

# Make Your Own Berry Ink

The ancient Egyptians used brightly colored minerals to make ink, but you can use blackberries to make homemade ink to use on your papyrus.



**1** Pour the blackberries into the strainer. Hold the strainer over the bowl, and use the back of the spoon to force the juice out of the berries, through the strainer. When all the juice has been removed, you can throw away the pulp.

**2** Add the vinegar and salt to the berry juice and mix. Your ink is now ready to use! Try using a Q-tip as a pen. Store any leftover ink in an airtight container.

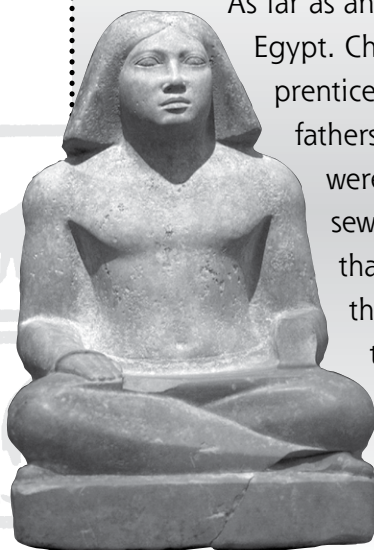
## Supplies

½ cup of blackberries	½ teaspoon vinegar
strainer	½ teaspoon salt
spoon	Q-tip cotton swab
bowl	airtight container (optional)

## Time Needed

10 minutes

## Education in Ancient Egypt



As far as anyone knows, there were no formal school buildings in ancient Egypt. Children were mainly taught at home, but some became apprentices for artisans, scribes, or merchants. Boys were taught by their fathers and often followed in their fathers' professional footsteps. Girls were taught by their mothers. They learned things like cooking, sewing, dancing, and caring for younger children. There's evidence that both girls and boys were taught to read and write, although there were no textbooks. Instead, there was something called the Book of Instruction—a collection of writings, with advice on how to succeed and live a moral life. For example, here's what the Book of Instruction said about learning from others: "Do not boast of your knowledge, but seek the advice of the untutored as much as the well-educated."