Young, Rich & Famous: Ancient Egypt at Manchester’s Central Library

History Resources for Key Stages 2 and 3
Young, Rich & Famous

Manchester Museum’s latest installation at Manchester’s Central Library challenges us to think of how we will be remembered after death and what we will leave behind. Young, Rich & Famous features some of the highlights of Manchester Museum’s Ancient Egypt and Sudan collection of over 18,000 objects. The installation explores the stories and significance of life, death and immortality in Egypt.

Most of what survives from ancient Egypt comes from the tombs of the wealthy and reinforces the ideal of eternal youth. However, most ancient Egyptians were farmers and left no trace of their existence. Today, we apply filters on Instagram and Snapchat for a desired look; similarly, ancient Egyptian tomb paintings, statues, coffins and masks show people as they hoped to appear; just like their ageless gods and goddesses.

Leading up to the museum’s £13.5 million transformation hello future, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, our Ancient Worlds galleries are closed until early 2021. This is disappointing for the many visitors that come to Manchester Museum to see its significant Egyptian collection but Young, Rich & Famous offers an opportunity for Manchester’s communities to experience ancient Egypt in the city.

Manchester Museum is working with local communities and businesses to display its collections across the city. It is inviting people to share their ideas of where in Manchester they would like to see other artefacts from the museum. If you have an idea please tweet us @McrMuseum #MMAsMyCity.

There are still lots of ways that schools can work with Manchester Museum during our partial closure. Why not bring the awe and wonder of ancient Egypt to your school hall by hosting our Inflatable Museum? For details see https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/learn.
**Teacher Notes**

Due to the space available around the cases, these activities will be suitable for up to 15 children at a time. Children might discuss, write, draw or photograph their ideas.

**Help Princess Isis to Entertain the Gods**
You might introduce this activity sheet with a group discussion about what children can see in the large stela (limestone carving) of Princess Isis. Where do they think the stela came from? Who do they think the people are? What are they holding or wearing? What are they doing? What might the hieroglyphs say? Why might someone have carved this? What can we learn about ancient Egypt from this stela?

**Answers/Discussion:**

1. Princess Isis is shown twice – once on each side. One theory might be that to it is to make sure each god is worshipped equally, but we can’t be sure!
2. There are many things children might choose, and there’s no right answer here. The necklace might be a popular choice, as Isis is shown wearing a necklace on the stela.
3. Again, there is no right answer here. The offering table might be a popular choice, as it could be seen as a way to gather even more gifts!
4. The image of Isis on the left is holding a ‘sistrum’, or rattle instrument, that was often used in ancient Egyptian worship.
5. The god Osiris is shown on the left, and a statue of him can also be found in the displays. He can be identified through his impressive crown.
6. This is entirely open-ended!

After the activity, you might consider together what questions remain unanswered after today and where they might go to find answers. Feel free to email questions to the museum via amy.mcdowall@manchester.ac.uk or tweet them @EgyptMcr.

**Think like an archaeologist!**
This outline ‘finds’ sheet has been developed to help children focus in on one artefact and consider what can be learnt from archaeological finds. Again, have the children got unanswered questions following this activity? How might they answer them?

**InstaAfterlife**
This activity will need to be introduced in the context of appropriate social media use for your pupils’ age.

**Egypt and Manchester**
These are some ethical questions that you could consider during or after your visit. Further reading can be found at:
A line drawing of the Princess Isis stela:
Help Princess Isis to Entertain the Gods

Princess Isis was an important person who lived over 3000 years ago in ancient Egypt. One of her jobs was to represent her father, King Ramesses VI, in Southern Egypt. She was also a priestess.

The stela you can see on display – the large stone carving – shows Isis worshipping the gods Re and Osiris. Can you use this to work out what Isis needs to get ready for her work at the temple today? There are lots of other objects on display that are from ancient Egypt that might help you.

1. How many times can you see Princess Isis on the stela? Why do you think she is shown more than once?

2. Isis needs to be dressed in her finest clothes to worship the gods. Can you find something in the displays to help Isis look impressive?

3. The ancient Egyptians like to give presents (or ‘offerings’) to their gods. Can you find something on display that might make a great present?

4. Music was seen as a great way to entertain the gods. Can you see the musical instrument that Isis is holding on the stela? Can you use the displays to find out what this is called?

5. Making statues of gods shows great respect in ancient Egypt. Can you find a statue of a god that matches a god on the stela?

6. What else might Isis need? Choose 2 more things to give to Isis for her work at the temple.
Think like an archaeologist!

Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just found one of these items in a ‘dig’ in Egypt.

Can you complete the Finds Sheet to record your answers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drawing (use your finger as a scale)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shape</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I think this is a:

I think this because:
Take a look at the stela – the large stone carving – of Princess Isis. Isis is the lady shown worshipping the gods.

What do you think Isis wanted people who saw this stela to think about her?

Similarities between a stela and social media:
1.
2.
3.

Differences between a stela and social media:
1.
2.
3.

Ancient Egyptian writing is known as hieroglyphs. Instead of letters, pictures represent sounds, objects and ideas. A bit like modern emojis!

Can you write a message about yourself using only pictures? Think about what you’d like to tell the world about yourself.
Egypt and Manchester

How do you think these Egyptian items got to Manchester? Who do you think brought them here and why did they do this?

What are some advantages of having Egyptian artefacts on display in Manchester?

1. 
2. 
3. 

Some people think that ancient Egyptian artefacts should not be in England at all. Why might they think this?

1. 
2. 
3. 

What do you think and why?

Manchester Museum recently ‘repatriated’, or ‘gave back’, some Aboriginal Australian artefacts. These were requested by Australia through the “Return of Cultural Heritage Project” marking the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook’s voyage to Australia.

Should some of the ancient Egyptian items on display here be repatriated? Which ones? Why?