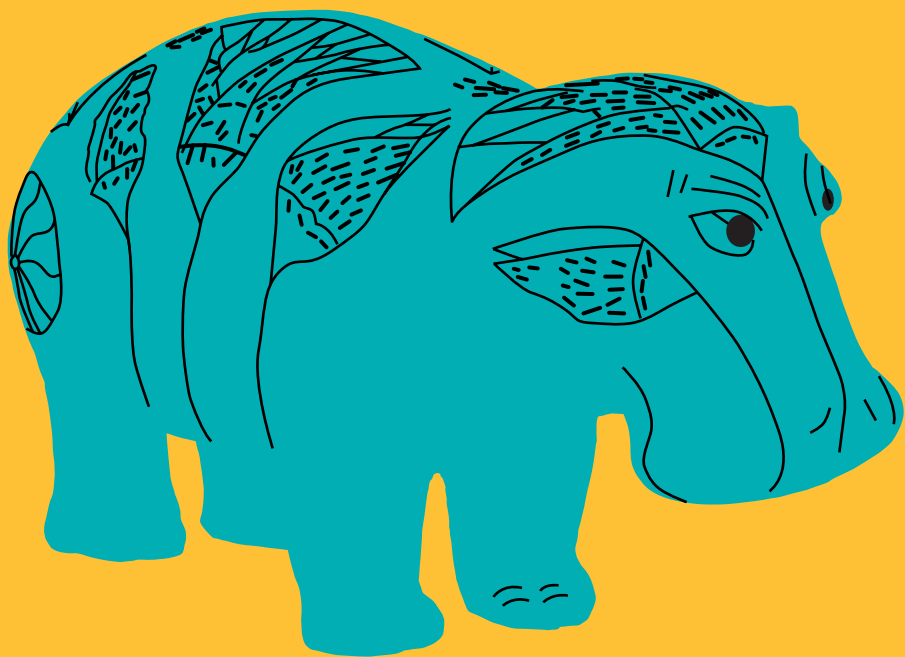


A Family Guide to Pharaohs, Sphinxes, and Hippos



**Ancient Egypt Transformed:
The Middle Kingdom**

**The Tisch Galleries
2nd Floor, Gallery 899**

Welcome to ancient Egypt's Middle Kingdom! During this period of time around 4,000 years ago many older ideas changed and a lot of beautiful art works were created. Use this guide to find sculptures of people and creatures as you explore the exhibition.

Before you start your journey, find Egypt on the world map.

Words to Know

Afterlife: life after death

Archaeologist: a scientist who explores human history by digging up and studying the artifacts and monuments left by ancient people

Cartouche: [car-TOOSH] an oval-shaped frame around a set of hieroglyphs that protect a royal name

Faience: [fay-AHNS] a ceramic material often made in a blue or blue-green color, which symbolized life

Hieroglyphs: [HI-ro-glifs] pictures that represent sounds and, sometimes, words or ideas, which are part of the ancient Egyptian writing system. There are more than seven hundred signs in hieroglyphic script!

Nemes: [NEM-es] a stiff, pleated, linen headdress worn by ancient Egyptian kings

Nile River: one of the world's two longest rivers, which flows north through northeastern Africa to the Mediterranean Sea

Papyrus: [pah-PY-rus] a thick paperlike material made from papyrus, a tall plant that grows in marshes.

Pharaoh: [FEH-ro] ancient Egyptian king

Rebirth: a new birth after death

Relief: a kind of sculpture with figures or designs carved into a flat surface so that they stand out from the background

Scribe: a person who can read and write and whose job includes keeping written records. (Very few people in ancient Egypt could read or write.)

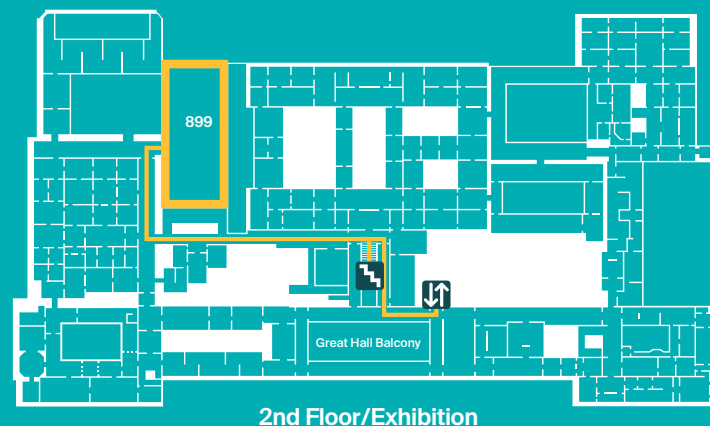
Sphinx: [sfinks] in ancient Egypt, most often a creature with a lion's body and a human head that usually depicts the king, or pharaoh

