



Discovering  
Ancient Sudan  
with  
the Petrie Museum!

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\*If ever get confused, remember to look up any words you don't understand in the word bank!

Cutout pages : Stickers for you

Symbols you will see

 = Activity

 = Check the word bank

 = Colour me in!

Hello! Nice to meet you!

My name is Ashri and I'm from Meroë, in Ancient Sudan. I lived there over 2500 years ago and can't wait to tell you all about my culture!



How nice to meet you today at UCL!

The Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology has over 80,000 objects of everyday life that can help us learn more about the past.

These objects (also known as artefacts) can tell us about ancient religions and beliefs, or even about what my home looked like!

Although the objects can't speak, we can still look for answers in pictures and symbols.

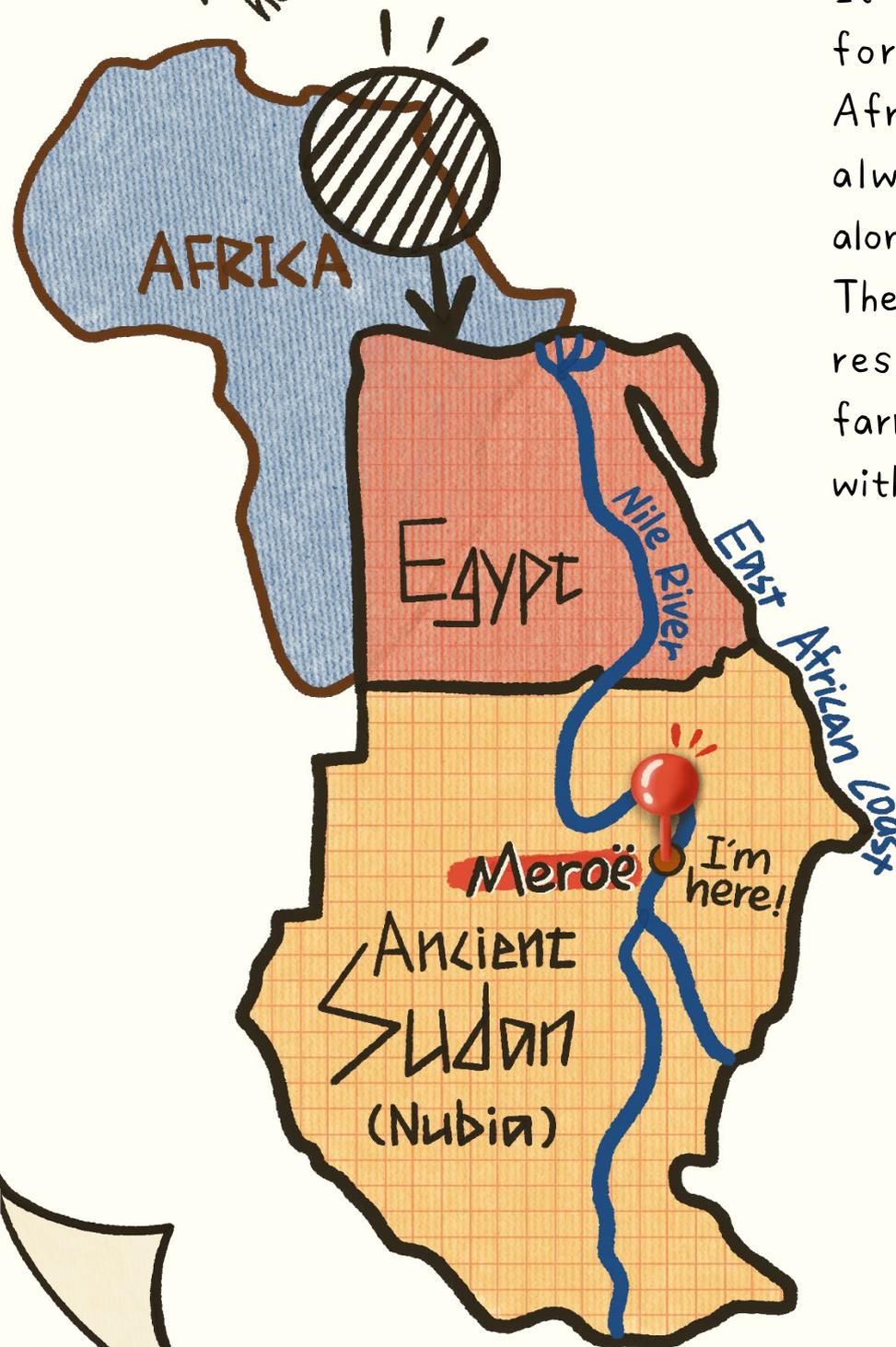
Let's go back in time with my friends from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology!



First, let me tell you a little bit about where I'm from.

I was born in Nubia, in the Kingdom of Kush, but you might know it today as Sudan! I lived in Meroë, which was the capital city next to the Nile River and was where the Kings and Queens were buried from 590 BC to 400 AD.

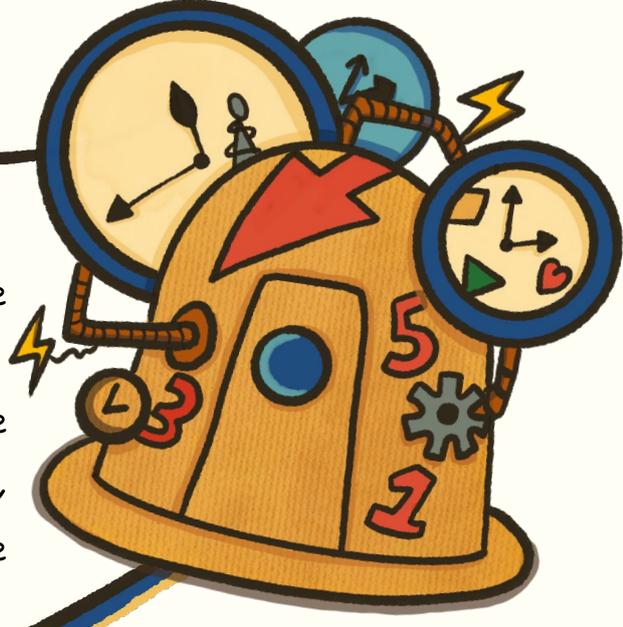
The UK  
You're  
here!



