

Ancient Egyptians and life after death

Read carefully the information below and match each “caption” to the correct object.

Shabti

The ancient Egyptians placed shabtis in tombs to do work for the dead person in the afterlife. The hieroglyphics are a spell from the Book of the Dead. The dead person spoke the spell to bring the shabti to life.

Caption 1 – Object no 3

Scarabs

These small objects may be amulets or seals. They show scarab beetles, which were a symbol of new life and rebirth. Adult scarab beetles lay their eggs in a ball of dung, which they roll around until the eggs hatch.

The ball reminded the ancient Egyptians of the sun because they believed the sun god was born again each day at dawn. The sun at dawn became the god Khepri, a scarab beetle.

Caption 3 – Object no 5

Canopic jar lid

Canopic jars held the organs of the dead person after mummification. This jar lid shows the god Duamutef, the jackal, who protected the stomach. The lid is painted with yellow and black paint.

Caption 2 – Object no 1

Mummified cat

Cats were usually mummified to honour the goddess Bastet. The cat is wrapped in linen and the face drawn in ink. The cat's legs have been tucked in to create the long shape.

Caption 4 – Object no 4

Osiris

In ancient Egyptian myths king Osiris was murdered by his brother Seth. Osiris' sister-wife Isis used magic to bring him back to life as a mummy and he became god of the underworld. Osiris has a large crown and holds a crook and a flail.

Caption 5 – Object no 2