

Ancient Egyptians



As the Learning Team are working from home and don't have access to our actual handling artefacts, we have created a series of learning posts/pages based on our schools Egyptian loans box replicas and photographs of objects in our Ancient Lives Gallery. We've also put together a brief Ancient Egyptian history timeline.

As well as the information here there is a short video to go with each object, available on the website and linked to our social media posts.

Our information is short and easy to read - but remember this is about interesting you in the topic, it's not the whole history of Ancient Egypt!

Canopic Jars

These are replica canopic jars. Canopic jars were used as part of the burial process, and held the internal organs of the mummified person. Each jar had a different head and held a different organ.

- ◆ Imsety had a human head and carried and protected the liver.
- ◆ Qebehsenuf had a falcon's head and carried and protected the intestines.
- ◆ Hapy had the head of a baboon and carried and protected the lungs.
- ◆ Duamatef had the head of a jackal and carried and protected the stomach

Replica mini canopic jars



Canopic jar heads in the gallery



Amulets

In ancient Egypt amulets were created for a number of reasons. There were deities and symbols that transferred the powers that they represented. They were worn like modern charm bracelets, tucked into the bandages of a mummified person, or even woven into beaded burial nets.



Ankh. Djed. Sekhmet. Eye of Horus. Papyrus. Scarab. Bes (replicas)



Beaded mummy net—in gallery

Scarab beetle amulets had hieroglyph carved into the base of them. These were spells to protect the wearer. Amulets are usually made from clay or blue faience, but were also made from glass or wood. They can be as small as 1cm up to about 5cm in length, meaning the tiny ones are tricky to photograph!



Scarab beetle amulets - showing hieroglyphs - in gallery

Shabti

A shabti is a small figure that was placed in the tomb of an Ancient Egyptian. They are sometimes called ushabtis.

Shabtis were created to serve the dead in their next life doing tasks such as irrigating the river and farming fields. They were made from blue faience, clay, wood and even glass, and varied in size from 10—30 cm tall. The material and size you had depended on status and wealth.



Replica shabti



Shabtis - in gallery

Each one was designed to do a different job in the afterlife and had a prayer, spell or incantation engraved into them in hieroglyphs.



Shabtis display - in gallery

Ancient Egyptians were buried with 401 shabtis. 365 - one for each day of the year. Plus 36 overseers - 1 to oversee 10 shabtis each. Having so many indicates they were more likely to be slaves rather than servants.

Jewellery; Beaded bracelet with scarab amulets

In Ancient Egypt, jewellery was worn for two main purposes –to look good and for protection. Everyone wore jewellery in ancient Egypt, from poor farmers to wealthy royals. All types of Egyptian jewellery were popular, including bracelets, earrings, collar pieces, anklets, armbands, and rings.

Golden jewellery became a status symbol in pre-dynastic Egypt. For the wealthy, pieces were made from semi-precious stones, precious metals and glass beads. The Egyptian nobility favoured bracelets, necklaces, amulets, pendants, belts, and hair beads. These were often made of precious or semi-precious jewels such as carnelian, lapis lazuli and turquoise. The poor replaced precious stones with painted clay, stones, shells, animal teeth and bones. Colours had different meanings: green meant health; red represented blood or strength; blue was rebirth; yellow suggested the sun or gods; white was purity and used for religious observances, and black was for death and rebirth.



Replica beaded bracelet and necklace with amulet.



Ancient Egyptian jewellery on display in the Museum



Amulet jewellery on display.

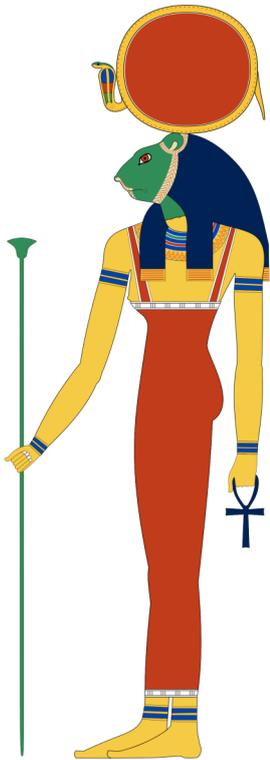
Statues of the gods— Sekhmet

Statues of gods were put into tombs to show which gods they worshipped and to show respect. Once they reached the afterlife. In life, Ancient Egyptians put statues of their chosen gods in their houses, giving them offerings. Each god had its own focus and although predominantly in human form, had the head of an animal. The size of these statues varied from 5cm to many metres tall.

