

## FAMILY GUIDE

# THE SECRETS OF TOMB 10A

EGYPT 2000 BC




The objects in these galleries show us how the ancient Egyptians prepared for the afterlife. The tomb belonged to a husband and wife, both named Djehutynakht (je-hooty-knocked). They had miniature versions of all the things they believed they needed in the afterlife, from beer to boats to a magical door.

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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
BOSTON

## WHAT ARE THE SECRETS OF TOMB 10A?


To find the answer, learn what's missing from the tomb.


 Look at the large photos in the first gallery. They show Tomb 10A when it was first discovered by archaeologists in 1915. **What do you notice? What do you think might have happened?**

When the team of archaeologists from Harvard University and the MFA discovered the 4,000-year-old tomb, they found an ancient crime scene!

When archaeologists entered the tomb, an ancient mummified head propped on top of a coffin greeted them. The Djehutynakht's two mummies had been destroyed, their coffins broken, and all of their valuables stolen.



 Look for this model axe. **What's missing from the eight axes above it?**

 Look around in this case. **Can you spot other objects that might have missing pieces?**



Archaeology is the study of ancient cultures. Archaeologists use remains, like the objects in the galleries, to learn what life was like thousands of years ago.


These objects had a long and difficult journey to the MFA.


They were broken by tomb robbers then almost destroyed when the thieves tried to light the tomb on fire to cover their crime. Four thousand years later, archaeologists removed what remained from the tomb and sent the items to storage.


When the objects finally made their voyage to the US, their boat caught fire! Once in Boston, it took conservators nearly 100 years to clean and repair all of them.

Some of the objects from Tomb 10A are still being examined, like the mysterious mummy head that greeted the archaeologists.




 **Near the painted coffins, find a small, darkened room.**  
This room is the same size as the Djehutynakht's original tomb in Egypt. All the things you see throughout these galleries fit in a space this small!

 **How do you think they were packed in the tomb?**  
If you feel comfortable, enter the room to see the ancient head. Look at the details.

 **Whose head do you think this is, Mr. Djehutynakht's or Mrs. Djehutynakht's? Why?**  
Scientists are still trying to answer this question. Just before the exhibition opened, they removed one of the mummy's teeth, hoping to find DNA that would solve the mystery of exactly who this mummy is.



Archaeologists rarely find tombs that haven't been robbed. When they do find ancient valuable objects, they can guess that similar things may have been common in tombs.

 **In the last gallery, look for this tiny pendant of a jackal, a dog-like animal.** This piece of jewelry wasn't found in Tomb 10A, but the Djehutynakhts may have owned fancy jewelry like this, perhaps taken by the tomb robbers.

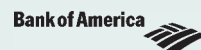
 **Look at other objects in this gallery to see more examples of things that could have been found in Tomb 10A with the Djehutynakhts.**

**Archaeologists keep looking, digging, and uncovering remains, to piece together the mysteries of the ancient world.**



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**FRONT:**  
LEFT: Model scene of workers ploughing a field, Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, Late Dynasty 11–Early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Wood, plaster. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.  
MIDDLE: Model axe, Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, late Dynasty 11 – early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Wood. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.  
TOP RIGHT: Pile of models and other objects in situ, found between the east wall of Tomb 10a and the outer coffin of Governor Djehutynakht, May 11, 1915. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition. Photograph C6825. Photograph by Mohammed Shadduf.  
BOTTOM RIGHT: Cedar coffin in the entrance to the burial chamber of tomb

10a (viewed from the shaft), May 2, 1915. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition. Photograph C682o. Photograph by Mohammed Shadduf.  
**BACK:**  
LEFT: Head end of the inner coffin of Governor Djehutynakht (detail), Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, late Dynasty 11–early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Cedar. Harvard University–Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.  
TOP: Head of the mummy of Djehutynakht, Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, late Dynasty 11–early Dynasty 12, 2010–1961 BC. Human remains, linen. Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition.  
BOTTOM: Jewelry element with image of Anubis, Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, Dynasty 12, 1991–1783 BC. Gilt silver. Emily Esther Sears Fund. Photographs © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.