

Ancient Egypt

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Inner coffin Frederick Horniman (who set up this museum) collected this coffin from Egypt in 1896, when he visited Howard Carter (who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb). Can you find scarab beetles and the eye of Horus painted on it? These were thought to protect mummies on their journey to the afterlife.

> This is a mummified cat. The goddess Bastet was believed to be half woman and half cat, therefore Ancient Egyptians treated cats with respect and they were even protected by law. What other animals were mummified in Ancient Egypt?

2 Cat





organs in preparation for the afterlife. The lungs, liver, stomach and intestines were often removed during mummification, then wrapped & placed in jars or back in the body. The head on this jar is probably Imsety, a god who was believed to protect the liver.

4 Wooden headrest

Would you like a wooden pillow? Ancient Egyptians slept on headrests and also placed them beneath the heads of mummies to protect them from evil. Compare this headrest to two headrests from Fiji in the Oceania section of the World Gallery.



6 Stone stela ···

A stela is a tombstone. The four people pictured are smelling lotus flowers. In the Ancient Egyptian Creation Story, the sun rose from a lotus flower and became a symbol of rebirth. Why would this symbol be added to a tombstone?

The god Ra was sometimes shown as a scarab (or dung) beetle. Scarab beetle amulets were sometimes placed over a mummy's heart for good luck. They were believed to help the deceased on their journey to the afterlife. Do you have a good luck charm?



► 8 Model boat

The River Nile was very important to the Ancient Egyptians. Model boats like this were common tomb offerings and represent the deceased's journey to the afterlife. Why do you think the Nile was so essential to Ancient Egyptian life?



Ancient Egyptians played many musical instruments, including flutes, trumpets, bells and harps. These hand shaped clappers are made of bone and are over 3,000 years old! How do you think they were played? Look for the Ancient Egyptian sistrum (rattle), also in the Music Gallery.



···≻ 5 Shabti ·····

Ancient Egyptians believed in life after death. *Shabtis* were buried with a mummy. Can you spot the hieroglyphs? They are a spell that was believed to bring the figure to life as a servant for the deceased in the afterlife. What would you take to the afterlife?

Papyrus plant
Papyrus paper was made by the Ancient Egyptians from the stems of the plant Cyperus papyrus, which grew by the river Nile. This plant symbolised life and was believed to hold up the sky. Scribes wrote on this paper with reed brushes dipped in soot and water.