Sekhmet is the Egyptian goddess of the sun, war, destruction, plagues and healing. She is one of the oldest deities and one of the most powerful.



Miniature replica of Sekhmet



Pictorial representation of Sekhmet in her red dress

She is often represented as a woman wearing a red dress with the head of a lioness wearing a sun disc circled by a cobra on her head. Her name comes from the Egyptian word 'Sekhem' meaning power and this means she is often called 'She who is Powerful.' When she is depicted seated, statues show her holding the ankh of life. When she is standing she is usually shown holding a sceptre formed from papyrus.

Sekhmet is said to be the daughter of the sun god Ra created when he looked at the earth. She is also sometimes seen as a daughter of Nut, the sky god and Geb, the earth god. Her name may also be spelled as Sakhmet, Sekmet, Sachmet, Sakhmet, Sekhet or Sacmis. As a sun goddess, she is connected with the

scorching, searing heat of the sun. She is associated with another feline goddess, Bastet. Sekhmet is known as Goddess of the West wearing red and Bastet is named the Goddess of the East dressed in green.



Bronze statue of Osiris from the collection.

Ancient Egyptian History



There are many sources to look at for the history of Ancient Egypt. This is some of the most relevant information.

The history of ancient Egypt lasted until the country became a Roman province in the 1st century B.C.

Egypt was ruled before then by thirty dynasties, or families, of kings and queens, often called the pharaohs. This is known as Egypt's dynastic period. Before the time of the pharaohs was known as pre-dynastic.

The civilization of Ancient Egypt lasted for more than 3000 years, longer than any other civilization known to us. From 3500 B.C. (more than 5500 years ago) there were two kingdoms in Egypt:

Lower Egypt in the north was the richer kingdom. The lands closer to the Mediterranean Sea were richer and more fertile. Lower Egypt could trade with the lands of the Mediterranean. The wood to build ships was brought from Lebanon from a very early time.

Upper Egypt in the south had only a very narrow strip of land which could be cultivated. The rest of the land was dry desert. Upper Egypt, however, was closer to the land of Nubia. The kings of Egypt sometimes traded and sometimes made war on Nubia. Nubia was a source of rare wild animals, of gold, of animal skins, and of slaves.

We can divide the history of Egypt into periods to make it easier to understand and remember.

The Early Dynastic period c. 3100 to c.2680 B.C. The two kingdoms, of Upper and Lower Egypt, were united under King Narmer. This is really the first king whose name we definitely know, so he and his successors are referred to as the First Dynasty (dynasty means a family who hold power). From that time on the pharaohs are shown in paintings wearing a double crown, white for Lower Egypt and red for Upper Egypt.

Old Kingdom, from c. 2680 to c. 2180 (3rd to 6th dynasties) This period is best known for the building of great pyramids, including the huge pyramid of Giza which is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

First Intermediate period, from c.2180 to c. 2055 (7th to 11th dynasties). This was a time when several different kings ruled different parts of Egypt. At the end of this period Mentuhotep II, a king of the 11th dynasty, regained control over the whole of Egypt.

Middle Kingdom. 2055 – 1650 B.C. (12th – 14 dynasties). This was a golden age. The country was ruled by a number of strong kings who controlled not only all of Egypt but much of Nubia (the modern Sudan). The building of the great Temple at Karnak was begun.

Second Intermediate Period c. 1650 – 1550 15th & 16th dynasties. This was a period when the Hyksos, a tribe from outside Egypt (we do not know their origin) conquered much of Lower Egypt.

