

# #MuseumfromHome

## Activity Pack


# Ancient Egyptians



We hope you enjoy this activity pack. Please share photos of you using the pack with us on social media #museumfromhome #markethallmuseum

 @RuairiTheFawn

 Warwickshire Museum

 @heritageandculturewarwickshire

 Heritage and Culture Warwickshire

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/heritage)

# Ancient Egyptians

## Key Facts

- Ancient Egypt was one of the earliest civilisations. The country was ruled by pharaohs from about 5000 years ago.
- Most of Egypt is a desert, so people lived along the River Nile.
- Ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife. If they could afford it, they built pyramids and tombs to look after their bodies.
- Appearance was very important to the ancient Egyptians and linked to holiness. Eye make-up was used to represent the falcon eyes of the god Horus.
- The Eye of Horus was a common symbol of protection and good health. It is often found in ancient Egyptian burials.
- Hieroglyphics were a sacred form of writing, used for the most important texts. It has over 700 symbols and was only used by trained scribes.
- Most ancient Egyptians wore simple linen clothes. Jewellery was very popular, often taking the form of protective amulets.
- The Great Pyramid of Giza is 147m tall, and was the tallest building in the world for over 3000 years, until Lincoln Cathedral was built in the 1300s.
- Egyptian women were generally expected to be the mistress of the house, but many Egyptian women are known to have had important jobs, such as physicians.



## Guide to the Gods

The ancient Egyptians worshipped lots of different gods at different times. Gods became more or less popular and sometimes merged with each other.

These are some of the key ones:

### Osiris

- The god of the underworld.
- Osiris represented resurrection and the cycle of the river Nile's floods which was vital for the Egyptians' farms.



### Ra

- One of a number of gods associated with the sun, who was said to sail across the sky each day.
- Ra is often shown with the head of a hawk.



### Thoth

- The god of writing and wisdom, shown with the head of an ibis.
- In the underworld, Thoth weighed the heart of a person against a feather.



### Horus

- The god of the sky and son of Osiris and Isis, shown with the head of a falcon.
- At some times, the pharaoh was considered to be a form of Horus on Earth.



## How to make:

## Salt Dough Scarab Amulet

### You will need:

250g flour  
125g table salt  
125ml water  
Modelling tools  
Toothpick  
String  
Paints

The ancient Egyptians thought scarab beetles were a symbol of rebirth. They believed the god Khepri rolled the sun across the sky every day, just like a scarab beetle rolls its dung ball in front of itself. Scarab beetle amulets were placed on top of the heart of a mummy. They were meant to stop the heart from speaking out against the person.

1. To make the salt dough, mix together the flour and salt in a bowl.
2. Add the water and mix it until it all comes together into a ball.
3. You can now shape your dough. Flatten a handful of dough into a disc shape then use the modelling tools to carve a scarab onto it.
4. Use the toothpick to make a hole at the top of your amulet.
5. Place on a baking sheet and bake in an oven on its lowest setting for 2-3 hours until the amulet is solid.
6. Leave the amulet to cool and then paint it in bright colours.
7. Thread some string through the hole so you can wear your amulet like a necklace.

**Warning!**  
Salt dough is not edible so should not be eaten.



## How to make:

## Canopic Jars

You will need:  
4 Recycled pots with lids  
Card  
Scissors  
Tape  
Pens or paints

When a body was mummified in ancient Egypt, the liver, lungs, stomach and intestines were removed, dried and each placed in a special Canopic jar. Each jar featured a different head: human, falcon, baboon and jackal, representing the sons of Horus.



1. Start by drawing the heads on the card. You will need a human, falcon, baboon and jackal.
2. Cut them out and stick each one to the rim of a lid with the tape.
3. Now you can colour or paint the pot, lid and face to all match. The ancient Egyptians liked bright colours with lots of gold.
4. If you want, you can find objects to represent the organs to put into the jars.



# Hieroglyphics

The meaning of hieroglyphs were a mystery until about 200 years ago. The Rosetta stone was discovered in 1799. It has the same text in three different languages: Hieroglyphics, Demotic and Greek. Each picture stands for a sound, and Egyptologists have been able to come up with a simplified alphabet that can be matched to ours.

Have a go at writing your name.

|   |   |   |   |   |  |    |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|----|--|
| A |    | H |    | N |    | U  |   |
| B |   | I |  | O |  | V  |   |
| C |  or   | J |  | P |  | W  |   |
| D |    | K |  | Q |  | X  |      |
| E |  or  or  | L |  | R |  | Y  |  or  |
| F |    | L |  | S |  | Z  |   |
| G |    | M |  | T |  | SH |   |

## How to play:

## Senet

### You will need:

- 2 sets of counters, 5 each
- A Senet Board
- Dice

Ancient Egyptians liked playing board games. Archaeologists have excavated many boards and playing pieces but none of the rules have survived. We have guessed what the rules of the games are from looking at other games played today. One of those games is called Senet, and is a game for 2 players.

