

Excavation in Egypt



Key Stage 2 Education Workshop
Support Notes for Teachers

Workshop structure

The session consists of four interconnected activities.

- \$ The workshop opens with an overview of the session and an opportunity for the pupils to explore the chronology they will be using during the session via the construction of a timeline.
- \$ Pupils then watch a short extract of video filmed at a recent British Museum excavation of an ancient Egyptian tomb site near Luxor. Leading on from this the pupils split into small groups to work with a range of objects that might be found by archaeologists working on such an excavation. Pupils handle and discuss the objects before using written information cards to find out more about their particular set of objects. This part of the session finishes with a second video extract showing archaeologists working with a variety of objects similar to those handled by the pupils.
- \$ Pupils then record their objects on an excavation chart, drawing on the concepts of chronology explored earlier in the session.
- \$ Finally, the pupils bury their objects beneath the sands of time in preparation for a follow-up activity back at school during which they will work as archaeologists, uncovering and recording their buried objects.

All resources and equipment used during the session are provided by the museum.

The museum staff leading the session are on hand throughout the session to support the pupils in their work. All adults accompanying the class should participate and work with the pupils at each stage of the session.

Important Note: Object Conservation

During the course of the workshop the pupils will be handling a range of replica and real objects. Some of these objects are drawn from the collection of the Department of Ancient Egypt and the Sudan at the British Museum. The Museum would, therefore, very much appreciate it if pupils attending the workshop could wash and dry their hands before the start of the session to help conserve the objects being handled.

We recommend that pupils also wash their hands after the session, particularly if they are due to go straight into their lunch break.

Before your visit: preparing for your workshop

A key theme of the workshop is chronology. During the workshop the pupils will be working with a timeline. Before the day of your visit you may like to explore concepts such as BC and AD, vocabulary such as century and decade and how to read and write dates such as AD 280 or 1560 BC.

As well as learning about ancient Egypt, the workshop also includes information about modern Egypt. You may like to locate the Republic of Egypt in an atlas or on a globe and talk about aspects of modern Egypt, such as language and religion, with the pupils.

On the day of your visit: Ancient Egyptian objects in the British Museum

There are many objects from ancient Egypt on display in the British Museum.

Below are some key galleries which you may like to include as part of your visit.

Gallery 4: Egyptian sculpture

Monumental sculptures from ancient Egypt.

The Rosetta Stone.



Gallery 61: Understanding ancient Egyptian culture

A range of objects relating to hieroglyphs and life in ancient Egypt.



Galleries 62 and 63: Roxie Walker Galleries of Egyptian Funerary Archaeology

Objects relating to ancient Egyptian burial practices and mummies.

Gallery 64: Early Egypt

Objects from the predynastic period including an early sand-dried mummy.

Gallery 65: Egypt and Africa

Objects from ancient Nubia.



After your visit: follow-up work

All work produced by the pupils during the workshop will be available to take back to school with you at the end of the session. To facilitate this the Museum will provide a large plastic zip wallet for the storage of the pupils' work. There will also be a follow-up task for the pupils to undertake based on the workshop activities. You will be provided with a class set of resources and full printed instructions for this follow-up task at the end of your workshop.

You may like to continue looking at objects from ancient Egypt in the British Museum collections via the Museum's online database COMPASS.

To access the Egyptian objects on COMPASS you can either

- \$ log on to the British Museum website at www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk
select the **COMPASS** option and then follow the onscreen directions
- \$ or log straight on to the COMPASS site at www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass

There is a children's COMPASS website at www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass

Further information on the excavation at Tomb 99 near Luxor, as featured in the workshop, is available at www.newton.cam.ac.uk/egypt/tt99

There is an interactive Ancient Egypt site created by the British Museum at www.ancientegypt.co.uk

Curriculum Links

National Curriculum for History at Key Stage 2

Programme of Study - A world history study: *A study of the key features, including the everyday lives of men, women and children, of a past society.*

Attainment target - themes covered include: *chronology, sources of information about the past, similarities and differences between different periods of time and ways of recording information about the past.*

Contact Details

The Education Department, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Telephone 020 7323 8511/8854

Facsimile 020 7323 8855

Email education@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Please quote the reference *Excavation in Egypt Stage 2 School Workshop* in all enquiries.