

# DIGIT! TREASURE

# EGYPTIAN ARTIFACTS

Wow!  
Solve the  
hieroglyph puzzle!

© 2023 Franckh-Kosmos Verlags-GmbH & Co. KG Stuttgart

This work, including all parts, is copyright protected. Any use outside of the specific limits of the copyright law without consent of the publisher is prohibited and punishable by law. This applies specifically to reproductions, translations, microfilming, and storage and processing in electronic systems and networks. We do not guarantee that all material in this work is free from copyright or other protection.

Project management: Elena Gross; Text: Ruth Schildhauer, Dr. Rainer Köthe, Elena Gross; Technical product development: Björn Stolpmann; Packaging design: Peter Schmidt Group, Hamburg; Manual design: Atelier Bea Klenk; Layout of packaging and manual: Design & Feinschliff Studio, Stuttgart  
Excavation and hieroglyph illustrations: Tanja Donner  
Photos: Matthias Kaiser, Stuttgart (cover picture, overview of parts), Jaimie Duplass & beror (all adhesive strips © fotolia), Alineofcolor (sand cover), PrasongTakhom (sand cover), Vandathai (sand cloud cover, brown powder), Isaac Zakar (hieroglyph vectors, cover), WML Image (hieroglyph wall), Mariyana M (sand), persanitifoto (palm frond), Olga Chernyak (Sobek), George Stoyanov (colorful hieroglyphs), Fer Gregory (canopic jars), Klyaksun (mummy), Zbigniew Guzowski (temple), Photo Design (amethyst), Mali lucky (aventurine), Franzisca Guedet (sarcophagus), 360b (Cleopatra bust), Cranach (papyrus), Tamer Adel Soliman (coins), AFZAL KHAN MAHEEN (desert), Anton Ivanov (Nile), Evrenkalinbacak (cartouche) (all previous ©shutterstock.com)

1st English Edition © 2024 Thames & Kosmos, LLC, Providence, RI, USA  
Thames & Kosmos® is a registered trademark of Thames & Kosmos, LLC.

English text editing: Ava Tessitore, Hannah Mintz; Additional Graphics and packaging: Dan Freitas

Distributed in North America by Thames & Kosmos, LLC, Providence, RI 02903; Phone: 800-587-2872; Web: [www.thamesandkosmos.com](http://www.thamesandkosmos.com)

Distributed in United Kingdom by Thames & Kosmos UK LP, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3HE; Phone: 01580 713000; Web: [www.thamesandkosmos.co.uk](http://www.thamesandkosmos.co.uk)

We reserve the right to make technical changes. Printed in Thailand/Imprimé en Thaïlande

## Contents



### 1 Excavation block with treasures

hidden inside:

- A Sarcophagus
  - B Four canopic jars
  - C Amethyst
  - D Aventurine
- 2 Hammer
  - 3 Chisel
  - 4 Sponge

Special thanks to the Staatliche Museum Ägyptischer Kunst (SMAEK) in Munich for their support.

### Do you have any questions?

Our technical support team will be glad to help you!

USA: [support@thamesandkosmos.com](mailto:support@thamesandkosmos.com)

or 1-800-587-2872

UK: [support@thamesandkosmos.co.uk](mailto:support@thamesandkosmos.co.uk)  
or 01580 713000

# Dear Parents and Supervising adults,

Please provide your child with assistance and support when digging out the treasures. Before starting the experiments, read through the manual together and be sure to follow it. That way, nothing will stand in the way of a successful dig. Please be careful not to let any parts of the kit get into the hands of small children, especially the plaster pieces that are left over after excavating the items. These can be disposed of in the household trash.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

**WARNING.** Not suitable for children under 7 years. For use under adult supervision. Read the instructions before use, follow them, and keep them for reference.

This kit contains functional sharp edges or points. Do not injure yourself!

**WARNING.** Not suitable for children under 3 years. Choking hazard — small parts may be swallowed or inhaled.

Follow the instruction manual when performing the excavation. Keep small children and animals away from the experiment area. Do not eat or drink at the experiment area. Process the plaster block slowly and moisten it to prevent the formation of chips and dust. Do not place the plaster material in mouth or eyes. Clean all equipment and the work area after use. Wash your hands after the experiment.

