

Archaeology Lesson Kits - The Egyptian Tomb Kit

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Within the enclosed kit you will find one of a number of items commonly found in Ancient Egyptian Tombs. Each of these items are either replicas of originals from museums or are a combination styles of items found in ancient Egypt.

The antiquities buried in this kit have been intentionally broken to replicate the common aspect where ancient artifacts are excavated by archaeologists. Many pieces found in tombs were broken when tomb robbers found their way into the tomb to loot it of its antiquities, or else were broken in the processes in which the site itself became buried, being from cave ins, from water seepage or one of a number of different other reasons. Your job, is to carefully excavate a (replica) ancient Ushabtis or Statuette from its years of imprisonment in its soil, to clean and restore it as would a museum conservator and then to do an archaeologist's report on your find to establish the origin and age of the piece. See attached notes for information and continue your research yourself.

INCLUDED IN THIS KIT

Broken antiquity buried in soil

Brush

Excavation tool

WHAT YOU NEED

Plenty of newspaper to protect your table or bench top.

Bowls of water to moisten the soil and to wash your hands.

An old toothbrush (Soft)

White glue (such as Aquadhere or similar)

HOW TO USE THIS KIT

Imagine a piece of soil has been excavated from an ancient archaeological site using a geologists core drill (the type used to drill down to oil deposits to find out soil types etc). The piece of soil you have in front of you is designed to replicate this scenario. Enclosed within the cylinder is an ancient antiquity replica similar to those archaeologists often find in tombs. Using the brush and excavation tool provided and a bowl of water carefully dampen the soil with a little water, then slowly and carefully remove soil by brushing and gentle scraping until you discover a solid piece.. Once you have found your first piece remove soil from around the periphery of each piece to find out how far it extends, then keep brushing and scraping soil until each piece comes away without forcing it. Continue through the whole block until every single fragment big and small has been found. Check through the waste soil you have removed for any tiny fragments. Once all the pieces have been removed from the soil it is now time to clean the pieces. Again using the paint brush provided or a soft tooth brush, remove soil from the surface of the item and especially from all the joins. (the replica pieces have been artificially aged so don't try too hard to get the lamp clean). Now it is time to restore the it. You will need to do a series of dry runs first to test if all the pieces are there and to ascertain that you know how to position them before gluing. (Note: it is rare for an archaeologist to find every single piece of broken pottery, so if small pieces are missing, don't worry, that is how it is in the real world of archaeology).

At this stage you will need to use white glue such as *Aquadhere* to glue the pieces together. Start either at the base or the rim and work up the piece as you go. Be patient, avoiding glue on the outer surfaces of the piece as it will mar the final result. You can use masking tape to hold the pieces as the glue sets or stand each pair of gluing pieces in sand while they dry.

Once you have all the pieces together you can now start your report as would a real archaeologist. You need to look at the information provide and search the internet for as much information as possible and establish the style of the piece, the age frame and the culture. You first ascertain the pieces basic shape, its style, its decoration. Does it have any markings? What does the figure remind you of? Usually the ancient writing on the figure will give you some idea (if you can read it or if it is legible!) You may have to rely on other factors such as the way the figure is dressed. Archaeologists will in almost all cases need to know the provenance of the item. That means where it was exactly found and what other items are found in the same area. This aids in identifying many items found. In this case we have to give you some information seeing as the piece of soil that you are excavating has been removed from its original "burial" site!

Once you have completed your research you can now proudly display your artefact and discuss your new found knowledge with your friends and peers. ***Teachers please note: As many as three students can work on each kit, one excavating, the second cleaning the excavated pieces, the third sorting the pieces. The team then does the research together.***



Horus at Edfu

Horus was the falcon or falcon headed god. His main cult centres were Edfu, Hierakonopolis and Behdet. His roles and associations were with the sky and kingship. So why does he wear a double crown? Where is he commonly seen in the tombs of Egypt? Why did the Pharaohs place statues of him as well as paintings of him on their tomb walls?



Ramses II

Ramses the second was often termed *Ramses the Great*. He created many monuments and statues of himself? If his actual tomb had been found intact, what *marvellous things* do you think the archaeologists would have found inside?



Shabtis or otherwise known as Ushabtis were the “answerer” and were placed in the tombs to serve a particular purpose in the afterlife. What was that purpose?



Shabtis or Ushabtis

The scarab was considered a protective amulet for the heart and considered a symbol of new life and resurrection.

Where would a scarab be used in the tomb, and why?

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