

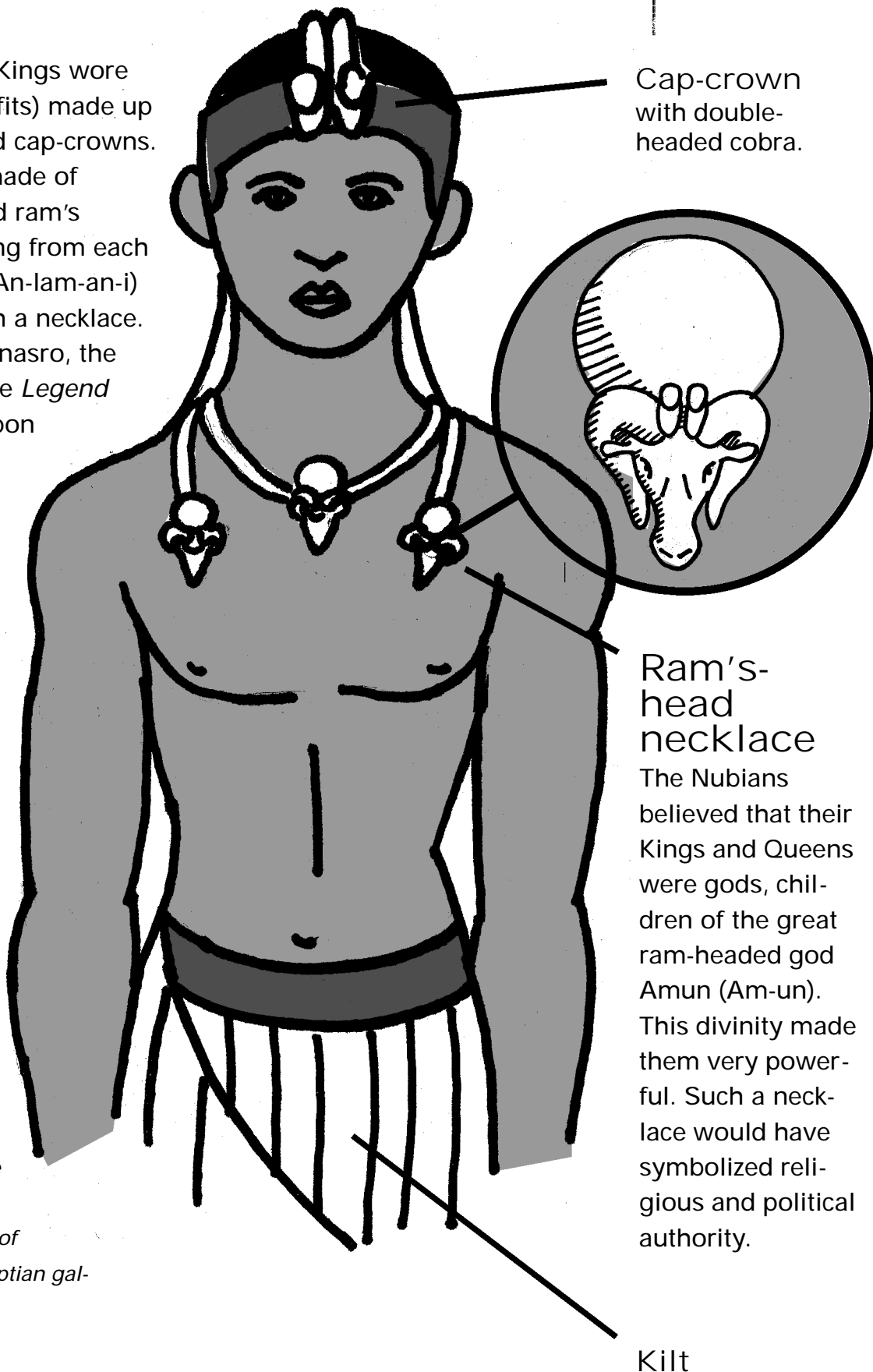
# A NECKLACE FIT FOR A KING

**N**ubian (Nu-bi-an) Kings wore royal regalia (outfits) made up of kilts, necklaces, and cap-crowns. The necklaces were made of gold strands with gold ram's head pendants hanging from each end. King Anlamani (An-lam-an-i) might have worn such a necklace. The character of Amonasro, the father of Aïda from the *Legend of Aïda*, was based upon this historical figure. Can you imagine what Anlamani would have looked like wearing these shiny gold ornaments? King Anlamani helped the Egyptians rid their country of Assyrian invaders.

*Find the Ram Pendant in the Egyptian gallery on the first floor. This smaller pendant might have been strung with beads and been worn by a Queen or Princess.*

*Ram's head earrings have also been found. Compare the costume on the right with that of the Shawabti of Anlamani (also in the Egyptian galleries).*

*How are they alike or different?*



Cap-crown with double-headed cobra.

Ram's-head necklace

The Nubians believed that their Kings and Queens were gods, children of the great ram-headed god Amun (Am-un). This divinity made them very powerful. Such a necklace would have symbolized religious and political authority.

Kilt

# RAM'S HEAD PENDANT Art Activity

A ram's head with a sun disk was a symbol, or sign, of Nubian royalty. Like many people today, the ancient Nubians believed that wearing a small symbolic object on a necklace, or other piece of jewelry, would bring them strength and good luck. Objects worn in this fashion are called amulets (am-û-lets).

Find this beautiful gold ram's head pendant on view in the Discovering the Historical Aida installation. Look at the other objects and symbols in the Egyptian galleries. Choose a favorite object or think of one of your own to make your amulet.



Supplies needed:

- 3-inch square piece of paper
- pencil
- 3-inch-square piece of gold, copper, or silver foil
- small stack of newspapers
- 2 1/2-inch-square piece of cardboard
- masking tape
- hole punch
- 2-foot piece of gold cord
- beads, with 1/8-inch hole or larger.

Follow these steps:

1. Make a drawing of the ram's head, Egyptian object or object of your own choosing on a 3-inch piece of paper. Fill the square with your drawing. Don't draw too small!

2. Place a piece of foil, followed by the drawing, on top of 2 1/2-inch square piece of cardboard. Make sure it fits exactly and tape or hold it securely, so that it doesn't move. Trace over your drawing, pressing down hard so that the drawing transfers into the foil.

3. Turn the foil over and place a 2 1/2-inch piece of cardboard on it, making sure its centered. Bend the excess foil around the edges to the back and tape securely with masking tape if needed.

4. Punch a hole in top center with the hole punch. Fold a piece of cord in half, insert the looped end through the hole, and pull the loose ends through the loop. Add three or four beads to each side of the cord, tying a knot after the last bead on each side. Tie the finished necklace around your neck.

