

Key Stage 2: Nebamun: daily life in ancient Egypt

The final page of these notes can be copied and given to students who you think may need additional support during the spotlight or to adult helpers.

Before your visit

- This session uses lively question and answer, and sometimes other techniques, to involve students in looking closely at images of ancient objects projected in one of our lecture theatres.
- This session demonstrates how an investigation into Egyptian daily life can begin from a single image – in this case the wall painting of Nebamun hunting in the marshes – and expand out to include information from objects.
- Key themes of the spotlight include childhood, jewellery and fashion, environment, writing, cats, the idea of the afterlife and social status.
- Key vocabulary includes tomb painting, environment, daily life, object, Nebamun.
- Look for objects from ancient Egypt, including sections of wall painting from Nebamun's tomb, under the Explore section of the British Museum website at www.britishmuseum.org
- Visit the British Museum ancient Egypt learning site and explore the daily life of Nebamun at www.ancientegypt.co.uk/life/explore/main.html

During your visit

- The session begins by explain the purpose and original location of Nebamun's tomb paintings currently held by the British Museum.
- It then goes on to consider a number of themes, such as clothing, childhood, environment and writing, which can be investigated using information from the painting and other objects in the Museum.
- It concludes with information on how the Museum has conserved the tomb paintings before displaying them in the public galleries.
- Galleries with objects relating to the spotlight:
Room 61: Egyptian tomb paintings
Rooms 62 and 63: examples of everyday objects recovered from ancient tombs

Daily life in ancient Egypt continued...

After your visit: follow-up activities

- Discuss how the enquiry began with one object and moved on to many.
- Discuss how the session 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.
- Try using the same process on a new picture - it need not necessarily be Egyptian.
- Download the Nebamun poster and literacy activities pack from the learning pages of the British Museum website.

Curriculum links

History

This spotlight 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 within the context of the World History Study on ancient Egypt.

In this session you will learn about:

- ancient Egyptian tomb paintings in the British Museum
- how to use a tomb painting and Museum objects to find out about the environment and daily life of ancient Egypt

Key words

tomb painting

Nebamun - a rich Egyptian official

environment

daily life

object

conserve - to protect something from decay

Tomb paintings

- You will find out about the tomb paintings created for the tomb of the ancient Egyptian Nebamun.

Daily life

- You will find out how to use parts of the painting and objects on display in the Museum to find out about daily life in ancient Egypt.
- The aspects of life you will consider are:
 - clothing
 - jewellery
 - childhood
 - cats
 - environment (papyrus marshes, the River Nile, river animals)
 - gods and goddesses
 - music
 - writing

Conserving the paintings

- You will find out how conservators at the British Museum have been looking after the paintings and getting them ready to go on display in the public galleries of the Museum.