



Minneapolis Institute of Art

Family Gallery Guide

Egypt's Sunken Cities

Presented by

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Egypt's Sunken Cities

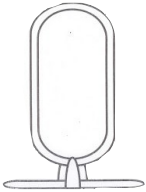
The title on each card matches the title on the main gallery text panel to help you find the objects in this guide. These cards also go in the same order as the galleries.



Many of the objects in this exhibition were found underwater. Use the blue filter to explore the galleries as if you were in the sea with them. Look for this symbol on labels to know which objects were found underwater.

Egypt's Sunken Cities

Ancient Egyptian kings are called pharaohs.



When a pharaoh's name was written in hieroglyphs, it was surrounded by an oval with a line at the bottom. This is called a *cartouche*.

How many cartouches can you find on this big stone tablet? Each one is a little different, but they all name the same pharaoh. Pharaohs had at least five different names!

Stele of Thonis-Heracleion, Thonis-Heracleion, Aboukir Bay, Egypt (SCA 277),
National Museum Alexandria - IEASM Excavations.
Photo: Christoph Gerigk © Franck Goddio / Hilti Foundation



A Cosmopolitan City

Look closely at the heads of pharaohs. See the decoration in the middle of their foreheads? This is called a *ureaus*—a cobra—which is a kind of poisonous snake.

Why might a pharaoh want to be connected to a cobra?



Left: Head of a Pharaoh - Canopus, Aboukir Bay, Egypt (SCA 166), Bibliotheca Alexandrina Antiquities Museum



Right: Head of a Pharaoh - Canopus, Aboukir Bay, Egypt (SCA 168), Bibliotheca Alexandrina Antiquities Museum, Alexandria- IEASM Excavations



Osiris: Life, Death, Afterlife

Osiris and Isis were ancient Egyptian gods who were married to each other. According to ancient Egyptian mythology, Osiris was killed by his jealous brother, who scattered pieces of his body all over Egypt. Isis turned into a bird and flew across the kingdom, collecting all the pieces. She put Osiris back together and brought him back to life.

Ancient Egyptians celebrated Osiris' death, reassembly, and rebirth every year with a celebration called the Mysteries of Osiris. Many things in this exhibition helped them celebrate the Mysteries of Osiris.

What kinds of things do you celebrate?



Osiris: Life, Death, Afterlife

You will see many kinds of animals in this exhibition. Some were helpful or useful to the ancient Egyptians; many were dangerous.

What animals can you find?

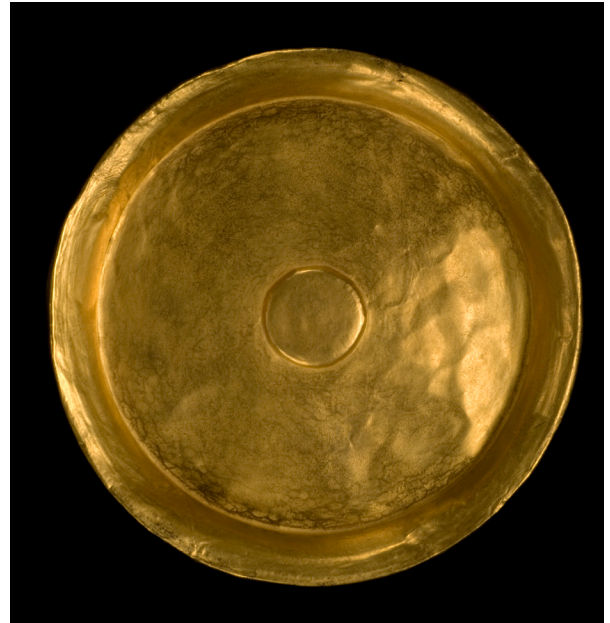
Do you think they were useful or dangerous? Why?



The Mysteries of Osiris

Most of the things in this gallery were used to celebrate the Mysteries of Osiris. Look for a special gold dish called a *phiale* that was used by priests to make offerings, or gifts, to gods.

What kinds of gifts do you like to give?



Phiale - Thonis-Heracleion. National Museum, Alexandria
(SCA 296) - IEASM Excavations.
Photo: Christoph Gerigk © Franck Goddio / Hilti Foundation

Osiris Resurrected

The large black sculpture shows Osiris being brought back to life by his wife, Isis, who has taken the form of a hawk called a kite. This is a photo of a real kite. How does it compare to a sculpture of a kite?

Can you see what animals are holding up the table that Isis is lying on?





Tawaret

This is Tawaret, an ancient Egyptian goddess who protects mothers and children. Under her paws is a symbol, pronounced za. It means “to protect.”

Tawaret is a combination of a few different kinds of animals. Her head and body is mostly a hippopotamus. Her teeth and paws come from two other animals—what do you think they might be?

The goddess Tawaret - Egyptian Museum, Cairo (CGC 39194)
Photo: Christoph Gerigk © Franck Goddio / Hilti Foundation



A: Her teeth are from a crocodile; her paws are from a lion.



Grand Procession to Canopus and The Great Navigation

The objects in the large cases in the middle of this gallery were part of processions for the Mysteries of Osiris. Look for bells and something called a *sistrum*, which is a special kind of rattle or noisemaker. They made music to celebrate Osiris during the procession.

The processions were on a river, where people could stand at the edge of the water and watch the special boats go by.

What do you celebrate with special songs or music?



Serapis = Zeus + Osiris

In this room you can find sculptures of the god Serapis. Serapis was a combination of the ancient Egyptian god Osiris, the ancient Greek god Zeus, and a few other gods.

This is a sculpture of Zeus made around the same time as the Serapis sculptures in this gallery. How does Zeus look the same as or different from the Serapis sculptures?

Marble colossal head of Zeus from Aigeira, Achaia, ca. 150 BCE
National Archaeological Museum, Athens, Greece 3377



Thanks for visiting! Please return your family guide at the end of the exhibition.



Egypt's Sunken Cities

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