ARTEFACT 1



Canopic Jar

Canopic Jar. *Wikipedia*. Retrieved June 7, 2011, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:CanopicJarsOfNeskhons-BritishMuseum-August21-08.jpg

This is a canopic jar. This was used to store and preserve the body parts during mummification of their owners. Each organ was placed in a jar of its own. There were four in number: one each for the stomach, the liver, the intestines and the lungs. Initially the heads of the jars were human heads, but these were replaced by lookalike heads of the four sons of Horus, each god supposedly believed to guard over and protect the body parts.

The gods were: Duamutef, the jackal-headed god representing the east, whose jar contained the stomach and was protected by the goddess Neith; Qebehsenuef, the falcon-headed god representing the west, whose jar contained the intestines and was protected by the goddess Selket; Hapi, the baboon-headed god representing the north, whose jar contained the lungs and was protected by the goddess Nepthys; Imseti, the human-headed god representing the south, whose jar contained the liver and was protected by the goddess Isis.

These jars were placed in a canopic chest and were buried in the tomb. This was done so as it was believed that the dead person would need it in his afterlife. We can infer from this that the Ancient Egyptians had many religious beliefs. They did believe in afterlife and believed in gods, as they used the heads of their Gods to protect their body parts after their death, showing how much they trust in them.

ARTEFACT 2



Nefertiti Bust

*Wikipedia*. Retrieved June 7, 2011, from

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nofretete\_Neues\_Museum.jpg

The Nefertiti Bust is a 3300-year-old painted limestone bust of Nefertiti, the Great Royal Wife of the Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaten. Because of this bust, Nefertiti has become one of the most famous women from the ancient world as well as an icon of female beauty. ("Nefertiti Bust," Wikipedia ). It was discovered in 1912 by a German archaeological team led by [Ludwig Borchardt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig_Borchardt).  Little is known about Nefertiti. She bore Akhenaten six children, one of whom went on to marry Tutankhamun, Nefertiti’s stepson. Perhaps because of her death or because she took a new name, the reason unknown, Nefertiti vanishes from history since Akhenaten’s twelfth year his reign. She may have also become the pharaoh ruling alone for a short time after her husband’s death.

The bust is currently in Neues Museum in Germany. However, there have been some angry protests over the location of the bust, especially by Egypt, since the bust is rightfully theirs. Egypt has long been telling Germany that the bust should be repatriated. It was dragged into many controversies.

We can infer from this bust that female members of the royal family were respected and thought of to be great beauties by their people. This is proved by Nefertiti’s fame in both her country and the world.

ARTEFACT 3



Amulet of the Eye of Horus

Birmingham museums and art gallery. (2004).*Ancient egypt –*

*investigate real egyptian artefacts*. Retrieved from http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/kids/access/egypt/artefacts\_egypt.htm

An amulet is a lucky charm. It is often made to represent one of the many different gods that the Egyptians believed in. This amulet represents 'Horus', who was one of the most powerful gods. Horus was the ancient Egyptian sky god who was often depicted as a falcon. His right eye was associated with the sun Ra. The eye symbol represents the marking around a Peregrine Falcon's eye that includes the "teardrop" marking sometimes found below the eye. The mirror image, or left eye, sometimes represented the moon and the god Djehuti (Thoth). ("Eye of Horus," Wikipedia)The Eye of Horus represented protection, royal power and good luck.

Amulets are usually found in Egyptian tombs as they were wrapped up with the bodies in order to protect them from evil. Once again we can infer that the Egyptians were very religious and also good at crafting. They were able to use technology and fine skills to craft the amulets, showing that the Egyptians were advanced in art and also science and technology.

ARTEFACT 4



Egyptian Headrest

Headrest [Web log message]. Retrieved from <http://www.metmuseum.org/works_of_art/collection_database/egyptian_art/headrest/objectview_enlarge.aspx?page=3&sort=0&sortdir=asc&keyword=&fp=1&dd1=10&dd2=0&vw=1&collID=10&OID=100013691&vT=1&hi=0&ov=0>

This is an Egyptian headrest used in the everyday lives of the ancient Egyptians and also in tombs. This wooden object was used as a type of Egyptian pillow. The padding is missing. People in Egypt used them instead of pillows due to the warmth of the weather. However, it was also used to support the heads of the dead to keep evil spirits from entering the bodies of people from the ground. For example, the funerary burial goods of Queen Hetepheres, the mother of Khufu, features a bed and a headrest.

