

Tomb Raider: A “Mantle of the Expert” for ancient Egypt

- Prepare your area as well as you can to look like the inside of a tomb. Make it as dark as possible, rearrange furniture and change its look with heavy drapes and extra boxes.
- Print out the following table and cut it up. These are the treasures the children will seek as they explore inside the pyramid. Suggestion: print the table out three times, A3 size.
- The number cards are scattered / hidden around the area – don’t make it too hard to find them, but nor too easy! The numbered picture cards are kept by the teacher. The written explanation cards are left on a table for the children to have access to.
- Explain to the children that they are Egyptologists exploring a tomb. Put the children into groups of 3 or 4 to do so. They are to look through the tomb for artefacts (the number cards you have hidden).
- Questions to discuss with the children:
 - Why do they think people become Egyptologists?
 - How do they think Egyptologists feel on finding a new pyramid to explore?
 - What kinds of things do they think they will find?
 - How will they know what the things are? Do they think they will be able to work out what the artefacts were used for?

- Explain to the children what to do: they are to keep together as they search the pyramid – if they split up, they could get lost! As soon as a group finds a numbered card, all of them must immediately bring it to the teacher. They give the number card to the teacher, who exchanges it for a picture card with that number on it, so the children can see what they have found. They then go to look through the written cards laid out on an adjacent table and try to work out what it is they have found.
- Some of the cards the teacher will give them represent good or bad luck! In these cases, the children will be told what to do next.
- Plenary: give the children time to reflect on what they have found and to read and consider the questions on the cards they were given. Then a representative from each group stands up and shows the class the pictures they found, describes what the artefacts were and says what they think about the questions. The rest of his/her group, who have the written cards, can assist if the speaker can't remember.

Final discussion: what thinking and learning skills did we use?

1

1



Shabti figures were little statues, usually in the form of a mummy. The Egyptians believed that these would magically carry out any work they had to do in the 'afterlife' (when they had died).

How would you make a shabti?

2

2. Good luck! You've found an entirely new pyramid!
You will become famous for this! Carry on searching!

3

3



This wooden object was used as a type of Egyptian pillow. It doesn't look very comfortable because the padding is missing. Headrests were also used to support the heads of the dead to keep evil spirits from entering from the ground, into the body.

Would you like to sleep on this?

4



4

The mirror is made out of a metal called bronze which is a mixture of copper and tin. The mirror was made by beating a lump of bronze until it was as thin as a sheet of cardboard. Then it was polished to make it shiny enough to reflect the light back from your face.

How well do you think this mirror worked?

5



5

Amulets were often made to represent one of the many Egyptian gods. This amulet represents 'Horus' who was one of the most powerful gods. He had a man's body and a hawk's head. A lot of amulets have been found in Egyptian tombs as they were wrapped with the body to protect it from evil. What do you think it is made of?

6

6. Good luck! Your book on Egyptology has become a best-seller, and you're famous! You decide to carry on exploring with renewed enthusiasm.

7

7



The Egyptians loved to decorate their bodies with jewellery. This necklace is made from pottery beads called 'faience'. Poorer people wore jewellery made from clay or bone. Richer people had more elaborate jewellery made from bronze, silver or gold. Do you think it looks pretty? Why?

8

8. Bad luck! You get lost inside the pyramid! You'll need to wander around until you find your way out! (go to the corner and wait for one minute before continuing).

9

9. Bad luck! You've been bitten by a cobra. You are rushed to hospital, and will have to spend time recovering (go to the corner and wait for one minute before continuing).

10

10



Both men and women used special make-up to cover their skin, both to make them look pretty and to protect them from the hot sun. This pot may have stored 'Khol' - black makeup that they used to decorate their eyes.

Would you like to wear Egyptian make-up?

11

11



Egyptians like to amuse themselves by playing a board game called 'Senet'. This is a playing piece from the game. It's about 3cm high.

How do you think this game was played? Would you like to play it?

12

12. Bad luck! The tunnel has collapsed, and you broke a leg! Go to hospital and recover (go to the corner and wait for one minute before continuing).

13

13



The sistrum was a percussion instrument. It consists of a handle and a U-shaped metal frame, made of brass or bronze. When shaken the small rings or loops of thin metal clank and jingle. Its name in the ancient [Egyptian language](#) was sekhem (*sh̄m*) and sesheshet (*sššt*).

Would you like to play it? Why?

14

14



A flail was a farming tool; the Pharaoh carried one to show his power. It was also a symbol of the God Osiris.

What do you think people did with this tool?

15

15. Bad luck! Your expedition has run out of money, and cannot afford to continue. Go back to your employer, and do your best to persuade him or her to give you more money to finance your archaeology!