It was an important centre for trade near the East African coast. There were always things happening along the river!

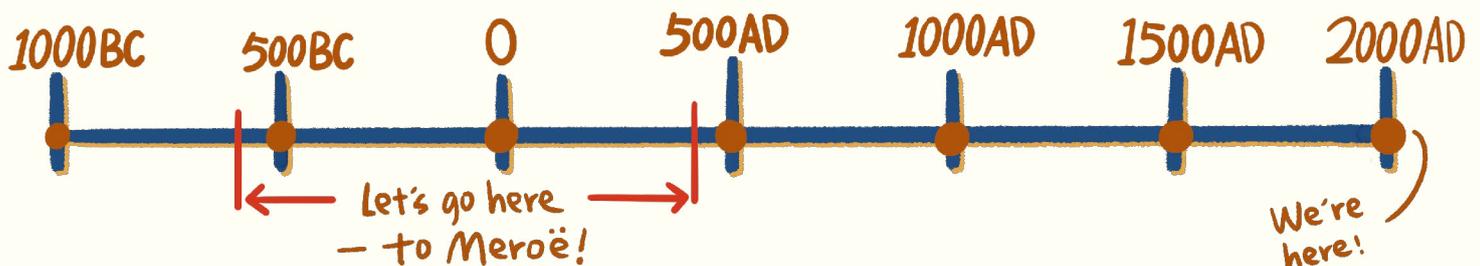
The area had a lot of natural resources, so many people farmed the land and worked with pottery or iron.





Before we go back in time, let's figure out where we want to go!

Ancient timelines can be confusing: we start counting the years from zero, but for anything that happens before that, we start counting backwards.



For example,

Meroë was the capital for almost 1000 years, from 590 BC to 400 AD.

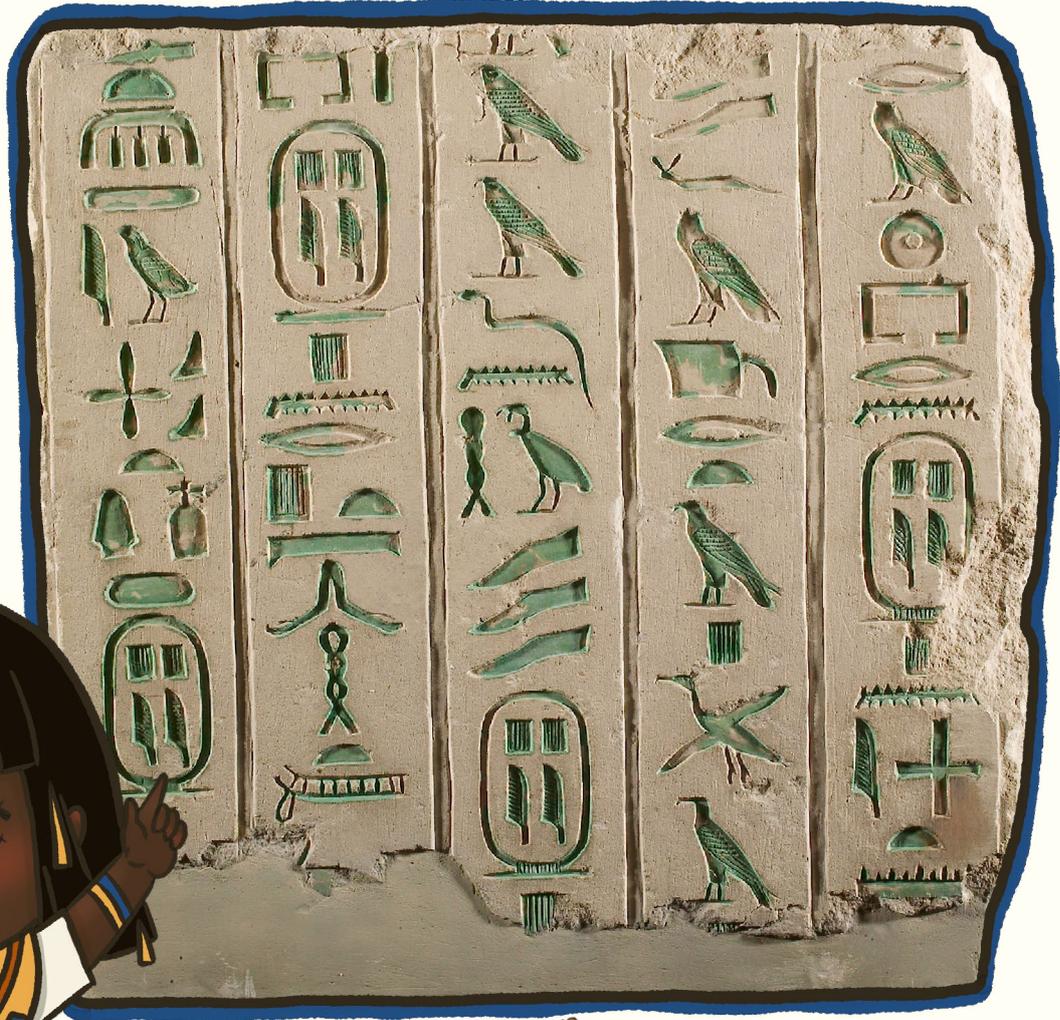
There are 590 years until the zero year plus 400 years after, totalling 990 years.

You can use the timeline to count the years!

