

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Archaeology

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

ACTIVITY SHEET FOR YOUNG VISITORS



This sheet belongs to

Name:

MUMMIES

Start at the door

Standing at the door, look at the mummy nearest to you on your left. This is the coffin of the **Lady Diafawer**. **Take a look** at the body inside the coffin. It has been mummified.

The Egyptians believed a dead person would need their body in another life. Because of this people went to a lot of trouble to stop it from rotting in the tomb. They took out some parts of the body and then a salty mixture is put all over the body to dry and preserve it. This salty mixture is called *Natron*. The body was left for up to 70 days until it was quite dry. The body was then washed and bandaged up with sweet smelling spices.



Q. How would you go about preserving the body by mummification? Write your answer in the box below.

Answer:

.....

.....

THE EGYPTIANS BELIEVED THE BODY HAD TO BE PROTECTED!

Go down the steps on your left.

Look in the large display case in front of you. One section in this case has lots of amulets and pendants. Amulets were a type of good luck charm which the Egyptians believed would protect against evil. These were found inside the bandages of ancient mummies.

Find the “Eye of Horus” (number 1. on the panel). This is also called the “Wedjat Eye”. The left eye of Horus was a very popular symbol of protection.

The scarab beetle was another popular amulet. It was placed with the deceased in the tomb as a symbol of new life.

Draw your favourite amulet in the box.

A large empty white box for drawing an amulet.



Look on your right.

Can you see two shelves with white jars on them? These jars were called canopic jars. Each mummy had four of them.



When a person was mummified some of the body parts were removed and packed in canopic jars.

- A jackal-headed jar held the stomach
- A human one held the liver
- A falcon one held the intestines
- A baboon one held the lungs

SHABTI FIGURES

To the right of the canopic jars are a lot of small statues of Egyptian people. They are called shabti statues. The ancient Egyptians had these statues buried with them. They believed that a shabti was a magic worker who would do their work for them in the next life.



Q. In this case you can see many items that were buried with mummified bodies.

Look out for a plate of food made from pottery and a model house!
Write your own choice here.

EGYPTIAN GODS TOOK THE FORM OF ANIMALS

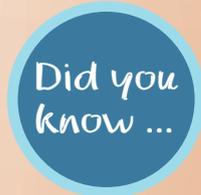
Turn to your right.

Then walk along by the case until you come to the end. There are three mummified animals in this case. What types of animals are they? Write your answers here.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

