Make a Nemes headdress worn by the pharaohs!

The pharaohs of ancient Egypt wore a range of crowns and headdresses to show their power and status. One of the most famous is the Nemes which you might recognise from Tutankhamun’s golden mask. The Nemes was a striped linen headcloth which was tied at the back of the head. On each side there were lappets (a decorative flap in a ceremonial headdress), which came down over the shoulders.

Depictions of the pharaohs would often show a rearing cobra in the middle of the headdress, called the Uraeus. This represented the goddess Wadjet and offered protection, as well as highlighting the royal nature of the wearer.

Have a go at making and decorating your own Nemes headdress – don’t forget to take a picture!

You can email your creations to youngfriends@britishmuseum.org

You will need:
- 2 sheets of A4 paper or card
- Scissors
- Decorating materials (typical colours were blue and gold/yellow)
- Glue
1 Draw and cut out your template – you can either use the one below or make your own!

2 Decorate each part of the Nemes. You could use materials of any colour, but typically they were striped blue and gold.

3 Apply glue to the stripy parts (shown here) and stick the cobra to the top of the crown. Glue the headband to the headdress and measure so it fits your head. Now you’re ready to wear your headdress!