

# 261. Ancient Egyptians

## 30 Mystery Object Cards (to print out)

What is it? What is it made from? What could it be used for?

- Mirrors - bronze
- Razors - gold, copper, bronze
- Make-up boxes and containers - pot, wood
- Jewellery - gold, precious stones, glass
- Headrest - wood
- Model house - clay
- Wadjet Eye (Eye of Horus) - pot/clay
- Cartouche rings - gold
- Papyrus paper - papyrus reed
- Earring - gold
- Tomb model - wood
- Bottle - glass
- Ankh - pottery
- Sennet game - wood
- Shabti figure - terracotta (clay)
- Khol pot and brush - pot, twig
- Furniture - wood
- Cup - glazed earthenware
- Neck collar - beads, glass
- Linen - flax
- Sandals - papyrus reeds
- Stool - wood
- Bricks - mud, straw
- Tomb painting - plaster, pigments
- Boat - papyrus reeds
- Obelisk - granite (stone)
- Toy - wood, bronze, string
- Tomb model (brewers) - wood
- Mummified cat - sawdust, salt, herbs, linen bandages
- Scarab amulet jewellery—gold, precious stones, glass.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

These objects are mirrors made out of a metal called bronze which was a mixture of copper and tin. The bronze was beaten to make it flat, then it was polished to make it shiny enough to reflect the light back from a person's face and show their image.

Men were always clean-shaven, they used razors made from bronze to shave their beards and heads. Razors of gold, copper and bronze have been found in ancient Egyptian tombs.

Some men and women shaved their heads to keep cool and then they put on wigs.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

Make-up was used by both men and women. They kept their make-up in pots inside their make-up boxes. Men in their boxes would be a mirror, comb and tweezers. Women often coloured their lips and cheeks with a red soil called ochre.

Both men and women in ancient Egypt wore jewellery to look good, to show off their wealth or as protection in the form of good luck charms called amulets.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

This is a wooden headrest and was used as a type of pillow. It would have had padding where the head rested when you went to sleep. It was a simple rectangular shape.

Wooden ones like this used to support the head of the dead as they were laid out before being buried.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

These are model houses which were found in tombs. They are made of clay.

Model houses like this were included in Egyptian tombs to provide a home for the spirits of the dead in case the body was damaged.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

The wadjet eye was supposed to be a symbol both of the sun god Ra's eye and the eye of the god Horus. Horus is said to have had an eye ripped out by Seth which then magically grew back again.

The Egyptians believed that the wadjet eye protected everything around it.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

A cartouche is an oval shape placed around the name of a pharaoh or queen. These rings could be placed over their neck and used as a seal.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

This is a papyrus boat and was used as a toy. Papyrus boats were made from the roots of a papyrus plant that were cut, woven together and then dried.

In ancient Egypt only children were allowed to sail.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

This is a bracelet made from a strip of gold twisted into a loop. The smaller the strip and passed through the planet's orbit. Pharaohs were particularly fond of them and women. Bracelets were made in many shapes and of many types of materials. Gold bracelets in the form of lotus flowers were worn by Egyptian musicians and dancers.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

This is a model made from wood. It shows a boat being loaded and sailed. Models like this were placed inside tombs as they were thought to be necessary in the afterlife. In ancient Egypt everyone ate bread. The dough was often mixed with honey, fish or fresh fruit.

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The beautiful glass fish is a kohl. It is probably a decorative object. Egyptians believed that it was important to keep their skin healthy in the sun and to make themselves small like fish.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

This is a shabti figure and was used as a toy. Shabti figures were made from wood, stone or terracotta. They were placed in tombs to do the work of the dead in the afterlife.

When do you think these might be? What are they made from and what might they be used for?

This is a model house and was used as a toy. Model houses were made from clay and were placed in tombs to provide a home for the spirits of the dead in case the body was damaged.

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