

# Hands On Learning

## *with Reading Museum Service*

### ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TOMB OBJECTS AH40/B

#### Clay funerary pots

There are four small, clay pots in this box. They date from the Late Period of Ancient Egypt, after about 1000 BC. The Ancient Egyptians believed that after somebody had died and their body had been placed in a grave or tomb, they would then go on a dangerous journey to reach the afterlife. Pots like these would have contained food and other everyday objects to help them on this journey. The pots probably came from the graves of less wealthy people as they are made of an inexpensive material.



#### Alabaster jars

The small pale jar is made from alabaster and probably came from a wealthier grave. Alabaster is a type of calcite stone that was quarried in the ancient Egyptian town of Alabastron. It is not known whether the town was named after the stone or whether it was the other way round! Alabaster is a hard and durable stone but can be carved easily. It is possible to see the grooves inside where the jar has been shaped. This pot may have held perfumed oils or lotions for use by the dead person in the afterlife.

The other object that is made from alabaster is the triangle shaped fragment, which comes from the rim of a larger pot. If you look at the broken edges you will see how naturally hard and thick the stone is in comparison with the manmade clay pots.



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#### Wheat



The small seeds in the little perspex box are grains of a species of wheat called emmer. Wheat was an important crop in ancient Egypt. It is often found in Egyptian tombs where it was placed in pots as an offering to the dead. It ensured that the dead person would be able to grow crops when they reached the afterlife.

#### Statue



The most southerly areas of Egypt and the northern parts of Sudan are known as Nubia. The location is shown on the map below. Nubia was home to a civilisation known as the Kushites from 2400 BC to 300 AD. The Egyptians invaded several times and took control of the Kushite cities, resulting in a blending of cultures and religious beliefs. The facial features of this statue are thought to resemble those of the people of this area. The figure is wearing an ancient Egyptian style wig and would have been placed in the tomb to represent the servants that a dead person would need in the afterlife.

