

## KS2 Ancient Egyptians Virtual Trail and Activity Pack

How to use this trail:

This trail is to be used in conjunction with a virtual trail of Norwich Castle's Egyptians gallery via Google Maps. You will need to click between this document and the links below.

However, nearly all the activities can be done without accessing the gallery if you are unable to use Google Maps.

[Click on this link to take you to Norwich Castle's Egyptian Gallery.](#)

Now step through the door of the gallery – you've been magically transported to Ancient Egypt!

### **First display case on the left: looking good!**

- Find information and objects about clothing. Egyptians wore light and white garments because of the hot climate. Can you dress up like an Egyptian using similar clothes at home? For example: sandals; white sheets/pillow cases fashioned into tunics.
- As their clothes were very simple garments, Egyptians loved brightening up their appearance with jewellery. Find all the different types of jewellery the Egyptians wore and then design your own. If you have any craft resources (e.g. string, beads, pasta shapes – but only if you have enough to eat!), you could also make your own.
- Find the bronze mirror frame (item 23) and copy it, leaving the centre blank. Study any Egyptian faces you can find in the display case before drawing your face in your mirror frame to look like an Ancient Egyptian. Both boys and girls wore make-up! What hairstyle do you think you think you would have had?




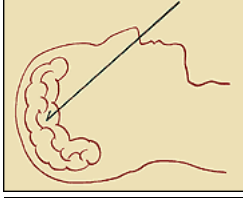
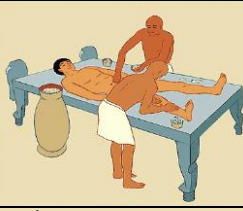


### **Second display case on the left: preparing for the afterlife!**

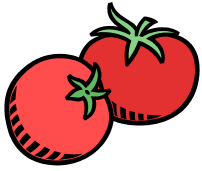
- Ancient Egyptians believed that there was life after death. Find the statues on the top shelf. These statues were called shabtis and they were buried with the dead and were believed to come alive to do whatever that person wanted during their afterlife. Imagine you have your own shabti. What jobs would you like it to do for you?

### **Third display case on the left: mummification!**

- Find the female mummy. We know from remains that she is around 3,000 years old but we don't know anything else about her because she's in the wrong coffin and all the hieroglyphs on the coffin lid at the top talk about a man. How do we know she's in the wrong coffin? Hint: look at the size of her mummy and the size of the coffin.
- The Egyptians mummified the rich and powerful so that they could enjoy their afterlife. Can you match the instructions to the pictures below?
- And afterwards, can you mummify a tomato?

Match the instructions to the pictures in this table:

Instructions	Pictures
<p>1. Wash the body and then pull the brain out of the nose using a hook.</p>	
<p>2. Make a cut on the left side of the body and remove the internal organs. Throw the brain away then place the lungs, intestines, stomach and liver inside canopic jars. Leave the heart inside the body.</p>	
<p>3. Stuff the body with linen soaked with incense to stop it smelling and to give it a more human shape.</p>	
<p>4. Cover the corpse with natron (salt) for 40 days.</p>	
<p>5. After the 40 days, take off the salt and rub the body in oil.</p>	
<p>6. Then wrap from head to toe in bandages.</p>	
<p>7. Place in a coffin.</p>	



## Mummify a tomato!



### Resources needed:

- A tomato or two!
- Weighing scales
- Anti-bacterial solution
- Kitchen paper
- Table salt and bicarbonate of soda or Epsom salts
- Container

1. Before you start – observe your tomato really carefully. What does it feel like, smell like, what colours can you see, what about the texture of the skin? You could always keep an un-mummified tomato as a control to provide a comparison.
2. The first step in mummification is to get rid of the wet and gooey stuff; dry materials are less likely to rot and decay than damp ones. Unfortunately for budding embalmers, tomatoes, like us, contain a huge amount of water. The drier we can get our tomato the less likely it will rot. To do this we need to make a small incision in the fruit and scoop out the seeds inside. You can throw these inside bits away. The Egyptians did the same with the internal organs.
3. The body cavity was then washed with wine; the alcohol was supposed to kill germs. We need to carefully rub the tomato inside and out with a dilute anti-bacterial solution like Milton then dry the excess with kitchen paper.
4. Now weigh your mummy. This is the pre-mummification weight with water.
5. Next we need to pack the body with a type of naturally occurring salt called natron. We can't easily get real natron, but we can make it from a mixture of table salt and bicarbonate of soda; Epsom salts work well too.
6. Pack your tomato cavity with your natron and then place it in a container so it is completely covered with the salt and bicarbonate of soda mix. Check its progress every few days; you may need to replenish the natron to keep it dry. The Egyptian embalmers had to wait at least 40 days to complete their mummy but yours should be ready in a couple of weeks!
7. A couple of weeks later, what does it look like now? How have the colour and texture changed? Weigh your tomato again – the difference is the weight of the water that has now been removed. If you want, now you can make and decorate a sarcophagus for your mummified fruit!

#### Fourth display case on the left: gods and goddesses

- On the middle shelf are lots of amulets or lucky charms which would have been worn or kept by Egyptians for good luck. Do you know of any lucky charms?
- Many of the amulets were shaped like gods and goddesses. The large wooden figure at the back of the middle shelf is Osiris (item 21), god of the Underworld. He was killed by his brother Set but was brought back to life by his wife Isis.
- Can you spot his wife Isis, holding his son Horus (item 26)? Horus fought Set to avenge his father's murder and although he won, he ended up losing an eye.
- Isis knew that Horus would need his sight, so she made him a new eye which could see into the future, see the past and see all things which were happening in the present – the Eye of Horus. Can you spot any amulets that look like eyes?
- The Egyptians believed in lots of gods and goddesses. Research some of those gods and goddesses before creating your own god or goddess. What will they look like? What will they wear? What powers will they have?
- Egyptians didn't just mummify people, they mummified animals. Can you identify what animals they mummified on the bottom shelf?

#### Fifth and final display case on left: the mummy of Ankh Hor

- The mummy of Ankh Hor is lying down in his coffin at the bottom of the display. The item standing upright, on the left, is his sarcophagus, which would have gone over his coffin for added protection.
- The mummy was donated by King George V, the present queen's grandfather, but we decided not to open the coffin and unwrap the mummy out of respect. We know from the hieroglyphs that he is called Ankh Hor, he is over 3,000 years old and was a High Priest at the temple in Karnak – so he was a very important person in Ancient Egypt!
- When a mummy was put in their tomb, all their friends and family had a big feast. Prepare a feast for Ankh Hor's family. Research food eaten in ancient Egypt and plan a menu. If you are able, prepare the food and enjoy an Egyptian feast.
- Instead of opening the coffin, we looked inside by X-raying the coffin! Can you zoom in to see the X-ray? Can you see what Ankh Hor is missing on his face?
  - He's missing an eyebrow! We know that each temple had a cat as the Ancient Egyptians worshipped their cats. The custom was that when a temple cat died, the priest would shave off his eyebrows and replace them with fake ones! Can see that the fake one has slipped down the side of his face?!
- The X-ray also shows us that there are pins stuck in his body. These probably date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century so someone back then did open him up to have a look!
- Do you think it is right for people to take mummies from Egypt, open them up and display them in other countries? Why or why not?

**The end:** Find your favourite item from the gallery, draw it and write underneath why you've chosen it.

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