

Participants in the Ancient Egypt tour will learn about the daily lives and practices of ancient Egyptians by investigating their sculptures, paintings, writings, everyday tools and objects, and items associated with burial. Use the suggestions below either before or after your museum visit to encourage further inquiry in the classroom.

ACTIVITIES:

- After your trip to the Walters, brainstorm as a group about which objects from Egyptian daily life you remember seeing. What items did students see that people might have had in their homes? Do you remember seeing jewelry or other items that Egyptians might have worn? Were there any tools someone would have used to do his or her job? After making the list, ask students to write a story or journal entry about a day in the life of an ancient Egyptian in which they use some of these objects.
- Lead a class discussion about the importance of the Nile River to life in Egypt. It made the tasks of farming and raising livestock possible and also allowed the Egyptians to travel to and trade with neighboring regions. If you have been to the museum already, ask what objects everyone saw that were associated with the Nile, either in subject matter or in the materials used to produce them. For instance, the fruit in the bowl couldn't have grown without the fertile soil created by the Nile. The boat sculpture wouldn't exist if the river wasn't an important part of life in Egypt. Finally, ask students what natural resources we rely on in our region today. How would life be different if these resources were not available to us? Compare the resources that we use today to those that the Egyptians were dependent on.
- How do you identify an Egyptian work of art? If you have already visited the museum, make a list or chart as a class about the art that you saw, and which symbols, styles or techniques seem to be uniquely Egyptian. If you haven't come for your tour yet, look together at a printout or overhead of the *Funerary Stele of Tembu*, offered in a printable format below. Together, make a chart or list of your ideas. In particular, what is interesting about the way ancient Egyptians portrayed people in their artwork? Why do you think they took this approach? (To make their images easy to understand – each part of a person was drawn from its most recognizable angle.) Have students make a self-portrait in the Egyptian style: Heads, hips, arms, legs, and feet should be depicted in profile, while shoulders and eyes will be viewed from the front. To complete the piece, they can add Egyptian costume and jewelry as well as other symbols or hieroglyphs which may have been part of your earlier discussion.



VOCABULARY

Ancient - Having existed for many centuries.

Archaeologist - An individual who studies the lives of people in the past by excavating and examining the artifacts, cities, and burial sites that they left behind.

Artifact - An historic object made or used by humans, such as pottery, an ornament or a tool.

Hieroglyphics - A system of writing used by the ancient Egyptians. Hieroglyphics are pictures or symbols that represent a word, syllable, or sound.

Mummification - The process of creating a mummy. For human mummies, the entire process took about 70 days, but most of this time was spent allowing the body to dry out. Next, several organs, including the stomach, intestines, liver, lungs, and brain, were removed. The final steps in the mummification process were to coat the body in resin and wrap it with many yards of linen strips.

Mummy - The body of a human or animal that has been embalmed and prepared for burial.

Papyrus - A plant that once grew abundantly in Egypt and the Nile River valley. Thin strips of the pith of the plant were laid together, soaked, pressed, and dried to make a surface for writing or painting. The word *paper* derives from papyrus, but it was also used to make rope, sandals, and baskets.

Pharaoh - The name for those who ruled in ancient Egypt. The pharaoh was the link between the gods/goddesses and the Egyptian people.

Relief - A sculpted image whose flat background surface is carved away to a certain depth, setting off the figure. It can be high or low depending upon how far they are raised from the background. It is a sunken relief when the image is below the original surface of the background, which is not cut away.

Scribe - A person who could read and write hieroglyphics. In Latin, the word *scribe* means “to write.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

www.eternalegypt.org

www.egyptarchive.co.uk

www.ancientegypt.co.uk

Ancient Egypt (DK Eyewitness Books), George Hart

Pyramid, David Macaulay

The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt, Elizabeth Payne

Ancient Egyptians and their Neighbors, Marian Broida

Gods and Symbols of Ancient Egypt, Manfred Lurker

Use the Walters' Ancient Egypt Teacher Resource Kit for more ideas and images of objects!

Email schoolprograms@thewalters.org for more information.

