

## Classroom activities

This section gives ideas for research projects that your students can do. The activities link to the curriculum areas indicated in the table below. Only the strongest links are indicated – there may be others.

You could also use the discussion topics in the exhibition guide as research starters. The Australian Museum's website ([www.amonline.net.au/life](http://www.amonline.net.au/life)) will help students in their research.

## Curriculum links

	Social Studies	The Arts	Technology	Science	English
1. Digging up the past	✓		✓	✓	
2. New Kingdom religion	✓				
3. Gods and goddesses	✓	✓			✓
4. Tomb treasures	✓		✓		
5. Funerary texts	✓	✓	✓		✓
6. The king and Keku	✓				
7. Mummies through the ages	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8. Changing funeral rites	✓				

## Research projects

### 1. Digging up the past

Today's scientific methods allow scientists to study artefacts without destroying them like they did in the past. Outline some non-destructive methods that archaeologists use today to understand ancient Egyptian beliefs and practices relating to death.

### 2. New Kingdom religion

Describe the religious beliefs and practices of the New Kingdom that continued into the Late Period (664–332 BCE). Think about things like:

- gods and goddesses
- amulets
- magic.

### 3. Gods and goddesses

Investigate beliefs in gods and goddesses in a particular period of ancient Egypt's history. Think about:

- what the gods and goddesses symbolised
- how they were depicted
- the legends about how and why they became gods or goddesses.

#### 4. Tomb treasures

Investigate the way wealthy people prepared for death in a particular period of ancient Egypt's history.

Think about:

- how the tombs were built
- how they organised a coffin
- what they chose to be buried with
- why they chose certain objects.

#### 5. Funerary texts

Investigate the funerary texts in a particular period of ancient Egypt's history. (Funerary texts were sometimes called 'books of the underworld' or 'books of the netherworld'. An example of a funerary text at Keku's time is the *Book of the Dead*.) Think about:

- which Egyptians had funerary texts in their tombs
- the purpose of the texts
- the content of the texts
- what the texts were written on
- where in the tomb the texts were placed.

#### 6. The king and Keku

Keku's mummification, funeral procession, and burial were very different from Tutankhamun's.

(Tutankhamun was a boy pharaoh, or king, about 1000 years before Keku lived.) Compare the customs and summarise the main similarities and differences. Why do you think there were differences? Use evidence from the exhibition to illustrate your answer. Think about:

- the status of the dead person
- the period in which they lived.

#### 7. Mummies through the ages

Compare mummification practices in the Late Period (664–332 BCE) with those in another period of ancient Egypt's history. Think about:

- who or what was mummified and why
- how the body was embalmed
- how the body was wrapped
- any adornment on the outside of the mummy (for example, mask, netting, or amulets).

#### 8. Changing funeral rites

Compare funeral processions and burial rites in the Late Period (664–332 BCE) with processions and burial rites in another period of ancient Egypt's history. Compare practices for people of similar wealth and status to Keku, not for pharaohs (kings) or poor people. Think about:

- who took part in the funeral procession
- how the dead were transported to their tombs
- where the dead were buried

- the rituals associated with the burial.