Keep the packaging and instructions as they contain important information.

## THE HIEROGLYPHIC PUZZLE

1. There's something written on the wall! Of course it's in hieroglyphics, the writing system of Ancient Egypt. Can you translate what it says?

Find the hieroglyphics on your plaster block and examine them closely. Compare the characters to the alphabet on the next page. What shapes do you see?



**KEYWORD**



## READING HIEROGLYPHICS

Hieroglyphics can be read from left to right, right to left, or top to bottom (as in this example). The animals depicted indicate the direction. For example, if they're looking to the left, you read left to right.

2. As you can see from the alphabet key below, each character is represented by a letter. Sometimes the same letter can be symbolized by different characters.

**Translate** the hieroglyphs and enter the letters in the empty frame.

Ready? If you translated correctly, you'll be able to read the name of the **pharaoh** whose tomb you will later dig up.

You can find the solution to the puzzle on the last page of the manual.



A		M	
A		N	
B		O	
CH		P	
CH		Q	
D		R	
F		S	
G		S	
H		SH	
I		T	
K		W	
L		SON	



**KEYWORD**



## CARTOUCHE

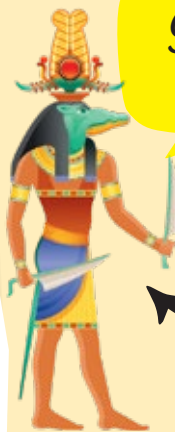
This oval frame is called a **cartouche**.  
Cartouches often contain the names of rulers of ancient Egypt — the pharaohs.



CHECK IT OUT



The **Nile** is a large river that flows through the middle of Egypt and eventually empties into the Mediterranean Sea. It is the most important **source of water** for Egypt, where it rarely rains. It's no wonder that the ancient Egyptians settled on its banks. The water transported nutrient-rich mud for rich agricultural harvests and served as an important transportation route.



*Grrr!*  
This river is mine!

## The Crocodile God

THE FIGURE WITH THE HEAD OF A CROCODILE IS THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GOD **SOBEK**, THE GOD

OF WATER, RIVER BANKS, AND SWAMPS. THE SCENE ON YOUR PLASTER BLOCK SHOWS AN EGYPTIAN PHARAOH MAKING AN OFFERING TO SOBEK AND **HATHOR**, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GODDESSES IN THE EGYPTIAN PANTHEON.



## Writing in Pictures

Hieroglyphs are among the oldest writing systems in the world. The Egyptians used small pictures to represent objects, letters, sounds, or even directions of movement. The writing system grew over time until it contained around 1000 characters!

Over time, it was replaced with simpler writing systems until people stopped using it completely around the 5th century CE. With such a complicated script, it's understandable that it took centuries for hieroglyphs to be deciphered again.



## EXCAVATING

1. Start by looking for a suitable room where it won't matter if a few bits of plaster fall here and there, and that won't be harmed by a little dust and water.

Make sure you have sufficient space available on a level, sturdy table, which you should cover with a few layers of newspaper to protect the surface. Get the excavation block and tools ready, along with a small bowl of water. You will also need a small ruler.

2. When excavating, proceed like an archaeologist. An archaeologist is a scientist who studies artifacts (objects) made by humans who lived long ago. Divide your excavation site into **squares** by placing the dry sponge on the plaster block. Use the chisel and ruler to carve a **grid pattern** into the surface. The individual squares should be about the size of the sponge.

3. Start your excavation in any square that you like. First soak the sponge with water in the bowl. Then place the sponge on a square and carefully squeeze out the water.

4. The water will turn the plaster in the square quite soft, so you can easily scrape off the surface with the chisel. When you come to harder spots, keep digging carefully with the hammer and chisel.

As soon as you hit sand, the object is very close. **Carefully** clear the area around it to make it easier to dig it out in the next step.

5. Use the narrow side of your hammer to expose your find. You may need to moisten the plaster layers again with the sponge. The wetter the plaster, the easier it is to dig.



1



2



3



4



5



6. Now, continue step by step in the other squares just as you did in the first, until you gradually uncover all of the treasures.