## One last thing before we go to Meroë:

In those times, we didn't write with words!

Instead, we used **HIEROGLYPHS**. These are like small pictures that can be symbols for sounds or objects. Sometimes, the symbol used in the hieroglyph is connected to the word it describes, but sometimes the connection isn't clear.



Object number : UC14540



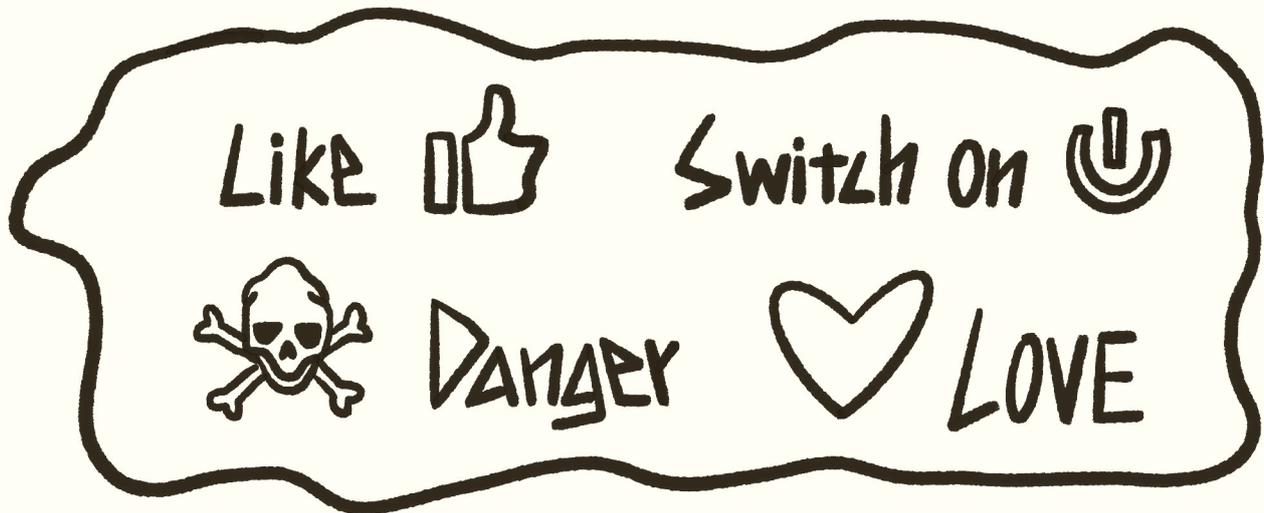
Ancient Egyptian and Sudanese people used drawings to write, using symbols called hieroglyphs for objects or sounds.

Hieroglyphs also give meaning to something that is invisible, like feelings (happy, sad) or ideas.

# Hieroglyphs in Today's World

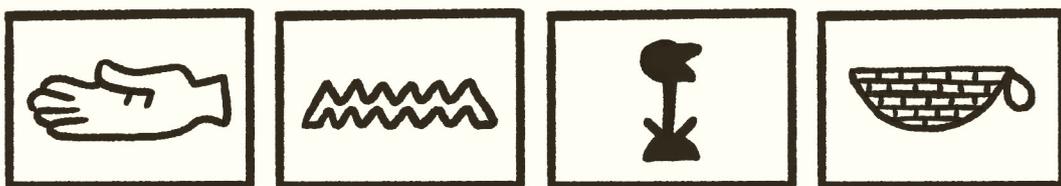
Although the ancient times are far away, we still use symbols to communicate!

Think about some symbols you see in everyday life:



## Match hieroglyphs

Can you match the hieroglyph to the word?



Water    Hand    Basket    1000

Now that you know the basics,  
let's start exploring Ancient Sudan!

# The Ankh of King Aspelta

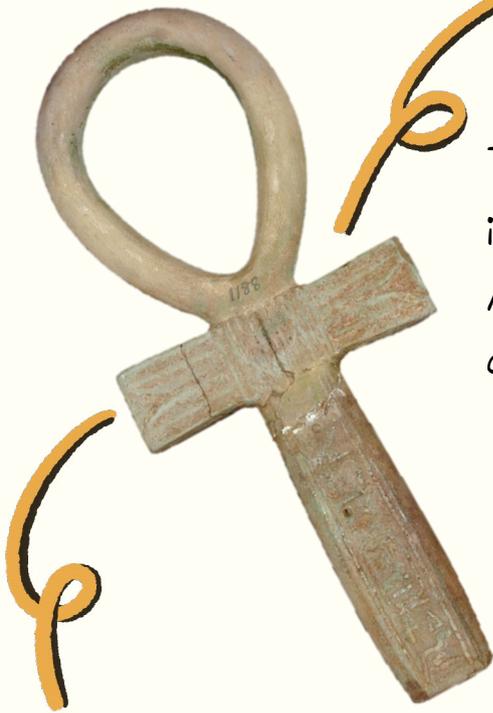
The ankh is the Ancient Sudanese and Egyptian symbol for life.

In wall carvings, Ancient Sudanese and Egyptian gods were often shown holding an ankh, to show their powers to give life, so it was an important religious symbol.

