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In the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, we have a collection of Egyptian artefacts that are not on show in the galleries. These items only come out for school visits and for those people interested in studying ancient Egypt. Explore items from the collection below and take a look at how everyday Egyptians lived and what they believed in.

To start off it may be a good idea to look at some basic hieroglyphics – Egyptian writing. Hieroglyphics appear on lots of Egyptian artefacts and help us to understand the history and purpose of an object.

A	 or 	H	 or 	O		V	
B		I		P		W	
C	 or 	J		Q		X	 
D		K		R		Y	  or 
E		L		S		Z	
F		M		T			
G		N		U			
SH = 		CH = 		KH = 			
 or 							

Can you write your name using hieroglyphics?

Can you identify the objects below? Think about what they may have been used for.

**Mummy label, mummy bandages, make up pot, funeral cone, scarab beetle
amulet, Shabti doll**



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Answers on next page

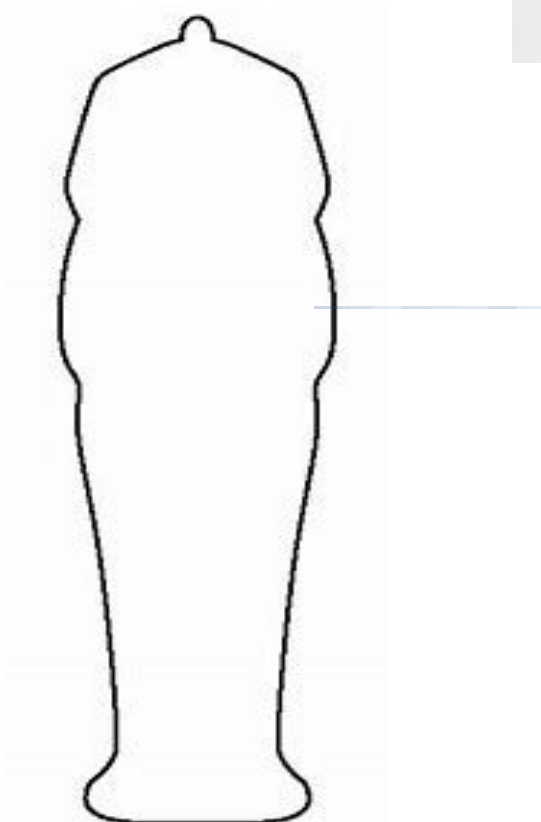
Answers

- Fig 1. Mummy Bandages
- Fig 2. Scarab beetle
- Fig 3. Mummy label
- Fig 4. funeral cone
- Fig 5. Shabti doll
- Fig 6. make up pot

Egyptian Shabti

In the Egyptian collection at the Williamson Art Gallery we have a large collection of Shabti dolls. They come in a number of different sizes and shapes and are made from different materials including wood, stone and sand. Shabti dolls (also known as *shawbti* and *ushabti*) were funerary figures in ancient Egypt who accompanied the deceased to the after-life. Their name is derived from the Egyptian word 'swab' for stick but also corresponds to the word for 'answer' (wsb) and so the shabtis were known as 'The Answerers'. The figurine became a mere servant who fulfilled different tasks that would otherwise be imposed on the deceased in the afterlife, such as fieldwork. For this reason, the shabtis are equipped with tools like hoes and seed bags.

Have a go at designing your own shabti doll, remembering to use hieroglyphics to label who it is and what their job may be in the afterlife.



Egyptian Gods

The Egyptian collection at the Williamson Art Gallery also contains a number of statues of ancient Egyptian gods including Horus and Bez. The two statues would have been placed in the tomb of an Egyptian to bring them luck and good fortune in the afterlife.

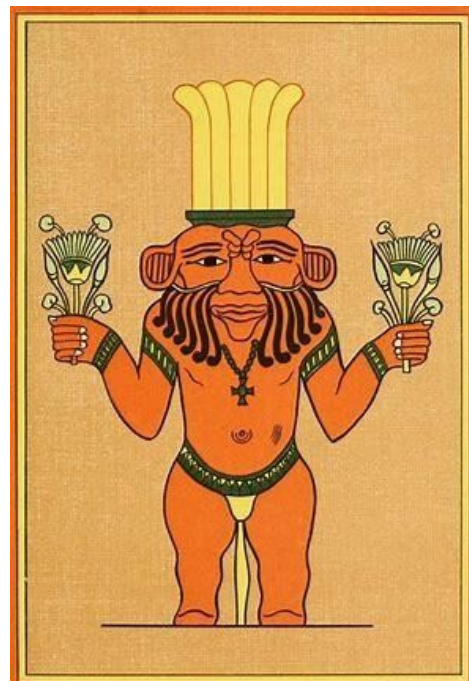
The Egyptian God Horus

Horus was the national patron god of the Ancient Egyptians. He was also known as the god of the sky, the god of hunting and the god of war. In addition, he was associated with the sun and protection. Horus is usually depicted as either a falcon, or a man with a falcon's head.



