

Nationalmuseet

Children's guide

Prehistoric Denmark – ground floor

Antiquities – 3rd floor

*Explore the mummies,
Golden Horns and skeletons
of Denmark and Egypt's past*



National Museum of Denmark





Early Stone Age

The aurochs from Vig

The aurochs was found in a bog with some small, flint arrowheads. Maybe hunters had tracked the animal for days with their dogs? Some of the hunters' arrows went through the thick hide, all the way to the skeleton. The aurochs must have tried to escape into a lake, where it drowned and sank to the bottom.

! What do you think happened when the aurochs died 10,000 years ago? Can you see where the hunters' arrows hit the skeleton?

People of the Early Stone Age painted pictures of the aurochs. As they painted, they imagined how they would hunt the ox and maybe be lucky enough to catch one.



! *Paint your own story of what you think happened:*



Early Stone Age

The Vedbaek Grave

In the grave there is a woman of 40 and a child of 3. They were buried together 7,000 years ago. There is a hairpin and a bird's bill by the woman's head. Next to the skeletons are tooth and bone beads and two flint knives. The beads are made of deer, wild boar, elk, bear and aurochs.

The woman and boy wore the beads around their necks as amulets. They believed the amulets protected them from evil and made them as strong and fast as the animals. The boy practised using the flint knives, so he could be a great hunter as an adult.



Animal tooth amulet beads

1 Which animals still live in Denmark?



Red deer



Wild boar



Aurochs



Bear



Elk



Roe deer





Iron Age

The Golden Horns

The golden horns were discovered by accident. The long horn in 1639 by a girl called Kirsten, who almost tripped over it. She gave it to the king and was given a woolen skirt in return. In 1734 the short horn was found by a farmer called Erik. He also gave the horn to the king, and was paid 200 old rix-dollars (the equivalent of 700,000 DKK today).

The golden horns here are copies. The originals were stolen by a poor goldsmith in 1802. He got into the museum with an ordinary key and one he made himself. The horns were remelted and the gold was used to make jewellery and false coins. The goldsmith was caught and sent to prison for 37 years.

- ! There are strange figures on the horns. What do you think they are?
- ! Nobody knows what the horns were used for. Maybe for religious ceremonies, as drinking horns or wind instruments. What do you think?





Rune stone from
Glenstrup with
the words: Thor
erected this stone
for his father
Gunner.

Rune Stones

The Vikings carved runes on stones in memory of the dead. Only the rich and powerful could afford a rune stone. The Vikings erected the stones on roads and near bridges. Only short words and sentences were carved – a bit like when we write an SMS.

The language was Nordic. It sounded like a mix of Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Icelandic. It was called “dönsk tunga” (Danish tongue).

Did you know that in Viking times people had names like Toki, Eiríkr or Ragnhildr? But they only had 16 letters to spell with. So if there's a rune missing for your name you have to find a sound that's close to it. The name Morten, for example, is written “Murtin”.

! Write your name or something else using the 16 Viking runes – the Futhark – below.

The futhark







The entrails were put into four jars. The lids are shaped like the gods who guarded the stomach, intestines, lungs and liver.



The dead were wrapped in bandages that could be hundreds of metres long. As a bird, the soul of the dead could visit the land of the living.

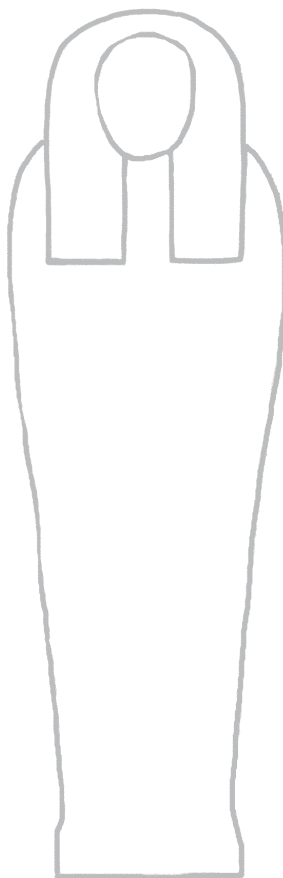
Realm of Osiris

Mummies

The Egyptians believed in life after death. Since the soul of the dead lived on in the body, the body had to be preserved. The body was embalmed to stop it rotting. This took 70 days. The body was dried with a kind of salt, and the entrails were removed and placed in jars. The heart had to stay in the body. The body was rubbed with fragrant oils. To protect it, the mummy was wrapped in cloth and placed in a casket. For the dead to live on in the afterlife they needed food and drink, which their family laid at their tomb.

2 The Egyptians also made animal mummies. Which animal mummies can you find in the exhibition?

! The casket was decorated with pictures of the gods to keep evil spirits away. Which pictures or patterns would you choose?





Ships were the Egyptians' most important means of transport. The longest ship is ready to sail the dead to the West – the kingdom of the dead.

Realm of Osiris

Tomb Models

The Egyptians lived on the banks of the Nile. The river provided drinking water for people and animals – and water for the fields where they grew grain for bread and beer. Goods were transported on the Nile, and bodies were sailed to the kingdom of the dead on the west bank of the river – where the sun set.

Small figures have been discovered in the tombs. They tell us a lot about everyday life in ancient Egypt. They look like toys, but in the tombs they were magical helpers that worked for the dead and made sure they always had food.















Miniature toolbox. In the kingdom of the dead, miniature tools were just as valuable as real tools were in the land of the living.

- 3 Look at the longest ship. Who do you think the empty chair is for?**
- 4 Look at the tomb model where the figures are slaughtering an animal, baking bread and brewing beer. What animal are they slaughtering?**





 a arm	 b leg	 d hand	 h winding wall	 p stool	 t bread
 j/i rush	 r mouth	 m owl	 n water	 s folded clothes	 w chicken

Egypt of the pharaohs

Hieroglyphs

Look at the big, stone “soul door”. It’s more than 4,400 years old and comes from a tomb. Here the door linked the worlds of the living and the dead. The dead could come here to collect the food the living sacrificed to them. The door is full of hieroglyphs that tell us about the dead. His name was Ptah-wash. He was a grand man who worked for the king

Hieroglyphs are symbols in the shape of people, animals, plants and objects. There were 800 different symbols. People drew beautiful symbols on the walls of tombs and temples. They were carved in stone and painted in different colours.

The hieroglyphs could be written vertically and horizontally, and both from the right and the left.
Can you see this on the door?

- ❗ **Bring the hieroglyphs to life.**
Stand like the figures on the door.
Can the people you’re with see which figure you are?
- ❗ **Can you find some of the symbols on this page on the big door?**

Answers

- 1 Roe deer, red deer and wild boar still live in Denmark
- 2 Bird, cat, crocodile, perch
- 3 The empty chair is for the soul of the dead
- 4 An ox

The National Museum for children

Facilities for families, groups and schools

We have baby slings, pushchairs, wheelchairs, baby-changing facilities, a drinks automat and lockers for groups. You also can eat a packed lunch in the museum's dining hall or gardens.

The children's museum

All children - accompanied by an adult - are welcome. Groups should book a time to visit on +45 41 20 60 66.

Ages: 4-12

Open: Tues-sun 10-16.30

Toy exhibition

Exhibition on the 2nd floor with antique toys and a whole town of dolls' houses.

Family workshops

There are free family workshops every Sunday from 12-15 - except from June-August. For more information see natmus.dk



Restaurant

Restaurant Julian on the 1st floor has a children's menu. Telephone +45 33 93 07 60.

The museum shop

The shop on the ground floor sells children's books and toys. Children in groups should be accompanied by an adult.

Read more about the past on natmus.dk