

Ancient Egyptian Art

An Instructor's Guide

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM



Introduction | The Worcester Art Museum's **Egyptian Art** gallery may be smaller in size, but it does not lack in quality. Located at the center of the Museum, the gallery features a variety of Egyptian creations, most notably a child's mummy case.

This gallery offers students the opportunity to explore, learn, and formulate ideas. As an instructor, this guide will aid to summarize important curriculum frameworks; this guide will also help to show how the art in the gallery can be used to enrich classroom learning. An instructor will benefit most when he or she

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WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

can visit the Museum before bringing students, as this will allow the chance to look around and plan ahead.

Visit Preparation | Prior to visiting, talk with students about the gallery or galleries you plan to see on your trip to the Worcester Art Museum. What do they already know about **ancient Egypt**? Brainstorm a list of questions that you would like to find the answers to (some of the questions might evolve from reviewing this document). Connect these questions to different school subjects, **for example**: connect the Egyptian view of gods to history lessons about early Egyptian mythology, or relate Egyptian architectural innovation to science and technology lessons.

Relevant MA Curriculum Frameworks | *The standards are specifically aimed at students in grades 6-12; however, everyone is encouraged to make use of this guide.*

Arts 6.3 | Students will interpret the meanings of artistic works by explaining how the subject matter and/or form reflect the events, ideas, religions, and customs of people living at a particular time in history.

Arts 9.2 | Students will identify and describe examples of how the discovery of new inventions and technologies, or the availability of new materials brought about changes in the arts in various time periods and cultures.

Science, Technology, and Engineering, Grades 6-8 | 2.1 Identify and explain the steps of the engineering design process, i.e., identify the need or problem, research the problem, develop possible solutions, select the best possible solution(s), construct a prototype, test and evaluate, communicate the solution(s), and redesign.

History 7.14-7.15 | Describe the role of the pharaoh as god/king, the concept of dynasties, the importance of at least one Egyptian ruler, the relationship of pharaohs to peasants, and the role of slaves in ancient Egypt; Describe the polytheistic religion of ancient Egypt with respect to beliefs about death, the afterlife, mummification, and the roles of different deities.

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An Instructor's Guide

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

Guiding Questions | (1) What do you think about this gallery? (2) From this gallery, what can you learn about the society where this art was created? (3) Pick one piece from the gallery: what do you think its purpose was? (4) Who made it and why do you think they made it?

Deeper Questions | (1) Why did the ancient Egyptians put so much emphasis on life after death? (2) How did the ancient Egyptians view their kings and gods? How was the relationship between kings and gods similar? (3) What types of artifacts from ancient Egypt still survive today?

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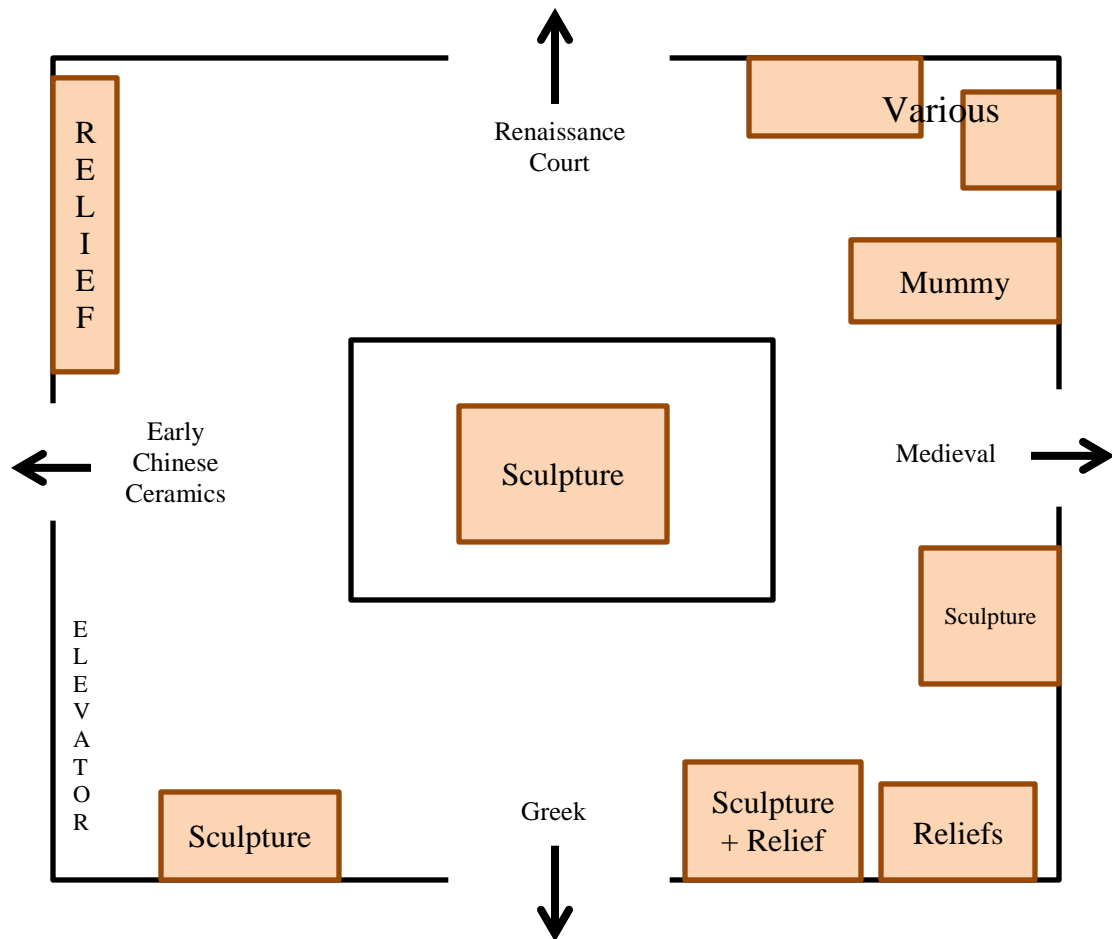
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WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