New Kingdom c. 1550 – 1069 B.C. (17th to 20th dynasties) The Hyksos were driven out and the pharaoh regained power over Lower and Upper Egypt. During this period Egypt developed a very powerful civil service of royal officials.

Late Period c. 1000 – 32 AD (21st to 30th dynasties). Egypt again was divided into two kingdoms. From around 700 B.C. Egypt was frequently invaded, by the Nubians, who formed a new dynasty, by the Assyrians, by the Persians, by the Greeks under Alexander the Great's general Ptolemy (the Ptolemaic dynasty) and finally by the Romans.

Make your own Ancient Egyptian cuff/bracelet



Step 1. Gather your materials. You will need a toilet rolls, scissors, coloured paper, old magazines, foil, coloured pens, glue.



Step 2. Cut eh toilet roll in half



Step 3; Cut each half of the toilet roll lengthways as shown.

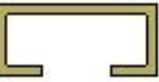


Step 4; use coloured pens, foil, pictures cut from magazines to decorate your cuffs in Egyptian style decorations.

Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs



Use these hieroglyphs to write your name and other words.

A 	B 	C 	D 	E 	F 
G 	H 	I 	J 	K 	L 
M 	N 	O 	P 	Q 	R 
S 	T 	U 	V 	W 	X 
Y 	Z 	KH 	SH 	CH 	MS 
NH 	HPR 	[HOUSE] 	[MAN] 	[WOMAN] 	[GOD] 

Websites we have found useful.

[Www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/egypt/general.htm](http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/egypt/general.htm)

www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_egypt.php

www.softschools.com/games/strategy_games/mancala/

Play Egyptian Mancala game online

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egyptians/
launch_gms_pyramid_builder.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egyptians/launch_gms_pyramid_builder.shtml)

Game about building a pyramid.

www.historyforkids.net/ancient-egypt.html

www.ngkids.co.uk/history/ten-facts-about-ancient-egypt

More interesting objects on display in the Ancient Lives Gallery to come and find when we are open again.



Silvered bronze mirror - look at the real artefact, and try out the replica.



Fragment from the Book of the Dead.



Animal Mummies - there are several animal mummies on display including a baby crocodile, snakes and an ibis.



Fragment of linen - used to make clothing including skirts, loincloths, tunic and cloaks.

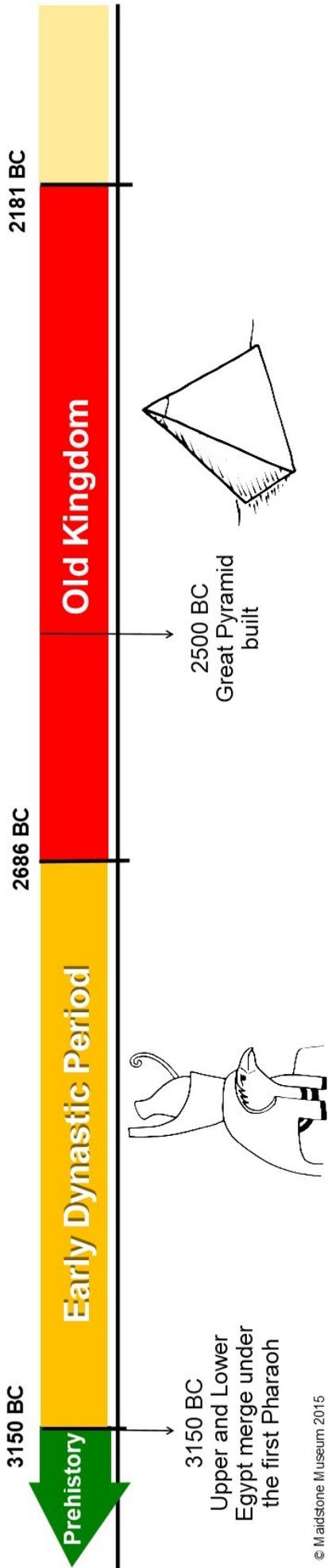


Mud brick - these were used to construct most buildings in Egypt.



