



Ancient Egyptian Shabtis



How did the Ancient Egyptians prepare for the afterlife? Shabtis are small figurines buried with the dead. The meaning of the Egyptian term is still debated; however, one possible translation is 'answerer', as they were believed to answer their master's call to work in the afterlife.



Safety Considerations

Do not touch your face while working.

Plastic glove on any hand that has a wound.

Hands washed in soap and water, dried and then alcohol gel rubbed on.

Time
Required:
1 hour

Suitable for
Ages 8+

You will need:

Air drying clay, Mod-roc, Paints (gold, black and any other metallic colours), Papyrus (from any good art shop)



Shabtis box with lid

Method:

- Discuss the Egyptian afterlife to set the scene and see what the young people already know about the subject.
- Make an Egyptian mummy shape out of clay.
- Liberally cover the mummy shapes in mod-roc (as soon as the shapes are made).
- The following meeting, when they have dried out, you can get the young people to paint their shabtis in an Egyptian style.
- Paint names in hieroglyphics on pieces of papyrus so that you can identify who the shabtis belong to.

Extra Ideas:

- Ancient Egyptian Game: Mehen
- Ancient Egyptian Game: Senet

