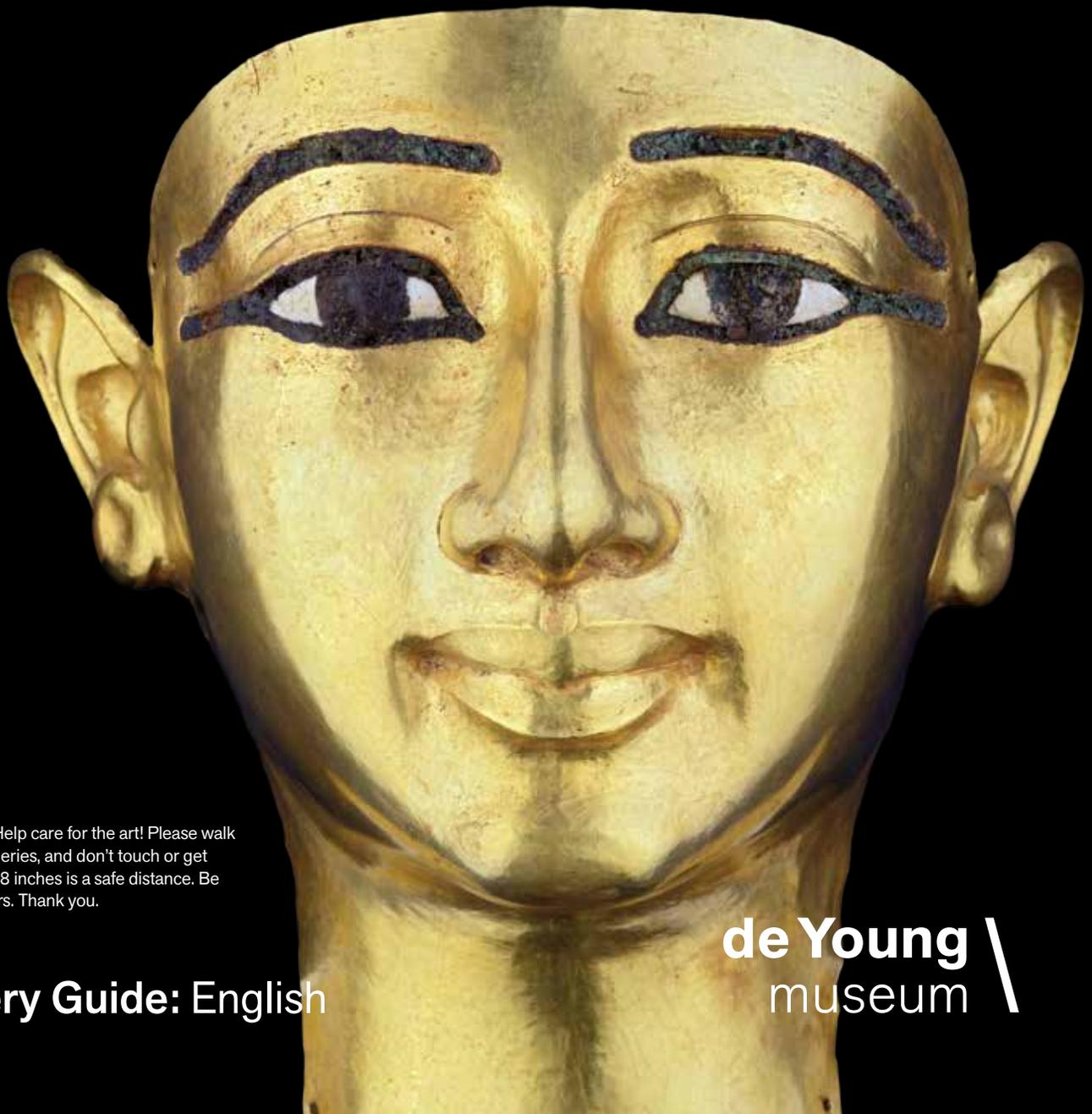


Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs

Welcome! Use this Discovery Guide to explore the exhibition *Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs*. Connect with one another and with the artwork through the following activities for close looking, talking, and asking questions. Have fun!



Gallery Guidelines: Help care for the art! Please walk (don't run) in the galleries, and don't touch or get too close to the art; 18 inches is a safe distance. Be aware of other visitors. Thank you.

