

When Women Ruled The World

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image credit: Marissa Stevens

Applause Series Inquiry Guide

Presentation Info



When Women Ruled the World

Join Dr. Kara Cooney, professor of Egyptology, for a look at a time in ancient history when women ruled the world. They're often neglected in the history books, but their power and influence is undeniable. Cleopatra built alliances with warlords of the Roman Empire. Neferusobek was the first woman to definitively take the title of king. Nefertiti brought a fractured Egypt together. What can we learn from how these women ruled?

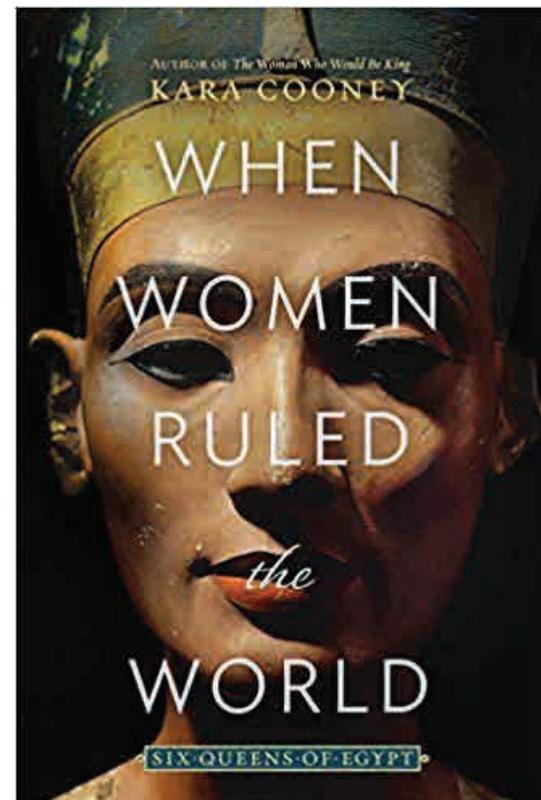
Themes: ancient culture, Egyptology, politics, (girl) power

Biography

Dr. Kara Cooney is a professor of Egyptian Art and Architecture at UCLA. Specializing in craft production, coffin studies, and economies in the ancient world, Cooney received her Ph.D. in Egyptology from Johns Hopkins University. In 2005, she was co-curator of "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Cooney's current research focuses on coffin reuse, primarily focusing on the 19th and 21st Dynasties.. Her research investigates the socioeconomic and political turmoil that have plagued the period, ultimately affecting funerary and burial practices in ancient Egypt. This project has taken her around the world over the span of six years to study and document nearly 300 coffins in collections, including those in Cairo, London, Paris, Berlin, and Vatican City.

Publications & Credits

- Cooney produced a comparative archaeology television series, entitled *Out of Egypt*, which aired in 2009 on the Discovery Channel and is available online via Netflix and Amazon.
- *The Woman Who Would Be King: Hatshepsut's Rise to Power in Ancient Egypt*, was released in 2014. Cooney' uses her study of Egypt's ancient history to craft an illuminating biography of its least well-known female king.
- Her latest book, *When Women Ruled the World*, was published in 2018 by National Geographic Press and explores the reigns of six powerful ancient Egyptian queens and how they changed our perceptions of power.



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Inquiry Guide

Enduring Understandings

- All discovery begins with curiosity.
- The process of documenting and communicating about the study or exploration undertaken is important for National Geographic Explorers.
- The act of storytelling and providing visual information about their work helps others to understand and be activated to engage in the issue.

Compelling Questions

Consider and Connect

Why do people explore the world? Would you want to be an explorer? Why or why not?
How does learning about the past help us understand our present? Our future?

Being curious is the most important part of being a scientist, anthropologist, photographer or explorer. What are you curious about?

Telling a good story is an important part of getting others to empathize, understand or take action about any topic. What are the characteristics of a good story/storyteller? What issues do you care about? What personal stories do you have that might inspire others to care about that issue too?

Problems inevitably surface whether you are in the jungle, in space or in the classroom. What were some of the problems that the speaker faced? What were their solutions? What are some of the barriers you have in working on an issue you care about? What do you do or what could you do to work past them?

Use the Explorer Comparisons sheet ([click here](#)) to consider the characteristics of an explorer, like Kara Cooney, and how others (even you!) can exemplify these same traits:

Women as Leaders

Would the world be different if women ruled the world? What does it mean to rule the world? What leadership characteristics do women have that men do not or vice-versa? Does gender (or gender construction) have anything to do with what makes a good leader?

Make a list of strong leaders and characteristics they possess. Use evidence from Kara Cooney's lecture to back up your opinion about whether or not women can be rulers today.

Check out National Geographic Live's Educator Resources linked here:
www.nationalgeographic.org/media/kara-cooney-when-women-ruled-world/
for maps, videos, infographics, mummy facts and links to prepare students to attend and give them deeper connections post-show.