

Support notes for tutors ESOL workshop: Nebamun

Introduction

The wall paintings from Nebamun's tomb-chapel show an idealised vision of daily life in ancient Egypt. The objects on display from the same time period hint at the actual experience of living in Egypt for both the rich and poor. Starting from these images and objects this workshop will explore how our modern daily life and aspirations can be represented visually.

Background Information

The paintings are some of the most famous images of Egyptian art, and come from the now lost tomb-chapel of Nebamun, an accountant in the Temple of Amun at Karnak who died c. 1350 BC, a generation or so before Tutankhamun. They show him at work and at leisure - surveying his estates and hunting in the marshes.

Nebamun's tomb-chapel was a place for people to come and commemorate Nebamun and his wife after his death with prayers and offerings. The beautiful paintings, which decorated the wall, not only showed how Nebamun wanted his life to be remembered but what he wanted in his life after death.

Before your visit - vocabulary and preparation

Use Explore, an online database of 5000 objects from the Museum's collection to find images of the paintings (type in the keyword 'Nebamun').

Look at the vocabulary below and use the following activities to help your students prepare for the visit

Appearance	Leisure time	Daily life	Legacy
profile	hunting	accountant	tomb
outline	feasting	scribe	remember
symbol	marsh	wealthy	offering

- Look at the image of Nebamun viewing his herds. As a class discuss his appearance and how it reflects his wealth and status. Also ask students to describe how Ancient Egyptians portrayed people: in profile but with eyes and shoulders facing forward. **(Appearance)**

- Look at the image of Nebamun hunting in the marshes. Discuss what the image can tell you about the man, his family and his life. **(Leisure time)**
- Nebamun worked as a scribe and accountant in the Temple at Karnak. Imagine what he did in his job and discuss his position in society. **(Daily life)**
- Describe how the objects in slides 3 and 4 were used, and discuss whether they belonged to the rich or the poor
- Look at the interactive view of the tomb on the website and imagine the process and expense of building the tomb. Discuss why Nebuman spent so much to build it. **(legacy)**