In ancient Egypt women and men wore make-up and jewellery to look their best. Only rich people could afford expensive materials like gold and precious stones. Most people wore copper and coloured pottery beads instead.

Look for Cases 4b and 4ca and find: a pair of shoes, precious rings, gold bracelets

What occasion might they have been worn for?
Would you wear them today?

In Cases 4b and 4c find these brightly coloured vessels made from glass. They were used to store cosmetics.

Egyptian men and women used a cosmetic known as black kohl to line their eyes and make their eyelashes darker.

Look around the gallery. Can you see any examples of ancient Egyptians wearing make-up?
In ancient Egypt some animals were considered sacred. People thought they represented gods or goddesses. Cats were associated with the goddess Bastet, who had a soothing and peaceful nature.

Look for Case 29 and find the mummified cat.

Scans have revealed different animals and random collections of bones inside some animal mummies, suggesting they were sometimes fakes.

The Egyptians thought different animals had different qualities. Do you have a pet? What characteristics do you think they have? See how many different words you can think of.

People left mummified animals at temples as a present for the gods. Find a mummy of each of these six animals. What other animals can you spot in this room?

Cat  Snake  Fish

Baboon  Falcon  Crocodile
If ancient Egyptians could reach the afterlife, they believed they would find a perfect version of their life on earth. It wasn’t easy to get there though! People buried things in tombs to help the dead make the journey.

Look for Case 5

Eyes were painted on coffins so the dead could look out into the world.

How many eyes can you count around you?

Find the items from Sebekhetepi’s tomb and look carefully for:
- Something to wear on your feet
- People rowing a sailing boat
- Something to wrap around yourself

Look carefully at the models of servants that were placed inside the tombs. Ancient Egyptians believed these models served the dead in the afterlife. What sort of food are they making? What food do you wish you could eat forever?

💡 Sebekhetepi may also be spelt Sobekhotep
The objects that Egyptians were buried with tell us what lifestyle they were looking forward to in the afterlife.

Look for Cases 10 and 11. These objects were discovered in tombs in the city of Abydos. This was a famous cemetery where the first kings of Egypt were buried. Can you guess what each object is for?

Answers:
1. A wine jar from the King’s Vineyard. Only the richest people were lucky enough to drink wine.
2. A flint knife. This could have been used for shaving hair, cutting papyrus or even a tool for an embalmer (that’s someone who prepares and preserves a body after death).
3. A snake-pattern board game. Egyptians loved to play. They used marbles as counters.

Find the Gebelein man in the case near the centre of the gallery. The Gebelein man died over 5,550 years ago!

The objects that Egyptians were buried with tell us what lifestyle they were looking forward to in the afterlife.

What have you brought with you today?
What does it say about the thing you enjoy?
If your group could only take four things with them on a journey, what would they be and why?
Ancient Nubia

The River Nile gave ancient Egypt its power. Like a modern motorway, people used the Nile to transport goods across long distances. Boats loaded with gold, copper and ivory travelled from Nubia to Egypt along the river.

Look for Case 1

Find this painting of people from Nubia to keep him happy. Spot these precious gifts:
- Gold rings
- A monkey
- Leopard skins
- Dark wood

Look at the precious gifts on the other side of this case. What objects can you name?

What’s the best gift you’ve ever received? Why was it your favourite?