

FAMILY GUIDE

THE SECRETS OF TOMB 10A

EGYPT 2000 BC

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MUSEUM OF
FINE ARTS,
BOSTON



WHEN ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNEARTHED TOMB 10A


they wondered whose tomb they had found. The treasures inside told them it belonged to someone powerful. This 4,000-year-old tomb was built for Djehutynakht (je-hooty-knocked), a governor, and his wife, also named Djehutynakht.

The ancient Egyptians believed in life after death. They planned to spend eternity sailing with the sun god Ra, or resting in the underworld with Osiris, the god of the afterlife. To get there, they followed rules and made preparations. Otherwise, they wouldn't get in.


Governor Djehutynakht and his wife were prepared. They built a tomb to protect their mummies and all of their treasures. Like the Great Pyramids and other Egyptian graves, their tomb served as a portal to eternal life that was fully equipped with the necessary supplies.

What treasures would you bring on an eternal journey?





 **As you leave the first gallery, look for four clay jars** that were used to hold beer. Beer and bread were both essential for survival in ancient Egypt. Everyone drank beer, even children, as water was often too dirty for drinking, and beer was full of nutrients.



 **Find the gallery with wooden sculptures showing scenes from everyday life.** How do you get bread and beer for all eternity? Bring the bakery and brewery with you!



 Mr. and Mrs. Djehutynakht brought *everything*—including the “kitchen sink”—just smaller versions! Can you find miniature beer jars in the brewery? **Look for a kitchen boat and a boat used for transportation** (left). Discover oxen plowing a field, brick makers, and weavers.

 **What other scenes do you see?** What else did the Egyptians bring to the afterlife? Share your thoughts with your Museum buddies and discuss the objects you find.








FIFTY-EIGHT MODEL BOATS WERE FOUND IN TOMB 10A. Why do you think boats were so important?

Hint: the Nile river didn't have any bridges, and carts were not easy to wheel over the desert sands.

Getting Ready for the Afterlife—Paintings and Spells



-  **The most important objects lowered into Tomb 10A were coffins.** Governor Djehutynakht's mummified body was placed in a coffin. This coffin was placed in a second elaborate wooden coffin. Lady Djehutynakht's mummy even had a third! **Find these coffins in the next gallery.**
-  Getting to the afterlife presented many challenges. **Magical spells and hieroglyphic texts had to be painted and engraved on the coffins.** Spells protected the Djehutynakhts from things they didn't want to happen in the afterlife, like walking on their hands for eternity.
-  **Find the magic door** (left). This door was painted on the inside of the coffin so the mummy could see it and go between the afterlife and the world of the living. Djehutynakht's tomb has some of the most detailed coffin paintings ever found in ancient Egypt.
-  **The pictures on the coffins show many supplies used in daily life,** like food, bread, and clothing. Look closely. What do you recognize? Which animals can you find?
-  **Keep looking!** Sketch what you see or play a game of "I spy."

FRONT:

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Front side panel of outer coffin of Djehutynakht (detail), Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, late Dynasty 11–early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Cedar. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition. Storage jar with mud stopper, Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, late Dynasty 11–early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Pottery. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.

Model of a transport boat, Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, late Dynasty 11–early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Wood. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.

Model of a kitchen boat, Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, late Dynasty 11–early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Wood. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.

BACK:

TOP: Front side panel of outer coffin of Djehutynakht (detail), Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, late Dynasty 11–early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Cedar. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.

BOTTOM: Back side panel of the outer coffin of Djehutynakht (detail), Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, late Dynasty 11–early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Cedar. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.

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BONUS: Can you find a map on one of the nearby panels? Look for the curvy lines. The map is a travel guide to the afterlife, called the *Book of Two Ways*. Read more about it on the gallery labels.



AFTER YOUR VISIT: At home, use clay to sculpt a scene from your everyday life. Think about something you do often, like eating breakfast, playing a game, or going to school. Sculpt each piece of your scene separately, then put each scene together. Include any supplies (bowls, books, or food) that you might need!