

Virtual Visit: Outline

Nesmin and his coffin, 170–30 BCE

Suggested
grades: 3-6

Outline for
educator paired
with virtual
visit video

Content Areas

Social Studies, Visual Art, English/Language Arts

Essential Question

What can we learn about life in ancient Egypt by examining protective symbols on the coffin of a priest named Nesmin?

Overview

A museum educator welcomes students to the ancient Egyptian galleries and shares a 3-minute video about the mummy and coffin of a priest named Nesmin. After watching the video, students will learn about specific symbols on Nesmin's coffin. Then, taking inspiration from nature, students will create original protective symbols to wear as jewelry or place somewhere special in their home.

Objectives

- Students will learn about ancient Egyptian beliefs in gods and the afterlife by watching the video What are we looking at? In the company of the gods: Images on a Ptolemaic priest's coffin.
- Students will observe and learn about the meanings of several ancient Egyptian symbols on Nesmin's coffin.
- Students will create original protective symbols and make connections between their lives and the lives of ancient Egyptians.

Materials

Blank paper and pencil.

Optional: colored paper, scissors, tape, glue, yarn, markers, crayons, or colored pencils.

Key Terms

- Sarcophagus
- Hieroglyphics
- Afterlife
- Symbol
- Ra
- Apis bull
- Anubis
- Sundisk
- Vultures
- Scarab beetle
- Wedjat eye
- Ram of Mendes
- Nut

Discussion/Support

Teachers can support students by checking for comprehension and prompting students to reflect and respond to questions asked during the virtual visit.

They can assist students to complete the assignment and help students share their work with each other, as well as online (#RISDMuseum #museumfromhome #TeachingwithArt) or with the RISD Museum at teachers@risd.edu.

Evaluation of Student Work

Students will become familiar with the idea of a symbol by examining Egyptians symbols. Students will create an original personally-meaningful protective symbol to be worn as jewelry or placed somewhere special.

Discussion Questions and Prompts

Find the god Ra and a symbol for the sun on Nesmin's coffin.

Can you think of 2 ways the sun affected your life today?

Why is the sun important to human civilizations?

Draw a symbol of an animal or element of nature that inspires you. Wear or keep this symbol in a special place to help you find courage and creativity in challenging situations.

Works in this Lesson

Egyptian, [*Coffin of Nesmin*](#), 170-30 BCE

More Activities and Resources

Teaching Notes: [Think Like an Archaeologist pg. 12](#)

Video: [What are we looking at? In the company of the gods: Images on a Ptolemaic priest's coffin.](#)

Video: [How did Nesmin get here? A long and complicated journey: Nesmin's path from Egypt to the RISD Museum.](#)

Video: [Is a mummy a work of art? Nesmin's presence in an art museum raises many difficult questions.](#)