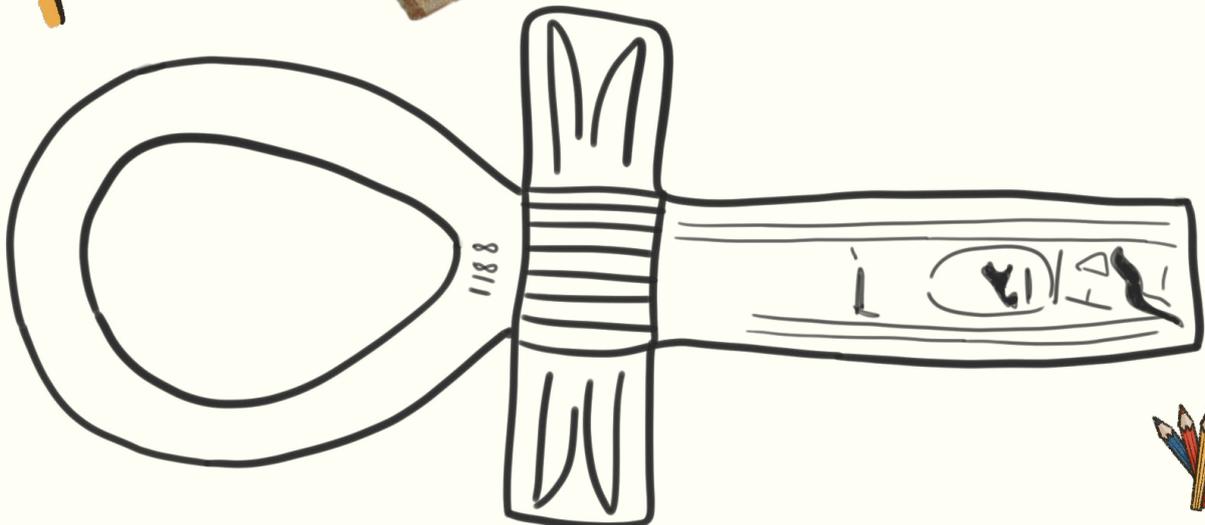


Object number :UC14780

This ankh is a an artefact found in Meroë and has the name of King Aspelta on it. It is about the size of a hand and is made out of faience.



Object number: UC43949





How do you think the Ancient Sudanese used this ankh?

What makes you think that?

(Here's a hint: Can you think of other religious objects from today? How are they used? How can this help us understand the ankh?)

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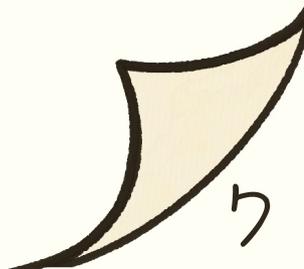
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## Design Your Own Ankh

Time to get creative!

It's now your turn to create your own symbol for life. Use this page to draw your idea. (Think about the colour and shape.)



# Shabtis and the Afterlife

In Ancient Egyptian and Sudanese religion, after you died, you began a new eternal life — the afterlife. In order to prepare, they buried their people with important objects to help them live a good afterlife.

Shabtis were small statues placed in tombs that people believed would come to life and help them carry out tasks in the afterlife. There was a lot to do, so some tombs had a shabti for every day of the year!

The shabti spell is engraved on their bodies. When spoken out loud, the shabtis would magically come to life ...



Object number (from left to right):  
UC28055, UC28061, UC28060

## An Interview with a Shabti

Say Hello to the Shabti of Horwedja!

Horwedja was a priest who lived in Egypt between 380-343BC.

This shabti is made of faience and has the shabti spell written on its body.

Look closely at the pictures on the opposite page to see what other details about Horwedja's shabti you can find!

Scan the QR Code or click [HERE](#) to find the 3D model of the Shabti of Horwedja





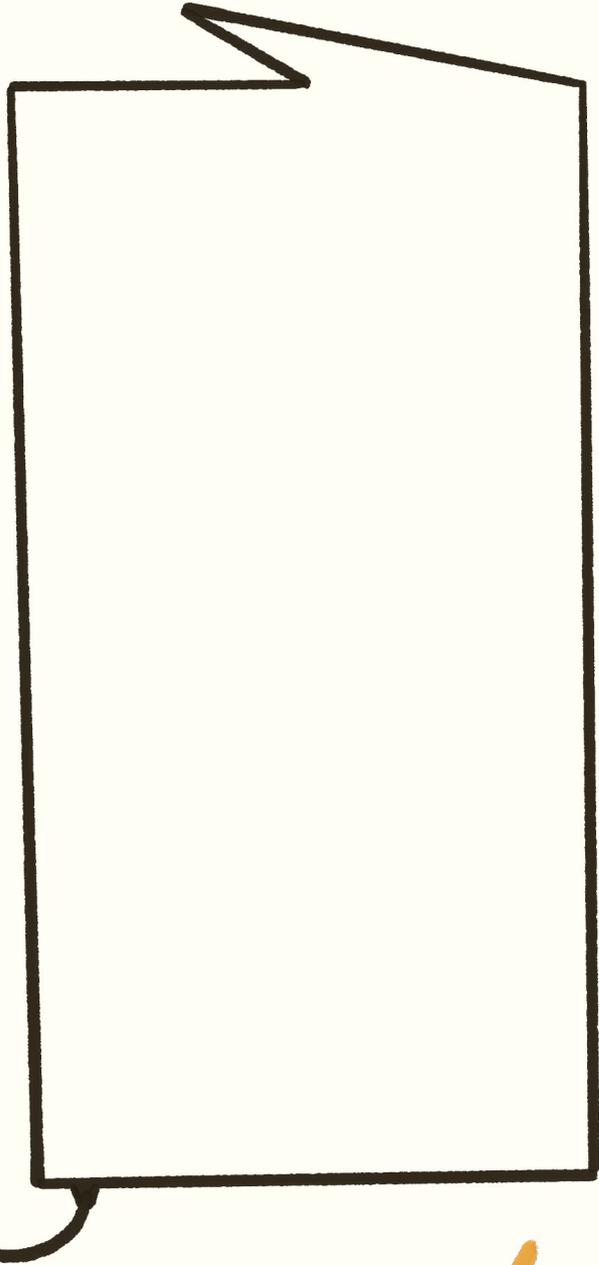
Now, imagine you have the chance to ask questions to Horwedja to learn more about his afterlife. You can use some details you have found from the pictures to help you.

Write your questions in the space provided below.

(Think about the 5 Ws — Who? What? Where? When? Why? and sometimes How?)