The Egyptian God Bez

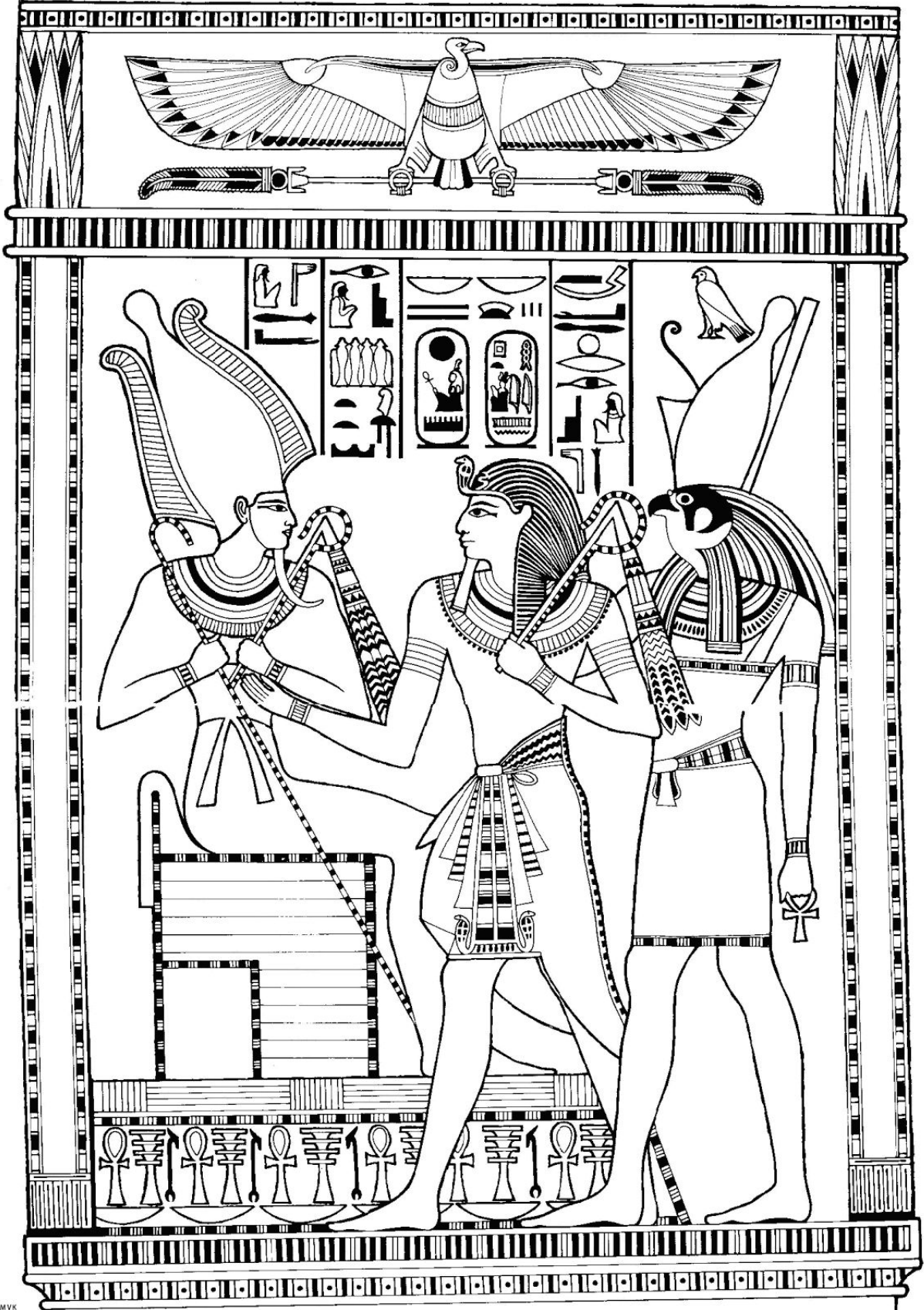
Bez is the god of childbirth, fertility, humour and war, but served primarily as a protector god of pregnant women and children. He is regularly depicted as a dwarf with large ears, long-haired, bearded and bow-legged. He is also associated with humour, music and dancing.





Kids in
MUSEUMS

Enjoy colouring this image of the Ancient Egyptians



Egyptian Themed Activities:

Task one: taking inspiration from the alabaster make-up pot, have a go at using a stick or the end of a feather or paintbrush to draw the eye of Horus. The ancient Egyptians wore make up on their eyes to highlight their features and to draw people into a person's eye, which they believed was the gateway to the soul. Other ideas suggest that it was to project their eyes from the sun. Boys and girls, men and women would have painted their eyes using small tools and mixing charcoal and water in a pot just like the one below.



Task two: The Ancient Egyptians used the scarab beetles in their art and religion. One symbol was that of the common scarab bug, a beetle found all over ancient Egypt. The **scarab bug** symbolized the restoration of life. The scarab was a popular design for good luck charms, for seals used to stamp documents, and for jewelry made from clay or precious gems. Have a go at creating your own scarab beetle out of clay or plasticine.



Task three: The Ancient Egyptians were probably most famous for their process of mummification. This was a method of preserving the body after death. In the Williamson collection we have examples of mummy wrappings that are preserved in a sealed glass pot. We also have a selection of mummy labels all written in hieroglyphics. Take a look at the items below and think of ways you might like to make a mummy of your own.

