

# Daily Life in Ancient Egypt



**Primary Spotlight**

**Support Notes for Teachers**

### **Primary Spotlight sessions**

Primary Spotlights introduce aspects of the Museum's collections using slides of objects which pupils can see in the galleries. Sessions last 30-40 minutes and are led by members of the Education Department. The presenters use lively question and answer, and sometimes other techniques, to involve the pupils in looking closely at the objects and responding to them in different ways.

### **Daily life in ancient Egypt**

This spotlight begins from the most famous wall-painting in the Museum's collection: Nebamun hunting birds in the marshes of the Nile. The session shows how an investigation into Egyptian life can begin from a single image by exploring the people and objects which can be seen in the painting. Topics include the life of women and children, jewellery and fashion, boats, food, writing, cats, the idea of the afterlife and social status. Please note that the wall painting itself is not currently on display in the Museum, but the pupils will see slides of many objects which are on display in the upstairs galleries.

### **Following up your Primary Spotlight session**

- Discuss how the enquiry began from one object and moved on to many.
- Discuss how the presenter used different sorts of evidence: a painting and then individual objects and also writing. Discuss what other sorts of evidence would help us find out more about the topics mentioned, for example different sorts of written text, other types of object. Review some books in the class library to find other pieces of evidence that would help our understanding of the painting.
- Try using the same process on a new picture - it need not necessarily be Egyptian.
- Buy the Nebamun poster and literacy activities pack - available only from the Education Department, price £3.50

### **COMPASS**

Before or after your visit allow the pupils to look at the British Museum's internet database children's COMPASS at [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass)

There is a structured search facility for Ancient Egypt which features both the painting of Nebamun hunting and other scenes from his tomb.

The adult version of COMPASS can be accessed at [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass)

### **Curriculum Links**

#### **National Curriculum for History at Key Stage 2**

This session supports work on how to find out about events and people from appropriate sources of information and how to select information relevant to the focus of an enquiry.

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Please quote the reference *Daily Life in Ancient Egypt: Primary Spotlight Session* in all enquiries.