Uraeus: [yoo-RAY-us] the image of a protective cobra, often shown on the forehead of ancient Egyptian kings or gods

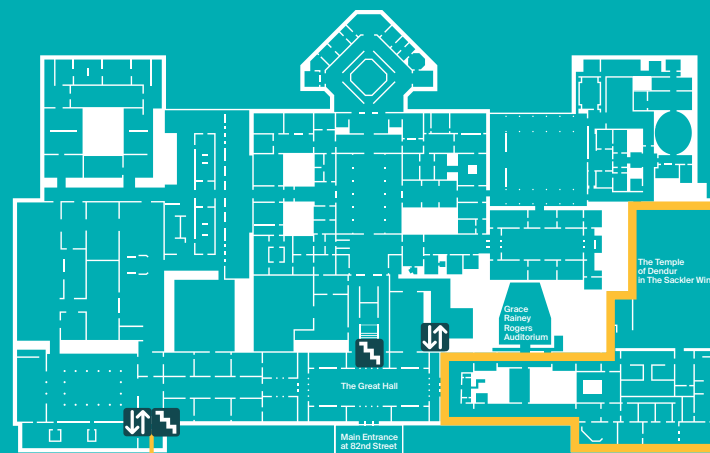
Keep Exploring

After you've enjoyed exploring the exhibition, continue your journey through ancient Egypt! Visit the Egyptian Art galleries on the 1st floor to uncover works of art from the past. As you explore, search for pharaohs, scribes, sphinxes, and animals.

Then, head downstairs to Nolen Library in the Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education on the ground floor to check out a selection of children's books all about ancient Egypt.



2nd Floor/Exhibition



1st Floor/Egyptian Galleries 100-138

To Uris Education Center



Stairs



Elevator

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Meet a Pharaoh



Look

Find this sculpture in the gallery. King Amenemhat [ah-MEN-em-haht] I is at the center of this image. He wears a short black wig with the royal **uraeus**, or cobra, at the front, and a false beard. Both show that he is the **pharaoh**, or king. He's surrounded by gods and **hieroglyphs**.

Look for hieroglyphs that spell one of his names. A clue: find a **cartouche**—an oval-shaped frame used only for royal names—around a group of hieroglyphs.

King Amenemhat I with Gods, Middle Kingdom, Dynasty 12, reign of Amenemhat I–Senwosret I (about 1981–1952 B.C.); from Egypt, Lisht, Pyramid Temple of Amenemhat I; painted limestone; Rogers Fund, 1908 (08.200.5)

Create

What would you want people to know about you in the future? Make up a name for yourself that expresses this idea and create a picture to go along with it.

Please use only pencil in the galleries. Thank you!

Think Sphinx



Look

With the body of a powerful lion and the head of a human, this sculpture of a **sphinx** shows the **pharaoh**, King Senwosret [sen-WOS-ret] III. He wears a stiff, pleated, linen headdress, called a **nemes**, which is only worn by the king. It once had a **uraeus**, or cobra, at the top. Most Egyptian sphinx statues were guardians of temples, or sacred places. They were often shown lying on their bellies with legs firmly planted on the ground. Imagine this sphinx in action—ready to pounce!

Sphinx of King Senwosret III, Middle Kingdom, Twelfth Dynasty, reign of Senwosret III (about 1878–1840 B.C.); from Egypt, Thebes, probably Karnak temple; gneiss (a type of stone); Gift of Edward S. Harkness, 1917 (179.2)

Take Note!

Look around this gallery to find other kings wearing the royal nemes headdress and other royal crowns. In the space below, use pictures or words to make notes about the kings' heads. How are they the same or different?

Please use only pencil in the galleries. Thank you!

A Day in the Life



Look

Peek inside this model granary (a storehouse for grain) to find ancient Egyptians busy at work. Every person has a job to do: look for some men carrying grain, and others working to measure and record it. There are four **scribes** taking notes—two hold wooden writing boards while the other two write on **papyrus** scrolls resting across their laps.