UC28060



When we go visit the Petrie Museum, we can ask these questions to my friend Anna the Curator! 🖐️

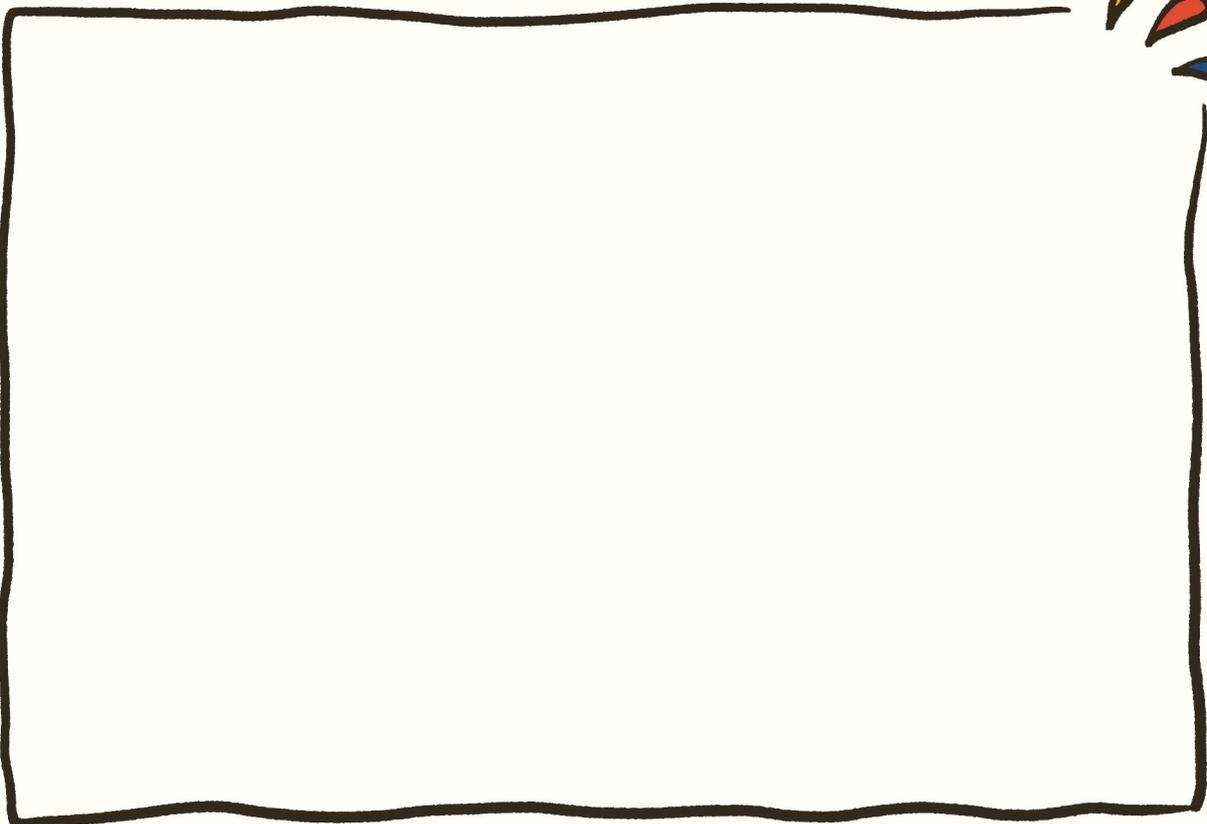
# Shabti of Queen Madiken

This is one of the shabtis of Queen Madiken, who lived around 623-593 BC. This has a bit of a green/blue colour, because it was glazed with copper!

Shabtis always carry their tools with them to help them do their jobs in the afterlife.

 Look closely at the images on the opposite page, at the front and back of the shabti. Can you find the Shabti's tools? Draw a circle around the tools.

 From the tools you have found, can you try to identify what kind of work this shabti would do for her Queen in the afterlife? Write or draw your answer in the box below.



(There are 3 things to find: two on the front and one on the back!)