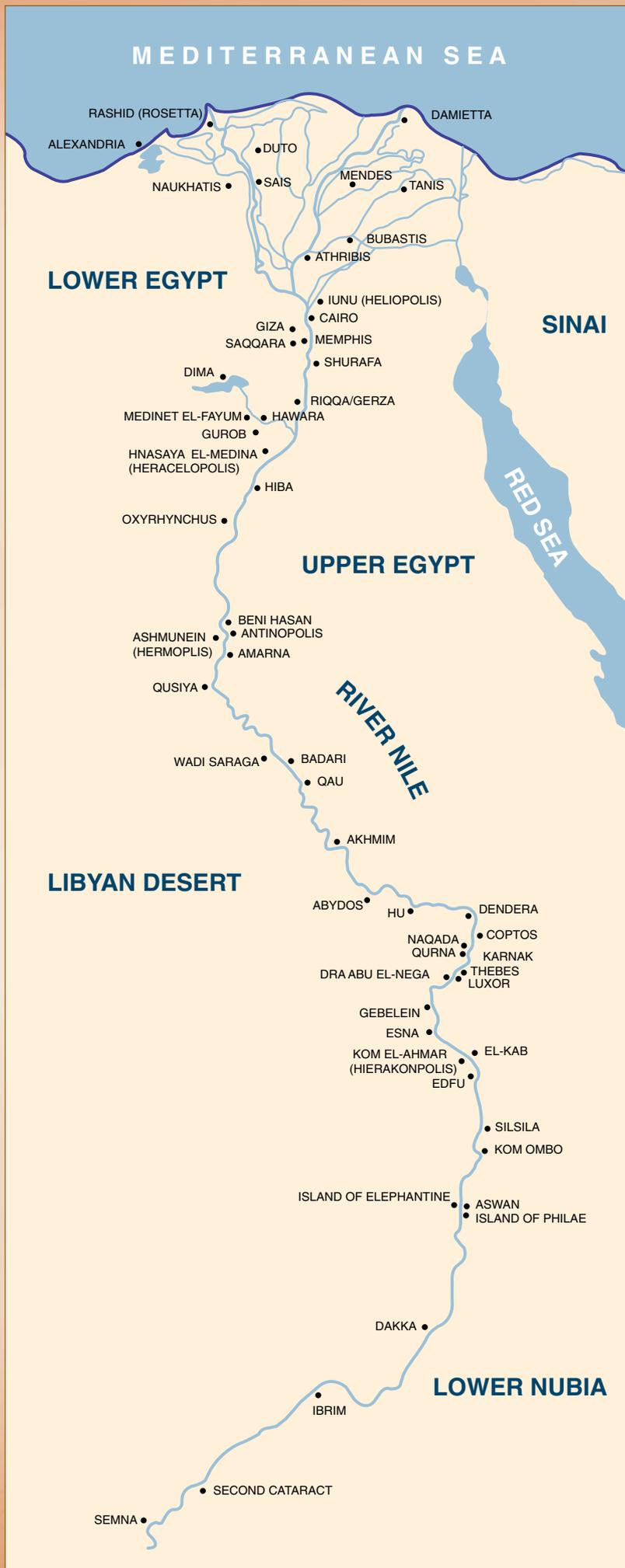


The Egyptians believed that some animals were an earthly image of a god.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| The cat goddess is | Basket |
| The ibis god is | Thoth |
| The crocodile god is | Sobek |
| The falcon god is | Horus |



Walk to the map of Egypt on your left



THE NILE

People in Ancient Egypt depended on the River Nile for life itself. Every year the Nile flooded the land on each side of it right down to the sea. The people called this *The Inundation*. When the flood went down, it left behind a layer of rich black soil, which was very suitable for growing crops. Most people lived near the banks of the Nile where they farmed this rich soil. They also fished in the river and hunted the wild animals that lived in the papyrus reeds that grew on the banks. Outside this fertile area Egypt was a dry dusty desert.

Walk to the boat in the centre.



BOATS

Look at the model of a Nile boat in the centre of the room. The quickest and easiest way to travel in Ancient Egypt was by boat. Boats were so important that it was believed that the sun god, Ra, sailed across the sky every day in a boat. This model was buried with a king for his use in the next world. Can you see the rowers pulling on the oars and the two armed guards standing up on look out? One man is steering the boat with a rudder to prevent it from going off course.

**Imagine you were in that boat. Here are some words to describe the journey.
Circle those you think fit the adventure.**

Dangerous Exciting Cold Adventurous Hard Slow Boring

Now add some words of your own:



HIEROGLYPHICS

One reason we know so much about life in Ancient Egypt is because they had a written language. This written language was a picture language in which words and letters were shown by pictures, called *Hieroglyphs*. Only a few people knew how to read and write this language. They were called Scribes. Hieroglyphics were carved into stone, or painted or written on paper made from papyrus reeds. Look out for them on many of the objects in the exhibition.



A



B



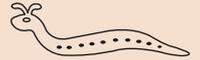
C



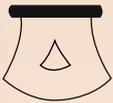
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E



F



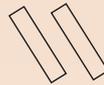
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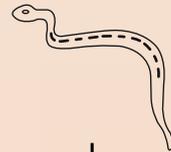
H



H



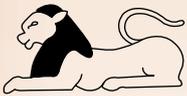
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J



K



L



M



N



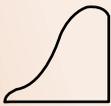
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O



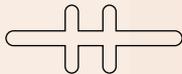
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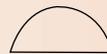
Q



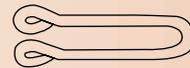
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S



T



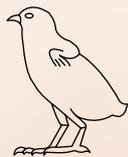
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U



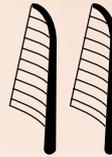
V



W



X



Y



Z

CARTOUCHE

Did you know ...

Kings' names were always written inside an oval shape called a cartouche. This round shape was meant to protect them from evil spirits.

Now you can write your name in cartouche by finding the picture for each letter. You can write your name in the cartouche below.





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