

Egypt: Beyond the Tomb

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Primary School Education Kit

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Introduction

Egypt: Beyond the Tomb explores ancient Egyptian beliefs and practices relating to death and the afterlife. This extraordinary exhibition follows Keku, a woman who lived 2700 years ago, as she makes the perilous journey through the underworld towards the eternal afterlife. Featuring in the exhibition are the mummy of Keku and her intricately decorated sarcophagus (coffin) – plus over 200 other ancient Egyptian burial treasures.

Keku's journey provides a context for exploring the following questions:

- Why did the ancient Egyptians prepare for death?
- How did they prepare for death?
- What happened to the body after death?

About this education kit

This education kit:

- identifies curriculum links for the exhibition
- guides you through the exhibition and suggests questions to help your students interpret the content
- provides background information about ancient Egypt
- outlines a range of activities to do at school
- provides useful resources including a timeline, glossary, and list of related websites.

Preparing to visit the exhibition

We recommend that you spend time preparing with your class so that you make the most of your visit.

Introduce the topic of the exhibition and elicit your students' prior knowledge about ancient Egypt. Prompt them with questions related to the exhibition. (Be aware that death may be a delicate subject for some students.)

- What does 'the afterlife' mean to you? What do you think happens when people die?
- What does your family or community do when someone dies? For example, do they hold a funeral, tangi, or other ceremony?
- What do you know about ancient Egypt?
- What are tombs? What were they used for?
- What is a mummy? Why do you think people were preserved as mummies? Where have mummies been found?

PLEASE NOTE

Egypt: Beyond the Tomb contains human remains in the form of Keku's mummy. Some Māori and people of other cultures have strong beliefs and feelings about the display of human remains. Please ensure that your students have parental consent to visit the exhibition. Note that the mummy is displayed in a separate room, allowing people to choose whether they wish to view her.