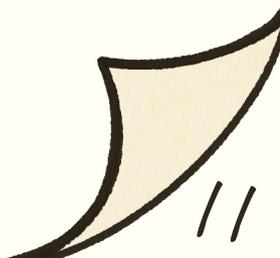


Physical Height: 17 cm

Object number: UC/3219



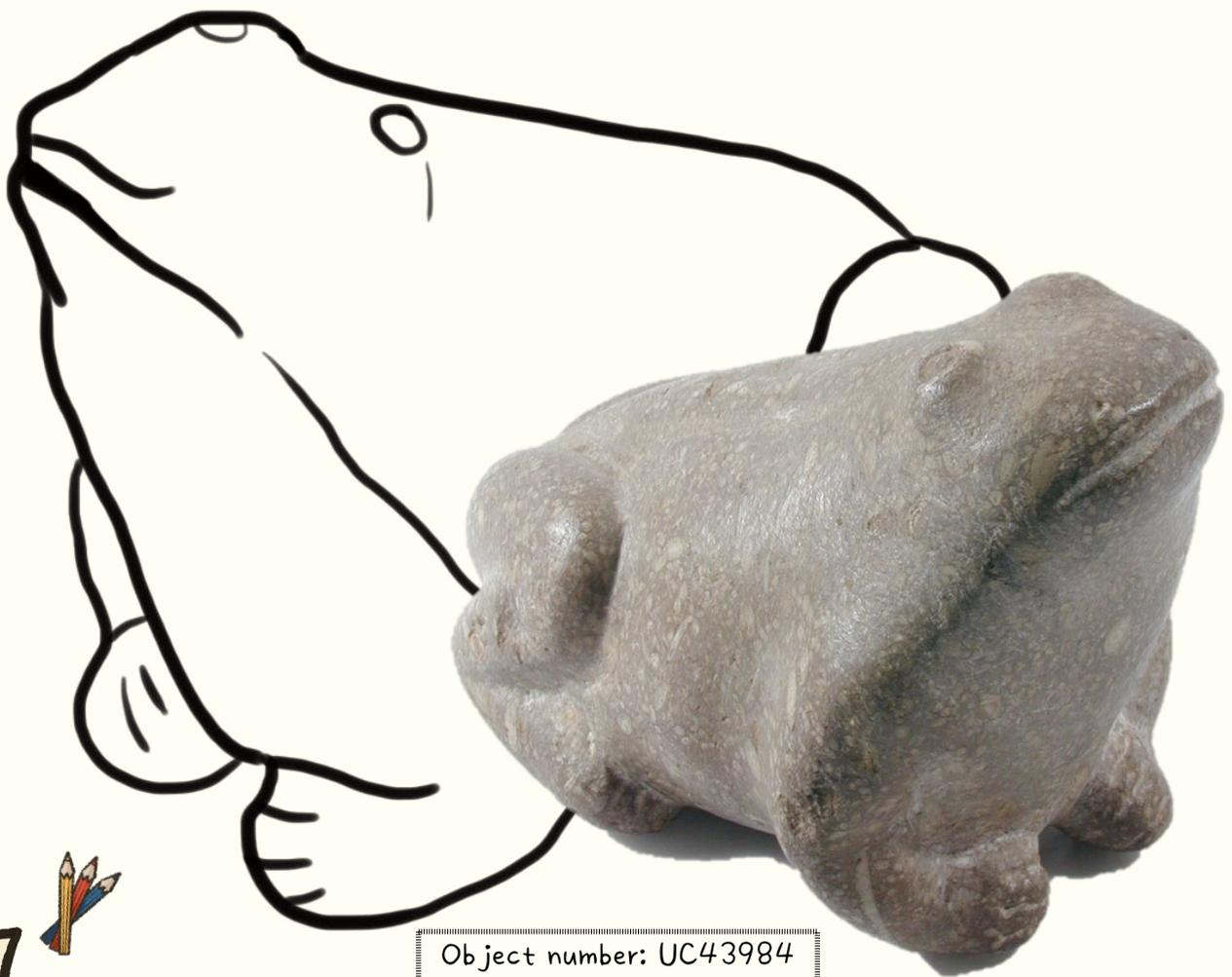
Scan the QR Code or click [HERE](#) to find the 3D model of the Shabti of Queen Madiken



# The Life Cycle of the Frog on the River Nile

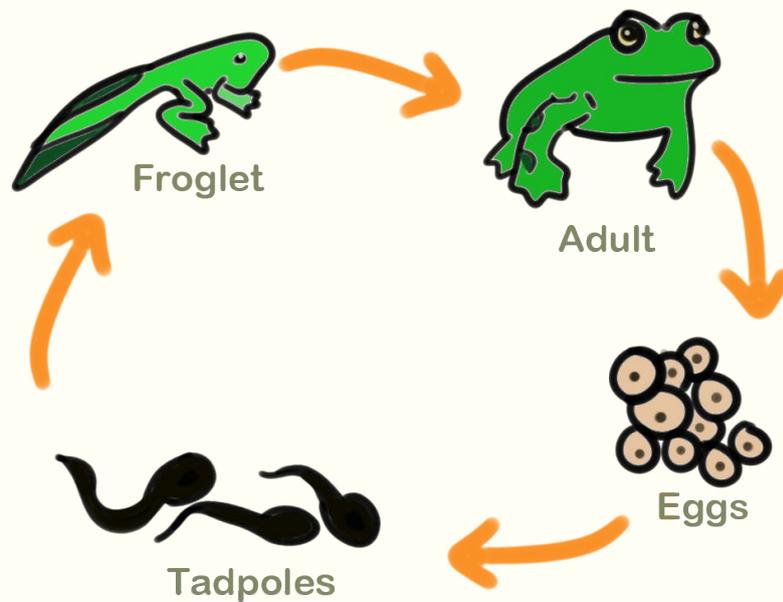
In Ancient Sudanese culture, the frog was a symbol of female creation energy, or fertility.

The Sudanese people believed that frogs were self-created creatures from the mud. This idea was because of the huge number of tadpoles that appeared in the mud each year, after the flooding of the River Nile.



Object number: UC43984

Frogs lay their eggs in water and after some time they become tadpoles. Then, they grow legs and become adult frogs. When they lay eggs, the Life Cycle begins again.



Compare the Ancient Sudanese myth and the Life Cycle.



Which stages do they have in common?

Which stages did the Ancient Sudanese miss out?

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# Archaeology at Home

Archaeologists use pottery to learn more about how people lived in the past. Pottery can tell us how people were eating their food, what tools they used and even what they were eating.

In the Petrie Museum there are whole cupboards full of plates, bowls, jugs and more, but when the museum is closed, we can be archaeologists at home!





See you soon at UCL!

You made it to the end of the activities: well done! This book has plenty of empty pages, so keep it safe with you. You can fill it with your research and bring it to UCL when you come to visit!

It was so much fun to travel back to Ancient Sudan together! We discovered different objects like shabtis and frogs, and became archaeologists at home.

What was your favourite part?

.....

.....

.....

.....

I can't wait for you to discover more at the Petrie Museum where my friends at UCL will show you these objects in real life!



# Word Bank

**Afterlife** (p8): many different world cultures believe in life after death. Studying texts and burial traditions can help us learn about how different people thought about the afterlife.

**Ankh** (p6) (sounds like ank, rhymes with bank): the Ancient Egyptian hieroglyph for 'life'.

**Archaeology** (p1)(Sounds like: ar-key-ology): the study of objects and tombs to learn more about people's life and activities. Often, it's to learn about ancient people, but even objects from today can tell us a lot!