7. Once you have recovered all of the **artifacts**, you will still have to clean off any plaster remains that may be stuck to them. Rinse them one by one under running water, rubbing their surfaces with the sponge. It is best to put the stopper in the drain so you don't lose anything. Finally, dry your discoveries with a paper towel.



6



7



After excavating and cleaning your treasures, you should thoroughly wash your hands and clean the workplace. Dispose of the newspaper along with any bits of plaster in the household trash.



CHECK IT OUT

Hello!

I'm a  
canopic jar!

## Canopic jars — vessels for organs

Before the pharaohs were buried, various entrails were removed from their bodies and placed in the canopic jars in the burial chamber. The canopic jars each have different heads, representing the four sons of the god Horus.

The jar with the **human head** represents the god Imsety and contains the liver. The **monkey** is a baboon representing the god Hapy. It contains the pharaoh's lungs. The **bird** is a falcon representing the god Qebehsenuf. It contains the stomach. The **dog** is a jackal. It represents the god Duamutef and contains the intestines.

## MUMMIFICATION – PREPARATION FOR THE AFTERLIFE

Mummification is a way of **preserving** bodies for burial. Ancient Egyptians removed internal organs and **embalmed** them separately from the rest of the body. Thanks to this method, there are ancient mummies that are still in good condition today. Ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife. In that afterlife, they would need a body and other possessions they were buried with. These included clothing, food, jewelry, and even mummified pets.

## SARCOPHAGUS – AN ELABORATE COFFIN

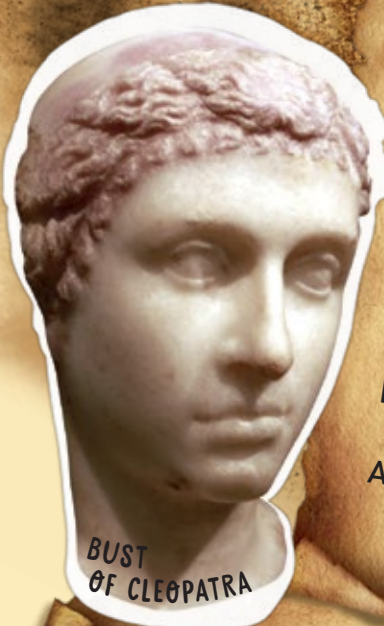
A sarcophagus is a large stone **casket**, in which pharaohs and other important people were buried. For a time, Ancient Egyptians buried pharaohs in **pyramids**. However, these were robbed so frequently that later sarcophagi and valuables were buried in well-hidden burial chambers. One of the famous burial places of several pharaohs is the **Valley of the Kings**, near the ancient capital city of Thebes.

## *Amethyst and Aventurine*

The two stones among your excavated treasures are an **amethyst** and a green **aventurine**. Amethysts were frequently used in Ancient Egyptian jewelry, especially in necklaces, amulets, earrings, and bracelets. Aventurine is a type of quartzite. Quartzite was used by ancient Egyptians for statues and buildings.

# Solution to the hieroglyphic puzzle

Did you decipher all the hieroglyphs? Who does this tomb belong to?



BUST OF CLEOPATRA



## The solution is: QLIOPADRAT son

Can you guess who that is? Not every hieroglyph has an exact match in our alphabet. That's why the spelling may look a bit strange to you. In our writing system, the name is spelled: **Cleopatra**.

But why does it say "son"? Cleopatra isn't a man. This is where the sign for "T" comes into play. Most feminine names in Ancient Egypt end in T. So the character for "son" after a feminine name means "daughter," indicating she is a woman.

Some hieroglyphs are not translated at all, but only indicate a meaning — like in this name, for example. Because the combination of the T symbol and son symbol was also part of the names of many female goddesses, it could also be intended to compare Cleopatra to a goddess — specifically Isis.



# The most powerful of all **WOMEN**!

**Cleopatra VII** ruled Egypt from 51 BCE to 30 BCE. Although she grew up in Egypt, nearly all of her ancestors were Greek. **Female pharaohs** were rare, but it was even more rare for women to rule or even hold high offices in other ancient cultures, such as Greece and Rome. Although she is best known now as a legendary beauty, many descriptions of her from her lifetime talk about her impressive charm and intelligence. By the way, **Cleopatra's grave** has never been found.