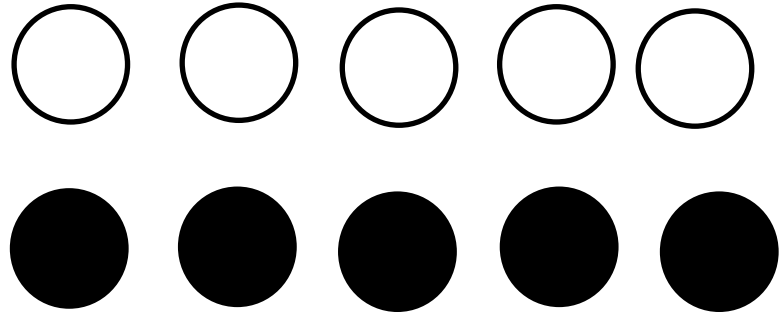
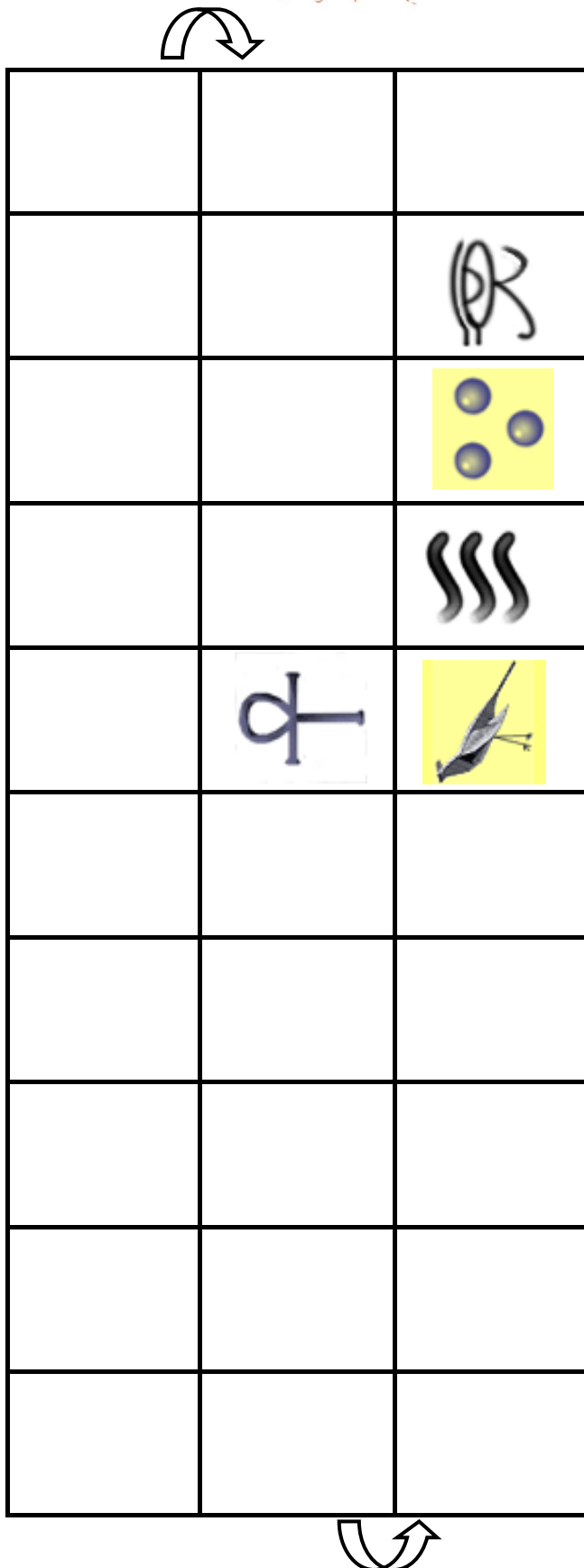
- The aim of the game is to be the first to get all your counters off the board.
- Counters are laid out along the top row of the board in alternate colours, eg black then white then black and so on.
- Roll the dice and move one of your pieces forward by that number of spaces.
- The counters move along the top row and then down the next two in a sort of wide s-shape.

### To make it more challenging:

- You cannot land on your own pieces.
- If you land on the other person's piece you switch places with them.
- If the other person has two or more pieces in a row you cannot land on them and switch places.
- If the other person has three or more pieces in a row you cannot pass them.

# Senet Board and Counters

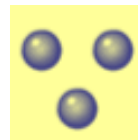
Arrange the pieces along this top row to start



What happens if you land on one of these spaces?



Re-atun - if you land here you must roll a two to move on.



Three truths - if you land here you must roll a three before you can move on.



Water - if you land here you have to return to rebirth.



