

Treehouse Theatre

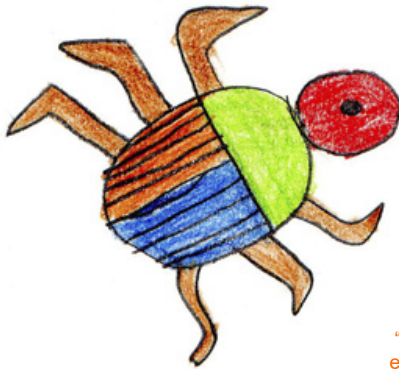
A Play-in-a-Day Ancient Egypt: History's Mystery

"They will remember it because they enjoyed themselves and were part of the performance. Hands on is great!" St John's Primary, Isle of Wight

When Ned Knitwinkle, enthusiastic if inept Egyptologist, attempts to join a secret Egyptology society, he is thrown back in time to Ancient Egypt until he has learned enough to pass the society's entrance exam.

Disguised as an Ancient Egyptian, Ned encounters people from all walks of Egyptian life – from Cleopatra to a mummy-in-progress. In a land full of bounty, riches and inspiration, Ned is amazed by eccentric Pharaohs, gory rituals and over-taxed tradesmen. He learns a lot, but there's an archaeological twist in the tale.

"Very positive feedback from parents... 'children didn't stop talking about it'..."
Wootton Primary, Isle of Wight



"You helped us use our voices properly and read our lines with expression. The best parts were when Charmion had to die with Cleopatra, and when Aidan and George had to stab you"

Curriculum Links

History: The play is linked to

- 2014 KS2 History Curriculum unit "The achievements of the earliest civilisations – an overview of where and when the first civilisations appeared and a depth study of Ancient Egypt"
- The former QCA History Scheme of Work Unit 10 "What can we find out about ancient Egypt from what has survived?"

Drama: Various performance techniques are introduced, including: Breathing for Acting; Mime; Voice work; and Characterisation

Main topics covered in the Play

- Building of the pyramids
- The role of priests and Egyptian gods in daily life
- How and why a mummy is made
- Beliefs about the afterlife
- Home life in Ancient Egypt
- The role of a scribe and a day in his working life
- Working people: a builder, a metal worker, and a linen factory owner and his workers
- Egyptian hierarchy
- The Amarna dynasty, starting with Pharaoh Akenaten and his wife Nefertiti
- Pharaoh Tutankhamun, his wife Ankesenamun, and his uncle Ay
- The fall of the Amarna dynasty and Pharaoh Horemheb.
- Cleopatra and Julius Caesar
- Farming in ancient Egypt
- Cleopatra and Anthony
- Cleopatra's death and the defeat of Egypt by Rome
- The role of archaeology in discovering what happened in the past

"I also enjoyed learning how to get brains out before mummification – that was disgusting and funny"