**Archaeologist**: a person who studies Archaeology.

**Artefacts** (p1): a fancy word for an object studied by archaeologists.

**Curator** (p9)(Sounds like Q-ray-ter): a person who works in a museum and studies the history of objects or art. They research the objects and create exhibitions, or shows.

**Faience** (p6)(sounds like: fai-unce): a type of clay glazed with copper, which gives it a blue and green colour.

**Hieroglyph** (p4) (sounds like hi-ro-gliff): a system of writing that uses pictures to communicate. The pictures can be a symbol for an object or a sound. The word “hieroglyph” can be translated as “sacred carving.”

**Limestone**: a common type of rock, often found in riverbeds. There are many different types and it can be used for many different things, like cement, chalk or sculptures.

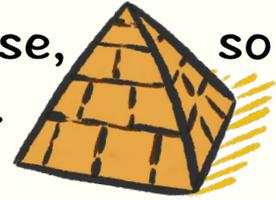
**Meroë** (p2)(sounds like: mer-oh-way): an ancient city that was the capital for the Kingdom of Kush for almost 1000 years, from 590 BC until around 400 AD. It was in a key position for trading and had good natural resources for creating pottery and ironworking.

**Nubia** (p2): the region along the Nile River which we know today as Sudan.

**Object Number** (p4): every object in a museum has an object number. It is a way for curators and researchers to know where each object is. When you have over 80,000 objects, it makes life a lot easier!



**Pyramid:** a monument built with stone or brick where Ancient Sudanese and Egyptian people buried their dead Kings and Queens. Sudanese and Egyptian pyramids are a similar height, with a square base and triangular sides sloping up to a point. However, Sudanese pyramids have a smaller base, so the sides are much steeper and narrower.



**Shabti** (p8) (Sounds like Shab-tee): a small statue that was placed in Ancient Sudanese and Egyptian tombs, usually made from faience. Their owners believed they would come to life to work for their owner in the afterlife, often doing things like farming.

**Symbol:** a picture that can be used instead of a word or idea.

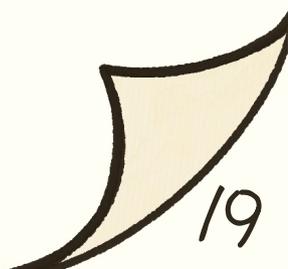
**Tomb** (p8) (sounds like toom): a building or room, sometimes underground, where people are buried.

Are there any other words you learned in this booklet? Use the space below to add your own research!

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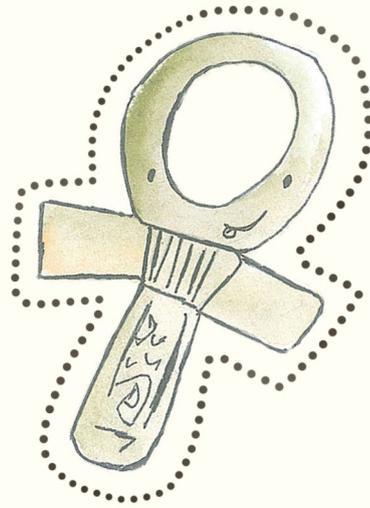
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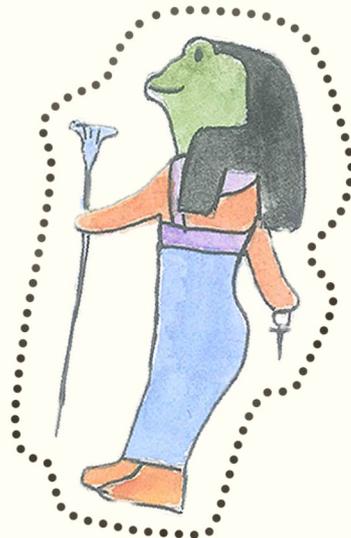
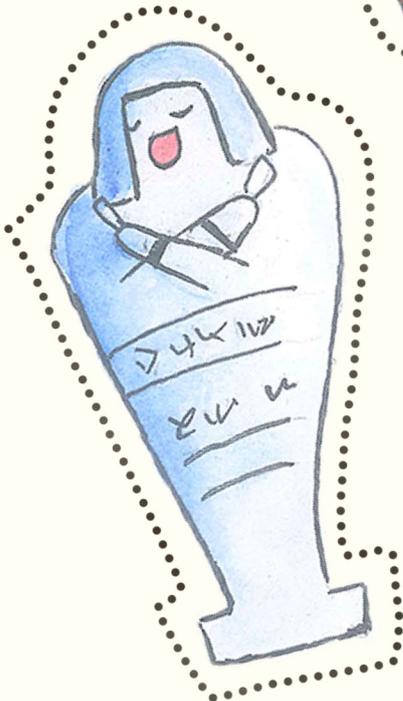
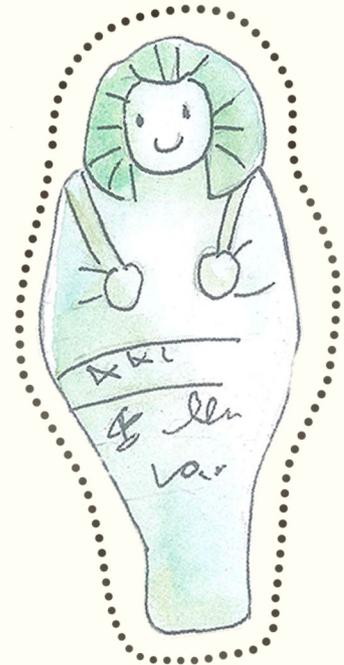
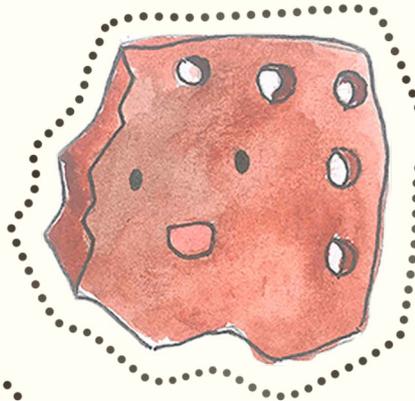