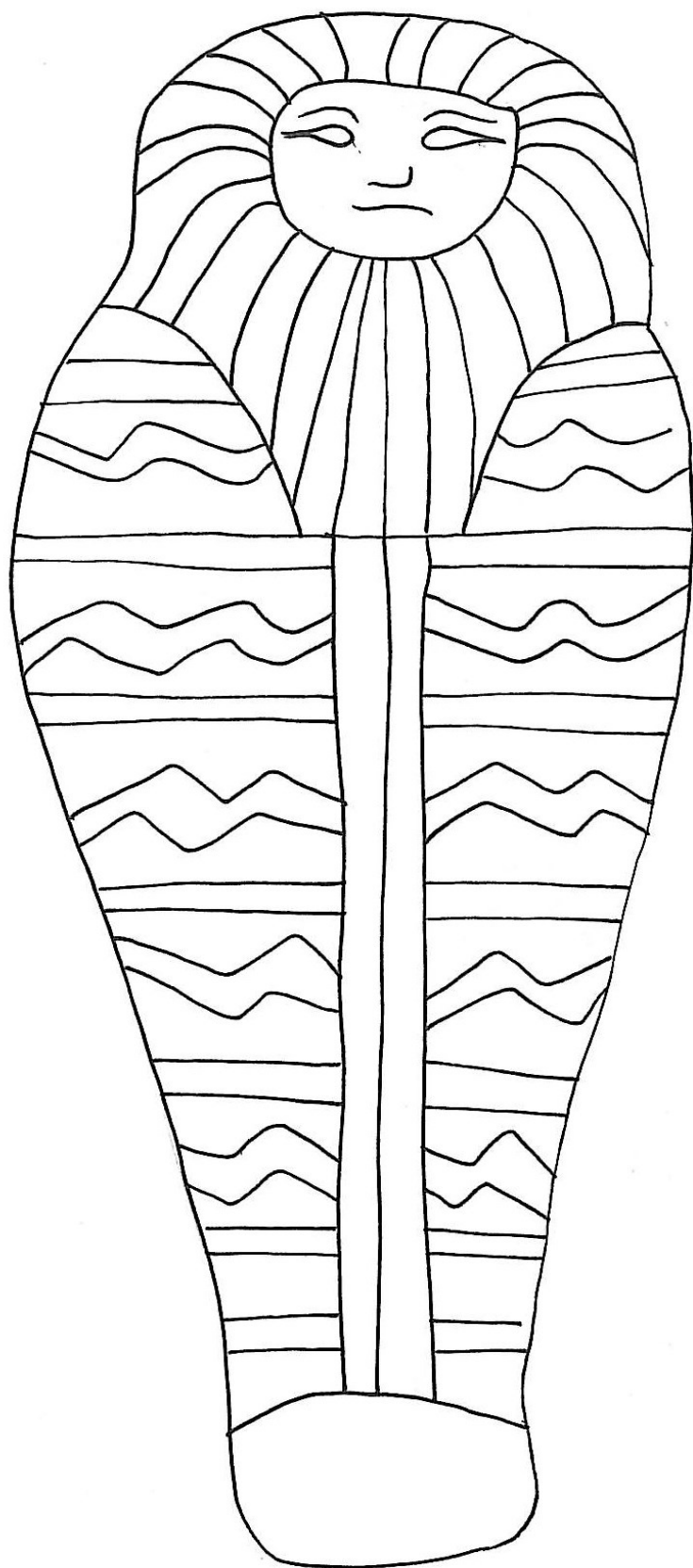
Happiness - everyone has to stop here even if you rolled enough to move past.



Rebirth - see water.



## Colouring In



When Ancient Egyptian people died they would be buried in a tomb.

Instead of a coffin they would put them inside a mummy case like this one and a large box called a sarcophagus.

Why not have a go at drawing your own sarcophagus design after colouring this one in?

## Where to Find More

- Challenge yourself to find the mummy's tomb with our new game: <https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7/warwickshire-museum-in-your-home>
- Think you know everything about the ancient Egyptians? Test your knowledge with this quiz: <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/quiz/history/take-ancient-egyptians-quiz/>
- Archaeologists have been excavating Egyptian sites for over a hundred years. Find out more about an excavation from 1908: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/stories/world-cultures/ancient-egyptian-collection/ancient-egyptian-collection/excavating-in-egypt/>
- The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford has a selection of jigsaws of ancient Egyptian artefacts: <https://www.ashmolean.org/ancient-egypt-puzzles>
- The Petrie Museum in London has a great collection of Egyptian artefacts. Scroll down to see some of the highlights: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/petrie-museum>
- What did an ancient Egyptian queen and worker wear? Play this game to dress them for their day: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/games/discover-ancient-egypt/discover-ancient-egypt/dress-like-an-egyptian/>
- How many ancient Egyptian artefacts can you spot in this interactive map of New York's Met Museum? <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/explore/>

