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## Samsung Digital Discovery Centre

### Key Stage 2

# Decoding ancient Egyptian tomb painting

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.

#### About this session

This session takes place in the Samsung Digital Discovery Centre. It does not include a gallery visit, but teachers are encouraged to take students to see the Nebamun tomb paintings in Room 61 either before or after the session. During the session, students discuss Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife and the purpose of tomb paintings, then create their own modern-day interpretation of an ancient Egyptian tomb painting using laptops.

#### Session outline

- The session begins with students being shown a 3D animated film of a reconstruction of Nebamun's tomb by the museum teacher as a 'tour guide'
- The 'tour guide' has lost their information notes, and challenges the students to help to find out what the paintings in Nebamun's tomb reveal about Egyptian views of the afterlife.
- The museum teacher will use Visual Thinking Strategies to encourage students to explore the paintings and suggest their own ideas about them.
- Students work in small groups to look at the Nebamun tomb paintings in detail, using mobile technology to find clues in the paintings. This will allow students to explore ideas about the Egyptian afterlife.
- In the second part of the session, students use software on Samsung tablets to create their own modern-day version of the tomb paintings, selecting from a variety of different objects and places. They will pose in front of a green screen and then include their own picture into the collage as well.
- The finished work is sent back to school.

**Key themes** of the session are life and death, afterlife, ancient Egyptian burial practices

**Key vocabulary** includes Nebamun, tomb painting, afterlife, offering, funeral, field of reeds

### **Preparing for your session**

- Locate Egypt on both ancient and modern maps.
- Discuss students' current understanding of the word 'afterlife'. What do different religions believe happens to us when we die?

### **Following up your session**

- Find out more about other ancient Egyptian tombs.
- In Art, students could paint their own 'perfect afterlife' using techniques used by ancient Egyptian tomb painters, who scored grids into the wall they were working on as a guide for their work. Students could even try mixing their own paints using natural materials, such as charcoal. If you have difficulty finding suitable materials, you can purchase powder pigments in most art shops.
- Try using Visual Thinking Strategies in other ways. You can see an example of a teacher using it with some students here <http://vimeo.com/9678839>. You could use a weekly time slot in the school day to look at photographs or paintings (these do not have to be Egyptian).
- Visit the British Museum website [www.ancientegypt.co.uk](http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk) and explore the different sections with students.
- In Literacy, students could imagine they were an ancient Egyptian preparing for the afterlife, and write a diary about the preparations they had made and what they imagined their afterlife would be like.

### **Galleries with related objects**

Room 61: Egyptian tomb paintings

Rooms 62-63: Egyptian death and afterlife: mummies

Room 4: Egyptian sculpture including sarcophagus

### **Curriculum links**

KS2 History – ancient Egypt

KS2 Citizenship – reflecting on spiritual and cultural issues

# Summary sheet

In this session you will learn about:

- ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife
- a man called Nebamun and his tomb

## Key words

Nebamun

Tomb

Tomb painting

Burial

Offering

Afterlife

Introduction

- We will watch an animation of an ancient Egyptian tomb
- We will work together in groups to look at Egyptian tomb painting, to find out about ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife
- After that, we will all discuss what we would like our afterlife to be like.

Making your perfect afterlife

- You will use Samsung tablets and software to design your own perfect afterlife
- We will take your photograph in front of a green screen to put into your picture
- Then we will email the picture back to school

For more information, visit [britishmuseum.org/samsungcentre](https://britishmuseum.org/samsungcentre)  
**#SamsungCentre**