Model Granary from the Tomb of Meketre, Middle Kingdom, Twelfth Dynasty, early reign of Amenemhat I (about 1981–1975 B.C.); from Egypt, Thebes, tomb of Meketre; plastered and painted wood, linen, grain; Rogers Fund and Edward S. Harkness Gift, 1920 (20.3.11)

Fun Fact!

The grain inside this model is real and is about four thousand years old! Archaeologists found this object—and twenty-one others like it—in a tomb. Ancient Egyptians believed that the figures inside would supply food to those who were buried in the tomb, magically keeping them alive forever.

What would you need in the afterlife?

Creatures Big and Small



Look

Find this hippo and his friends made of **faience** (fay-AHNS). They are decorated with pictures of lotus flowers and buds, showing their natural habitat, a marsh. Lotus flowers symbolized **rebirth** to the ancient Egyptians because they close in the evening, but open again in the morning.

Look closely: how are these hippos the same or different from each other?

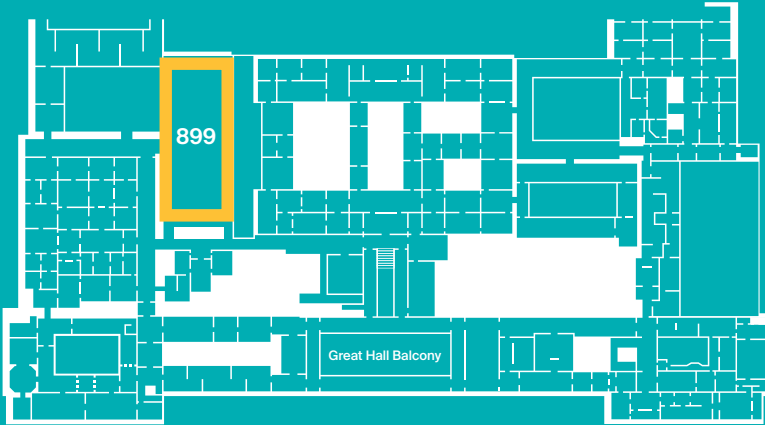
Figure of a Hippopotamus, Middle Kingdom, Dynasty 12, first half Senwosret I to Senwosret II (about 1961–1878 B.C.); from Egypt, Meir (Mir), Tomb of Senbi; faience; Gift of Edward S. Harkness, 1917 (17.9.1)

Draw

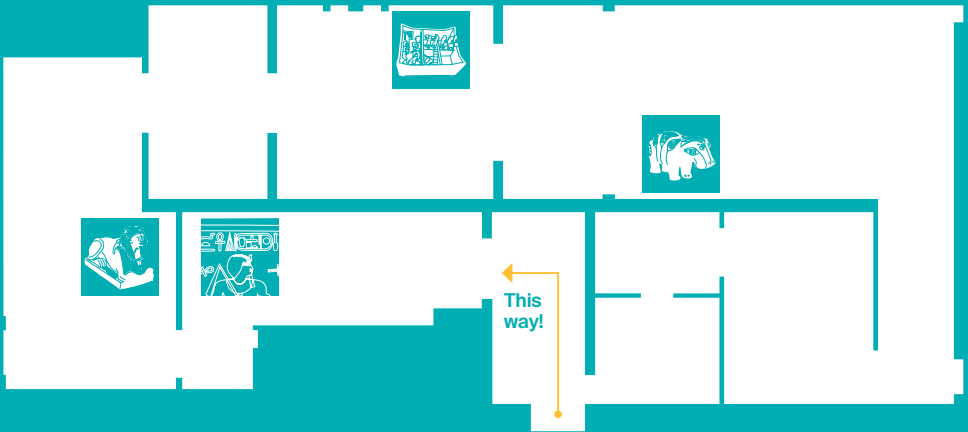
Ancient Egyptians created small sculptures of animals and life along the Nile River. In the space below, draw one of the hippos or other animals you find in this room. Add details to the background to show the habitat where your animal lives.



Middle Kingdom Exhibition Map



2nd Floor



The Tisch Galleries
2nd Floor, Gallery 899

Entrance



*King Amenemhat I
with Gods*
08.200.5



*Sphinx of
King Senwosret III*
17.9.2



*Model Granary from
the Tomb of Meketre*
20.3.11



*Figure of a
Hippopotamus*
17.9.1