears four times! Once you find him, circle him! Here is what he looks like:



GILGAMESH THE KING SCAVENGER HUNT

Listen to the story [Gilgamesh the King](#), based on part of the Epic of Gilgamesh. Then, use this scavenger hunt to explore objects related to the story from the OI Museum collections.

How to search for objects:

1. Go to oi-idb.uchicago.edu.
2. Type or copy and paste the registration number for the object (Example: A9325).
3. Check the box "Images Only."
4. Press Submit.
5. If needed, click on the "Museum Collection" tab.

1. In the story, we first see Gilgamesh while he is standing in a chariot. What is Gilgamesh standing on in this clay plaque?
A9325



2. Gilgamesh orders a great wall built around his city, and we can see people pulling an enormous statue of a creature that looks like this relief in the OI. What is this creature's name? **A7369**



3. The sun god, Shamash, orders the creation of Enkidu in order to stop Gilgamesh. Shamash is also shown on the Code of Hammurabi. List three observations (things you can see) about Shamash, the one on the right. **C478**

4. One of our mummies, Meresamun, shares a job with Shamhat—she was also a singer in a temple! According to the description on the page, what is painted on the bottom of Meresamun’s feet? **E10797**



5. This Egyptian statue shows a woman playing a harp like Shamhat does in the story. What is this statue made of? **E10642**



6. In the story, Enkidu and the animals are friends. But in this cylinder seal impression, Gilgamesh is fighting with what two animals? **A526**



7. In the story, Enkidu keeps his horned crown in memory of his animal friends. A horned crown also meant that someone was a deity (a creature like a god) in ancient Mesopotamia. How many horns does this deity have? **A11808**



8. In the illustration of Gilgamesh and Enkidu shouting at each other, cuneiform script comes out of their mouths. What language is this cuneiform tablet about Gilgamesh written in? **A22007**

9. When Enkidu and Gilgamesh become friends (7:00 in the video), the image of Gilgamesh looks similar to a picture of a Neo-Assyrian prince in our galleries. What are three similarities you can see between Gilgamesh and this prince? **A7368**

10. During the celebration at the end of the book, Shamhat plays her harp while riding in a chariot. Who is riding in a chariot in this relief? **A11256**



11. At the very end of the story, the characters spend their evenings in a boat on the river. In this cylinder seal impression of a boat, what animal’s head is the stern shaped like, according to the description? **A11396**

OI MAD LIBS

The _____ Prince *adjective*

The king of Egypt wanted a son, and he prayed to the gods to give him one. When his son was born, the _____, _____, _____ of fate, told the king that the prince would die by a _____, _____, or _____. The king was afraid for his son, so he built the prince a _____ palace to keep him safe. One day, the prince saw a _____ outside, and he wanted one, so the king let him have a _____. When the prince grew up, he decided to face his fate and leave the palace. He went to a nearby _____ and met a group of _____ men, who were competing to win the love of the princess there. The prince won the love of the princess by _____ to the top of the tall _____, where she lived. The prince pretended that he was the son of a _____ and hid his fate, and the king of that land allowed the prince to marry his daughter. The prince told the princess the truth about his fate, and the princess begged him to get rid of his _____. One day, the princess killed a _____ that tried to attack the prince while he was _____, thus defeating one of the prince's fates. Weeks later, the prince was _____ with his _____. The _____ suddenly spoke and said, "I am your fate," and chased the prince into a _____. There the prince met a _____, but instead of hurting the prince, the _____ asked him to help fight a _____! Our story cuts off there. Who knows what happened to the _____ prince!

The Real Story: The Doomed Prince

The Doomed Prince is an ancient Egyptian story, recorded on a papyrus dating to the Nineteenth Dynasty. The text of this story is partially preserved on a papyrus that is currently housed in the British Museum. The papyrus was damaged in an explosion, so the ending of the story is unknown. Based on the surviving text and its fairy-tale style, many scholars believe it would have had a happy ending. Below is a brief retelling of the plot of the preserved story:

The king of Egypt wanted a son, and he prayed to the gods to give him one. When his son was born, the seven Hathors, goddesses of fate, told the king that the prince would die by a crocodile, snake, or dog. The king was afraid for his son, so he built the prince a beautiful palace to keep him safe. One day, the prince saw a dog outside, and he wanted one, so the king let him have a dog. When the prince grew up, he decided to face his fate and leave his palace. He went to a nearby kingdom and met a group of young men who were competing to win the love of the princess there. The prince pretended that he was the son of a charioteer and hid his fate, and the king of that land allowed the prince to marry his daughter. The prince told the princess the truth about his fate, and the princess begged him to get rid of his dog, but he said no. One day, the princess killed a snake that tried to attack the prince in his sleep, thus defeating one of the prince's fates. Weeks later, the prince was walking with his dog. The dog suddenly spoke and said, "I am your fate," and chased the prince into a lake. There was a crocodile in the lake, but instead of hurting the prince, the crocodile asked him to help fight a water spirit! Our story cuts off there. Who knows what happened to the doomed prince!

COLOR GILGAMESHI!

