

Key Stage 2: Excavation in Egypt

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

Before your visit: preparing for your workshop

- Key themes of the workshop are chronology, timelines, BC and AD, century and to read and dates such as AD 280 or 1560 BC. The workshop also includes information about modern Egypt.
- Key vocabulary includes excavation, archaeologist, BC and AD, record, conserve and study.
- 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.

During your visit

- The session begins with the opportunity to watch video footage of the excavation for an ancient Egyptian tomb followed by the creation of a timeline and object handling, before watching further footage revealing what happens to an object after it has been excavated and a chance to consider the role of objects in helping us to find out about life in the past.
- The Museum would very much appreciate it if students attending the workshop could wash and dry their hands before the session to help conserve the objects being handled. We recommend that students also wash their hands afterwards.
- Galleries with objects relating to the workshop:
 - Room 4: Egyptian sculpture monumental sculptures and the Rosetta Stone
 - Room 61: Egyptian tomb paintings
 - Rooms 62 and 63: Egyptian funerary practises including mummification
 - Room 64: Objects from the pre-dynastic period and an early sand-dried mummy
 - Room 65: Egypt and Africa including objects from ancient Nubia

Excavation in Egypt continued...

After your visit: follow-up activities

- You may like to continue looking at objects from ancient Egypt in the British Museum's collection via the Explore section of the Museum's website at www.britishmuseum.org
- 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 a British Museum interactive learning site at www.ancientegypt.co.uk where you may like to direct students to the section on mummification at www.ancientegypt.co.uk/mummies/home.html
- Students could draw on the information gathered from the workshop to write a first- person account of excavating an Egyptian tomb site.
- Select an object studied in the workshop or seen in the ancient Egyptian galleries and discuss what particular aspects of life in the past it provides evidence for.

Curriculum links

History

History 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.*

In this workshop you will learn about

- how objects are excavated in an ancient Egyptian tomb
- what happens to objects once they have been excavated

Key words

tomb

excavation

archaeologist

chronology - BC and AD

record, conserve and study

Tomb excavation

- You will watch video footage of the excavation of an ancient Egyptian tomb.
- You will find out how archaeologists excavate an ancient Egyptian tomb.

Timeline and object handling

- The whole group will help to create a timeline from nowadays back to the time of the ancient Egyptian pharaohs.
- You will find out how chronology is used to measure time in the past.
- You will work in a small group to handle objects that might be found in an ancient tomb and discuss what they are made from, how old they are and what they were used for in ancient times.
- You will work like an archaeologist investigating excavated objects.

Post-excavation

- You will watch video footage showing objects being recorded, conserved and stored in an ancient Egyptian tomb.
- You will find out what happens to an object after it has been excavated.
- You will discuss how objects help us find out about life in the past.