

Design Your Own Shabti

For caregivers: The Anthropology Museum at the University of Winnipeg has a collection of hundreds of artefacts from ancient Egypt, Israel, and Palestine (you can learn more about them here: <https://news-centre.uwinnipeg.ca/all-posts/the-adventures-of-the-hetherington-collection/>). Many of our ancient Egyptian items come from the period known as the New Kingdom (1570-1069 BCE) and were excavated from tombs. They were used either as offerings left by the living to honour their deceased family members or for the use of the deceased themselves in the afterlife. We have several shabti figurines in our collection; the following activity will help you understand how the ancient Egyptians used these tiny figures.

You can find pictures of more of our objects at @uwluxproject on Instagram. If you'd like, you can share your drawings with Dr. Melissa Funke, the director of the Lux Project at the University of Winnipeg, through email (m.funke@uwinnipeg.ca), Instagram (the handle above), or Twitter (@TheLuxProject1). You can also email Dr. Funke with any questions you have, or for further questions about ancient Egypt.

For kids: The ancient Egyptians would place lots of useful items, like dishes and furniture, in their tombs when they died, to use in what they believed was the afterlife. Imagine you are going on a very long journey. What would you take with you? Why? Choose 3 household items and draw pictures of them:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Along with the everyday items the ancient Egyptians placed in their tombs, they also included small figurines, called shabtis. They were intended to be helpers in the afterlife, and often had writing on them to explain what they would do to help.

Now you can decide what your shabti helper would do for you on your journey. Write what you want it to do for you in the blank space on its body. You can also draw its face! (You can follow the example from the Hetherington Collection included below if you'd like.)

