

The paintings of the tomb of Nebamun

Aims

- To provide students with visual encounters with fragments from wall paintings from the tomb of the ancient Egyptian Nebamun.
- To provide teachers with an opportunity to build student familiarity in terms of object identification and object vocabulary.
- To provide a visual starting point for cross-curricular work on Nebamun.

Description

- A sequence of 11 slides

Teaching ideas

- If you are planning to visit the British Museum, use the images to familiarize the students with some of the objects they will be seeing at the Museum.
- Introduce vocabulary associated with the objects such as materials (e.g. plaster, pigment), technical terms (e.g. painted, constructed), name of object (e.g. wall painting, fragment), function of object (e.g. commemoration).
- Assign individual objects to student groups. Ask the group to research their object and then present their object to the rest of the class.
- Use the objects as a source of inspiration for art and design work – particularly painting.
- Where might you find examples of modern wall paintings (indoor and outdoor murals)?
- Consider the role of wall paintings in ancient Egyptian tombs. What messages did the tomb owner want to convey through the wall paintings? How did they hope the images would help them in the afterlife? Ask students to design their own wall painting for an historic or modern context.
- Research examples of other ancient Egyptian tomb paintings. What scenes tend to be shown? How are they represented? How is scale used in the paintings? What colours are used?

Notes on the pictures: use the web address to get further information.

Nebamun hunting in the marshes

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37977

Reconstruction drawing

A reconstruction of how the Hunting in the Marshes fragment may have looked in its original context in the tomb. https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37977

Feast for Nebamun

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37986

Female musicians

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37984

Nebamun's gardens

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37983

Surveying the fields

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37982

Nebamun viewing his herd

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37979

Nebamun's geese

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37978

Nebamun's cattle

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37976

Reconstruction drawing

A reconstruction of how the counting of the geese and the cattle scenes, with Nebamun overseeing the activity, may have looked in their original context in the tomb. https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37976

Offerings for Nebamun

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA37985

Background information

Other resources related to ancient Egypt

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/ages-7-11/ancient-egypt>

Books for adults

Parkinson, Richard, *The painted tomb chapel of Nebamun*, British Museum Press, 2008

Books for children

Hooper, Meredith, *The Tomb of Nebamun*, British Museum Press, 2008