Gallery Layout | *The Egyptian Gallery (located on the first floor, up the stairs from the Renaissance Court).*



Gallery Division | The gallery is divided into **two** major categories: life and death in ancient Egypt. The Worcester Art Museum has created a gallery guide for both themes, which can both be found at www.worcesterart.org. They are titled "Life in Ancient Egypt" and "Objects of the Egyptian Dead."

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An Instructor's Guide

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

Current Gallery Information | *On display.*

NOTE: There is no additional gallery information in this gallery other than what is already placed beside the specific works. Please see the two separate PDF documents on the WAM website, “Life in Ancient Egypt” and “Objects of the Egyptian Dead” for additional gallery information.

SEE ALSO: Below, for gallery image guide.

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An Instructor's Guide

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

Key Artwork | *All found in this gallery.*



The Royal Descendant, Hetepheres | Egyptian, Early 5th Dynasty, ca. 2440 B.C., Limestone



Nobleman Hunting on the Nile | Egyptian, Early 6th Dynasty, ca. 2400 B.C., Limestone

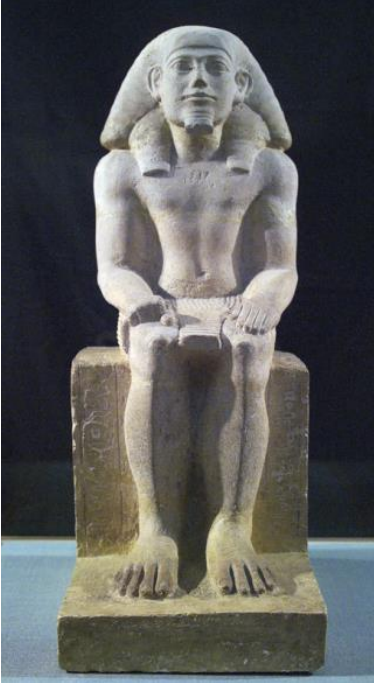
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Ancient Egyptian Art

An Instructor's Guide

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM



Statuette of Hapidefai | Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, 2060-1780 B.C., Limestone



Statuette | Sumerian, Early Dynasty, 3000-2500 B.C., Limestone

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Ancient Egyptian Art

An Instructor's Guide

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Prince Arikankharer Slaying His Enemies | Meroitic, Beginning of 1st Century A.D., Sandstone



Cat | Egyptian, Saite, 663-525 B.C., Bronze

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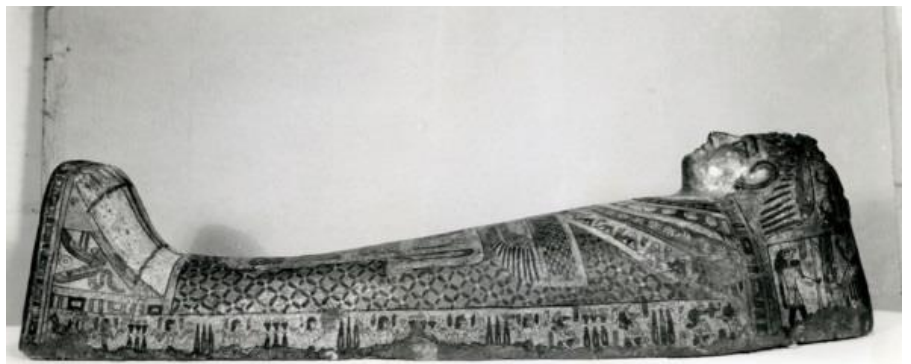
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Head of Mentuhotep III | Egyptian, 11th Dynasty, 2010-1998 B.C., Sandstone



Child's Mummy Case | Egyptian, Roman Period, ca. 3rd century A.D., Cartonnage Sculpture



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