

Life in Ancient Egypt: 'Meet the Mummies'

Leicester Museum & Art Gallery

Key Stage 2 curriculum links: History, Language and Literacy, Geography, Art.

Cross curricular links: PSHE

1. Session Description

The 'Meet the Mummies' session at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery will give pupils an in-depth understanding of life in ancient Egypt. The session is divided up into several sections to maximise different learning styles which all have active approaches that engage pupils in discussion, handling artefacts and hands-on activities. During the Active Learning Session pupils are given the opportunity to:

- Learn about everyday life of rich and poor, skilled and unskilled people in Ancient Egypt, the Nile and the climate, geography and landscape of the country.
- Handle and investigate a variety of 3000 year old everyday and religious artefacts from Ancient Egypt.
- Meet our resident mummies and learn about the process of mummification and beliefs about the afterlife.
- View the ancient Egyptian artefacts on display in the gallery.
- Investigation through hands-on activities to gain further insight into life in Ancient Egypt.

2. Session Length:

1.5 hours (90 minutes)

3. Session Structure and Breakdown of Timings

Time	Activity	Length of activity
0-15mins	Introduction and timeline	15 minutes
15-25mins	Introduction to the life of an Ancient Egyptian	10 minutes
25-45mins	Artefact Handling and interpretation	20 minutes
45-55mins	Ancient Egyptian beliefs	10 minutes
55-65mins	Mummification	10 minutes
65-86mins	Activities	21 minutes
86-90mins	Plenary	4 minutes

Note: timings are flexible in response to pupil participation

4. Learning Outcomes

- To find out about the Ancient Egyptians by exploring and accessing the unique collections and resources at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery.
- To investigate objects using close observation.
- To engage and utilize a variety of historical thinking, investigation and creative skills through group discussion and individual exploration.

5. Curriculum Links

Key Stage 2

History

- Know where people and events fit in within a chronological framework
- Understand the achievements of the earliest civilizations
- Understand some of the ways we find out about the past
- Interpreting the past from resources

Language and Literacy

- Use discussion to learn
- Listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- Ask relevant questions to extend understanding and knowledge

Geography

- Develop contextual knowledge of location of globally significant places
- Understand key aspects of types of settlement and land use

Art

- Increase awareness of different kinds of art, craft, and design

9. Staffing requirements

Museum facilitator led plus at least 3 accompanying adults from the school.

Note: This session requires a **MINIMUM of 3 Adult Supervisors**, who will play an active role within the session by leading pupils through the Activity Rotation.

10. Room requirements

Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, Egyptian Gallery

11. Pre-visit and Post-visit activities

Cross curricular links:

- **Geography:** locate Egypt, learn about the importance of the River Nile, identify the physical and human features of the Nile's surroundings
- **History:** Interpret the past from resources; understand the Ancient Egyptian civilisation
- **Language and literacy:** write clearly, accurately, and coherently; handwriting; writing narratives; be competent in speaking and listening, make formal presentations
- **Art:** use drawing, painting, and sculpture to develop and share ideas and imagination; develop techniques; use a range of materials creatively to design and make products

Pre-visit activities

- 1). Find out how much life in Ancient Egypt depended on the River Nile. Discuss the importance of the Nile for transportation and for providing food and water. Think about how often water is depended on in your everyday life.
- 2). Bread was the staple diet for the Ancient Egyptians. Find out why bread was in abundance.
- 3). Research an Egyptian God, write a paragraph to describe it and make a visual interpretation.

Post visit activities

- 1). The Victorians often brought Egyptian mummies and artefacts back to Britain as souvenirs of their trip. Discuss why people bring back souvenirs. Write a postcard about your visit to the museum.
- 2). Download the 'Make a Mask' and 'Draw like an Ancient Egyptian Artist' activity sheets from our website: [Resources and Activity Sheets – Leicester Museums](#)
- 3). Discuss items you would take into the afterlife and give reasons why.



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