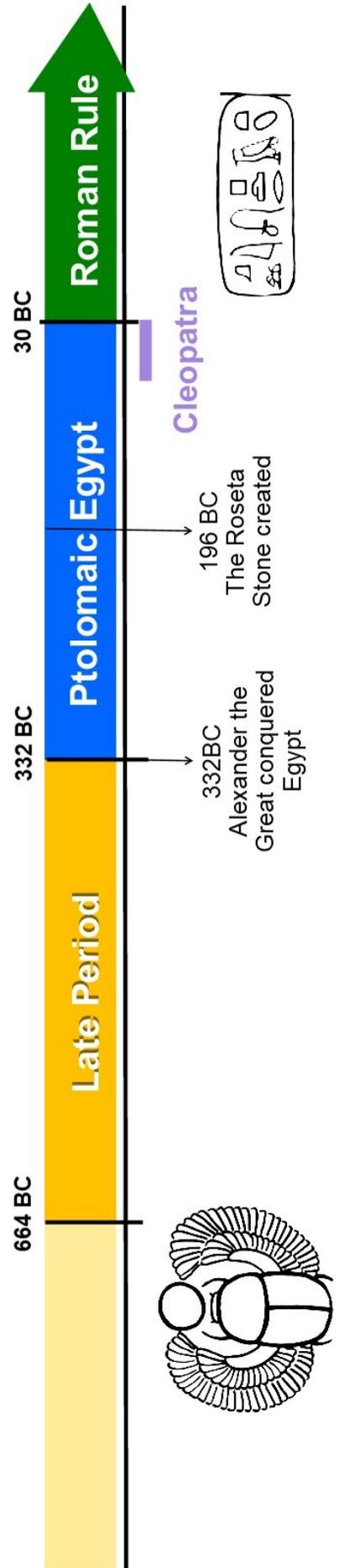
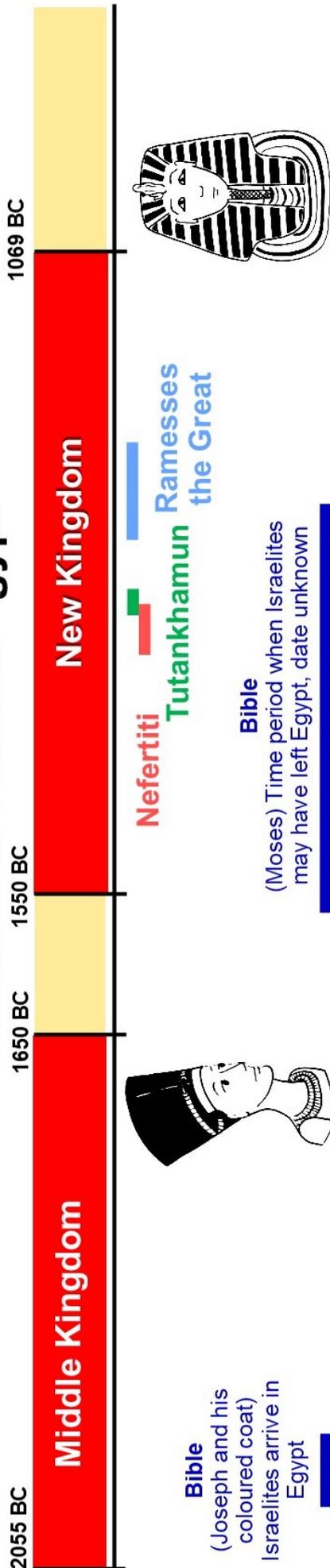
Our main Ancient Egyptian artefact is Ta Kush, our mummy. She has her own private resting place in the Ancient Lives gallery, lying in her beautifully painted coffin.

A timeline to print, cut out and stick together!



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Timeline of Ancient Egypt





For more information, help with school questions, to book school visits, or jus to say hello, please contact us at museumeducation@maidstone.gov.uk.

Thanks for reading, downloading or dipping into our resource.

Roz and Vicky

Maidstone Museum Learning Team

Visit Maidstone Museum at
St Faiths Street
Maidstone
ME14 1LH

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