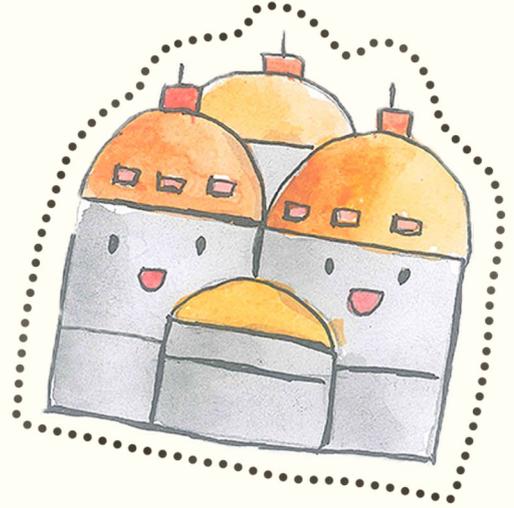
# Stickers

Tear out this page and cut out the cartoons to decorate your book!

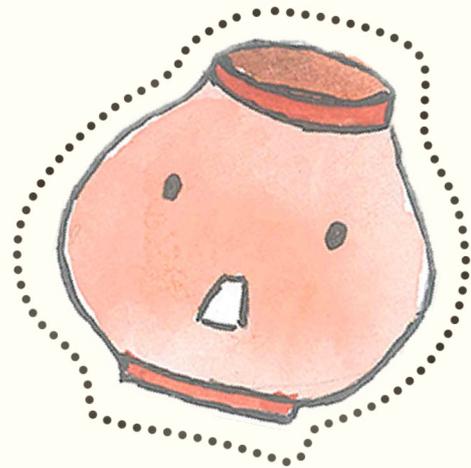
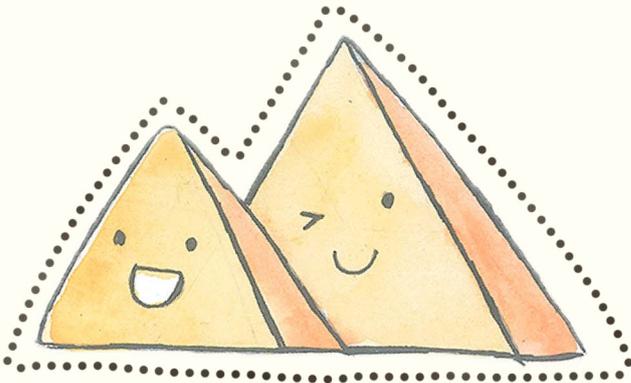


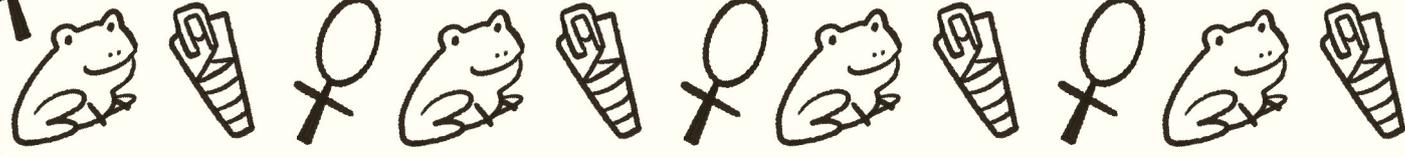
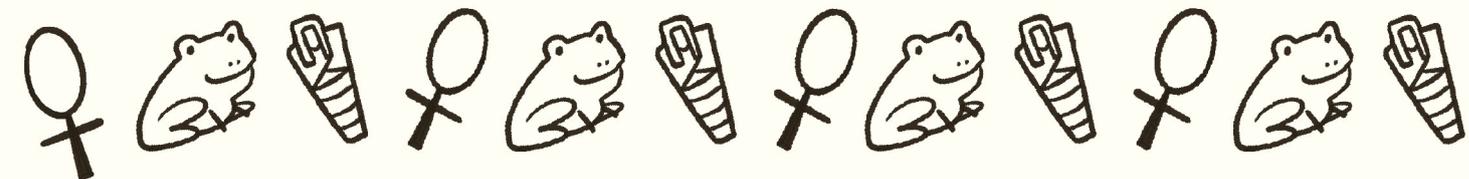
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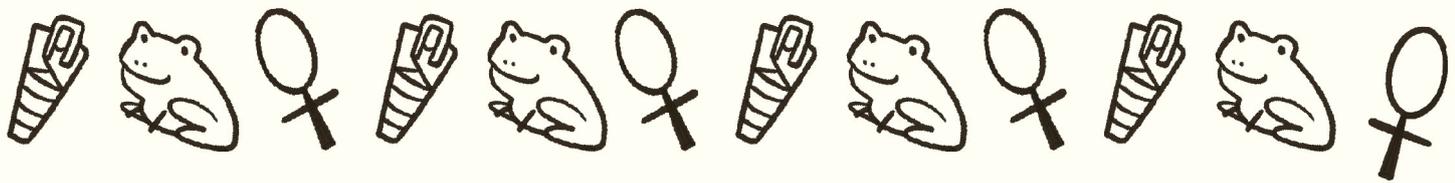




“of”







## Written and designed by...



Celine Romano - MA Museums and Galleries in Education



Ditte Rasmussen - MA Museums and Galleries in Education



Xinxin Wang - MA Museums and Galleries in Education



Yibing Zhao - MA Museums and Galleries in Education



Yifei He - MA Education



Emma Bryant - UCL Culture

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February 2021



Scan the QR Code or click [HERE](#) to watch an introduction to the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology by curator Anna Garnett :)