Discovery Guide: English

de Young
museum

The Great

As you journey through this exhibition, you will travel back over 3,200 years to the time of one of Egypt's most well-known rulers, Ramses II. As pharaoh, he held one of ancient Egypt's longest reigns, beginning in his 20s and ending with his death, in his 90s. He outlived 12 of his own sons. After his death, the empire gradually fell. Early Egyptologists gave him the title "The Great" because of his leadership, accomplishments, and long period of rule.



SIGNIFICANT SYMBOLS

Pharaohs were depicted with the *heka* scepter as shown above to symbolize the legitimacy of their rule. The word *heka* is also a word for magic.

How many more times do you see this *heka* scepter within the exhibition?

DISCUSS:

What do you think makes a great leader?

If you had to step up as a leader in your school, what would you do to make yourself a great leader?

THINK AND OBSERVE:

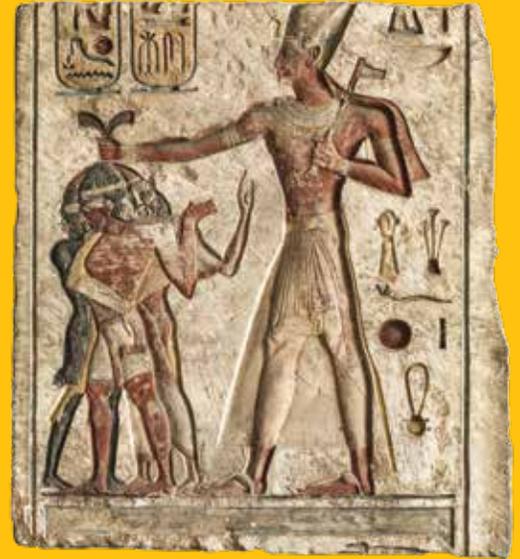
Have you noticed patterns and symbols repeating throughout this exhibition?

Do the patterns or symbols remind you of anything in nature or the world around you?

Discuss what the symbols could mean. Explore what ancient Egyptians seemed to honor based on the symbols you observe.

A Pharaoh's Role

Ramses II grew up as a prince and showed military might at a young age, which helped him become pharaoh. Pharaohs had the responsibility of military leadership to protect and expand the empire. The image at right shows Ramses II massacring his enemies. However, when you explore the Battle of Kadesh, you will learn that he also signed one of the world's first peace treaties, showing his strategic thinking as a military leader.



THINK AND OBSERVE:

What do you think was the intended message of this carving? Whom was it meant to intimidate?

What could intimidation do to protect an empire?

As you explore the exhibition, what are you learning about the Battle of Kadesh? Why was it strategic for Ramses II to sign a peace treaty?

SEEING DOUBLE?

Pharaohs had representations of themselves carved and placed throughout their kingdom.



“To speak the name of the dead is to make them live again.”

Any depiction of a pharaoh had to include their name in hieroglyphs. Statues would show a pharaoh's status as all-powerful. They also had a purpose depending on what objects were shown with them. Art was considered alive and magical.

DISCUSS:

If you were in charge of a community, how would you treat neighboring communities and leaders?

What are symbols or images in your life that hold power or have meaning?

INTERACT:

How would you represent yourself as a statue?

What objects would you carry?

What would represent your status or power?

The White Crown



Sketch it at home.

← False Beard





Adornment

In your journey through the exhibition, you are going to see amazing jewelry full of valuable stones in many shapes and designs. Jewelry was not just decoration. A stone's color had symbolic meaning connected to Egyptian religion. Adornments were believed to have had magical protection for those who wore the item. Amulets of the gods and goddesses were worn for protection. Even the dead were adorned with jewelry.

DISCUSS:

How do people around you adorn themselves?

THINK AND OBSERVE:

What colors are common throughout the jewelry?
What do you think the colors represent or mean?

Discuss what you notice about the types of jewelry you see and what they may represent.

INTERACT:

What designs do you observe on different pieces of jewelry?



Design your own at home.

Hieroglyphics

Ancient Egyptians used a hieroglyphic writing system where symbols can represent the objects they depict or, similar to our alphabet, sounds. These symbols are put together to make up a word.

WORD POWER

Words and names had magical power in ancient Egypt. The word *hieroglyph* means sacred carvings.



THINK AND OBSERVE:

Where are hieroglyphs written?

What types of pictures do you notice?

Why do you think certain objects have hieroglyphic writing on them?

DISCUSS:

In what ways do you observe that words have power?

How do different types of words, whether spoken or written, affect people differently?

This guide was developed by Maha Nusrat, sixth-grade social studies teacher in the Oakland Unified School District.

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