We can infer from this that the Egyptians were really smart as they used these headrests instead of pillows in order to be more comfortable and cooler. They were also quite religious as they used this to prevent evil spirits from entering the bodies of the dead from the ground. This shows that they were careful and superstitious as they did all they could to keep away evil spirits.

ARTEFACT 5



Egyptian Mirror

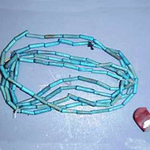
Birmingham museums and art gallery. (2004).*Ancient egypt –*

*investigate real egyptian artefacts*. Retrieved from http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/kids/access/egypt/artefacts\_egypt.htm

This mirror is made out of bronze, which is an alloy. It is a mixture of copper and tin, and from this we can infer that the Egyptians were advanced in technology and craftsmanship in order to make bronze. 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 light. Again, this proves that the Egyptians were highly skilled in craftsmanship. This mirror also has a handle made out of bone or ivory. This shows that the Egyptians were smart and knew how to improve on tools to make them more convenient to use.

The Egyptians probably used mirrors during makeup, just like modern people. This shows that the Egyptians paid great attention to making themselves look beautiful.

ARTEFACT 6

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Egyptian Necklace

Birmingham museums and art gallery. (2004).*Ancient egypt –*

*investigate real egyptian artefacts*. Retrieved from http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/kids/access/egypt/artefacts\_egypt.htm

The Egyptians, especially the female population, really believed in art and beauty. This is why they used necklaces. 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.

From this we can infer that the Egyptian civilisation had different social classes – the poor and the rich. The rich often had better things than the poor just because they were born to a more successful family. This social class is present not only in ancient Egypt but also in other civilisations such as the Indus Valley and the Shang Dynasty.

ARTEFACT 7



Senet Playing Piece

Birmingham museums and art gallery. (2004).*Ancient egypt –*

*investigate real egyptian artefacts*. Retrieved from http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/kids/access/egypt/artefacts\_egypt.htm

This a playing piece from the Egyptian board game Senet. The egyptians liked to amuse themselves by playing Senet. This playing piece is about 3cm long. Senet is probably the oldest board game in the world. The full name of the game in Egyptian meant “game of passing”. Paintings depicting the game have been found in First Dynasty burials, which shows how old this game is. Because of the element of luck in the game and the Egyptian belief in determinism, it was believed that a successful player was under the protection of the major gods of the national pantheon: Ra, Thoth, and sometimes Osiris. ("Senet," Wikipedia)

We can infer that the Egyptians engaged in leisure during their free time. They were also creative in inventing this game, believed to be the first ever in the history of board games. At the same time, they have yet again been able to pull religion into even a leisure activity, proving how religious they are.

ARTEFACT 8

Egyptian Make-up plot

Birmingham museums and art gallery. (2004).*Ancient egypt –*

*investigate real egyptian artefacts*. Retrieved from http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/kids/access/egypt/artefacts\_egypt.htm

As we have mentioned before, the Egyptians really believed in the arts and beauty. Both men and women used special powders and pastes to cover their skin. The make-up was not only worn to make them look attractive but also to protect themselves from the hot climate. This pot may have stored 'Khol' - black makeup that the Egyptians used to decorate their eyes. Like the necklaces, this was yet another way of decorating bodies, which still exists up to this date, as people still use cosmetics

This shows that some practices in the ancient world still exist today, such as leisure activities and cosmetics. We can infer that the Egyptians really enjoyed decorating their bodies and felt that it was necessary.

ARTEFACT 9



Shabti

Birmingham museums and art gallery. (2004).*Ancient egypt –*

*investigate real egyptian artefacts*. Retrieved from http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/kids/access/egypt/artefacts\_egypt.htm

A Shabti figure is a statuette, usually in the form of a mummy. The Egyptians believed that Shabti figures would magically carry out any work they had to do in the 'afterlife'. Often 365 shabti figures were placed in a tomb, one for each day of the year. Some think that they might have replaced human sacrifices. They were used for almost 2000 years which shows how much the Egyptians believed in them. There were also many inscriptions on the Shabtis.

We can yet again infer that the Egyptians were religious as they believed in afterlife and how burying these Shabtis would help the dead person in his afterlife