

Egyptians and Baboons

A framework to support research into Ancient Egyptians and find more out about Baboons.



Match pictures and descriptions

3000BCE 2750BCE 2500BCE 2250BCE 2000BCE



A necklace dated around 1400 BCE found in Tutankhamun's tomb shows Baboons greeting the sun from Ra's day boat. Ra was the God of the Sun.

HERMOPOLIS

Plot them on maps and timelines

Malapa

Egyptians and Baboons

This activity, which examines the links between the Ancient Egyptians and Baboons was developed with Jan Garen. She produced a lot of geography and science resources for the project when she worked in Hackney. She now runs the Wales Ape and Monkey Centre in Abercraf near Swansea where you can meet rescued baboons. You can find a link to her website on our links page.

The resource contains thirty pieces of information about Baboons and other primates and their relationships with Ancient Egyptians. It could be argued that the Egyptians' close links to animals was healthier than ours. This activity is designed to scaffold more research around the role of different animals in Egyptian culture. There is a mass of often conflicting information on the net. The danger is that this can lead to indiscriminate pasting of lumps of text to complete a "project". We wanted an activity that promoted talk and questioning and also provided a clearer framework for further study.

The picture and text can be separated (small dotted lines) for matching and sorting. The information can be placed on the map and/or the timeline. Ideally children could work in pairs or threes with some (say four/five cards) and subsequently join another small group with different information to exchange and compare. We would hope that children could research other animals close to the Egyptians in a similar way and produce their own biographical cards to share. There is a suggested list on the next page.

We are preparing more activities on the distribution and characteristics of baboons in Africa.

Webaddress: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org/egyptiansbaboons.pdf>

Last updated 15th February 2022

Collaborative Learning = Oracy in Curriculum
Context

makes challenging curriculum accessible.

improves social relations in the classroom.

provides scaffolding for exploratory talk.

Oracy in practice!

Oracy in context!

Basic principles behind our talk for
learning activities:

Oracy in curriculum contexts!

Build on children's own prior knowledge.

Move from concrete to abstract.

Ensure everyone works with
everyone else.

Extend social language towards
curriculum language.

Provide motivating ways to go over the
same knowledge more than once.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate
accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/egyptiansbaboons2.pdf>

Egyptians Baboon Dates, Places and Further Study.

2.3 million BCE	Early baboon skull - Malapa South Africa
3500BCE	Baboons as pets - Hierakanopolis
3150BCE	King Narmer grey baboon - Hierakanopolis
3000BCE	Baba - Hermopolis
2700BCE	Mummified baboons - Hermopolis
2500BCE	Thoth - Hermopolis
2400BCE	Baboons harvesting fruit - Giza
2000BCE	Travelling monkeys Deir el Bahari
1700BCE	Bronze axe heads Thebes
1600BCE	Monkeys picking figs - Ben Hassan Minya
1550BCE	Hapy goo that protects lungs - Buto
1500BCE	Hatshepsut Fleet to Punt - Saww
1400BCE	Vervet monkeys breaking a net - Thebes
1390BCE	Vervet monkeys playing - Thebes
1370BCE	Tutankhamun - Hermopolis
1370BCE	Twelve named baboons - Valley of the Kings
1300BCE	Lake of Fire - Thebes
1300BCE	Red granite baboons - Temple of Luxor
1275BCE	Baboon from Punt
1200BCE	Baboon temple frieze Karnak
1200BCE	Baboons worshipping Ra -Thebes
1100BCE	Baboon playing flute Luxor
1000BCE	Amenhotep's statue - Hermopolis
1000BCE	Khonsu moon god - Luxor
800BCE	Temple statuettes - Karnak
700BCE	Hapi baboon Conopic Jar - Giza
600BCE	Magic baboon amulets - Faiyum Oasis
400BCE	Temple baboons of Ptah - Memphis
280BCE	Baboon playing music - Aswan

Other Animals and Gods

Jackal Anubis
Bull Ptah Osiris
Cow Hathor isis
Serpent Eel Atum
Cat Bastet
Falcon, Shrew, Mongoose Horus
Scarab beetle Khepri
Lioness Sekhmet
Crocodile Sobek
Hippo Tawaret
Baboon Ibis Thoth
Sheep Amun
Hawk Ra
Typhonian Set
Frog Heket
Snake Renenutet
Scorpion Selket
Vulture Nekhbet



Baba was an evil and violent god of the Underworld. He was shown as a Ba-boon as early as 3000 BCE.

HERMOPOLIS



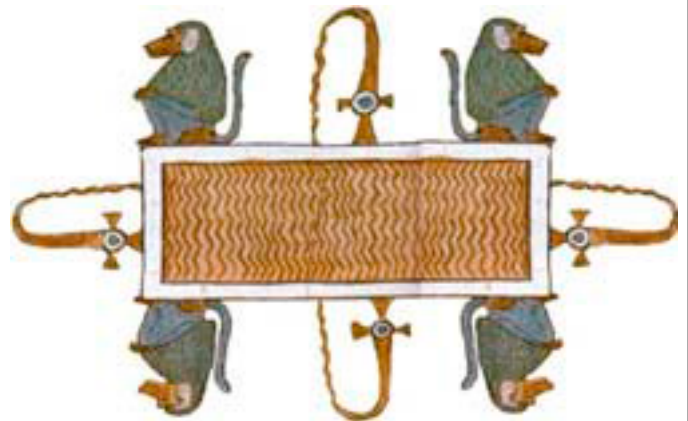
The Egyptians believed that Baboons were intelligent and so Thoth the Moon God of knowledge and writing was depicted as a Baboon at around 2500 BCE.

HERMOPOLIS



A necklace dated around 1400 BCE found in Tutankhamun's tomb shows Baboons greeting the sun from Ra's day boat. Ra was the God of the Sun.

HERMOPOLIS



The Egyptians believed that Baboons could ward off evil, so they were shown guarding the Lake of Fire at the gate to the Underworld around 1000 BCE.

THEBES



Amenhotep III built a giant Baboon Statues made of quartz round a sacred lake to protect people from drowning . This was around 1300BCE

HERMOPOLIS



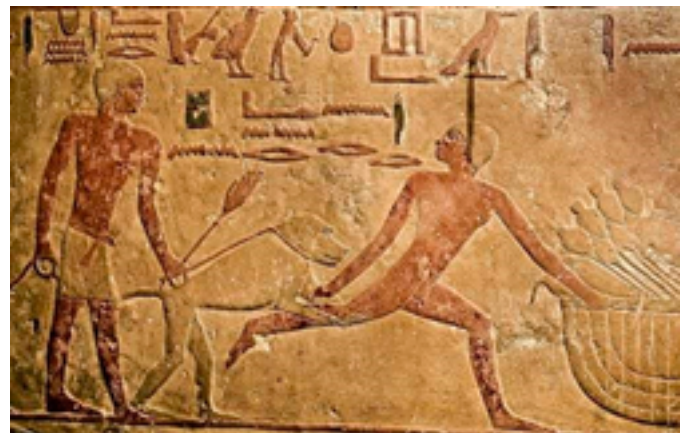
From 2700 BCE sacred temple Baboons were mummified, decorated with jewellery and flower garlands and put in coffins.

SAQQARA



King Narmer in 3150 BCE was portrayed as a Baboon with a silver-grey mane. He was the first king of Egypt who unified the country.

HIERAKONPOLIS



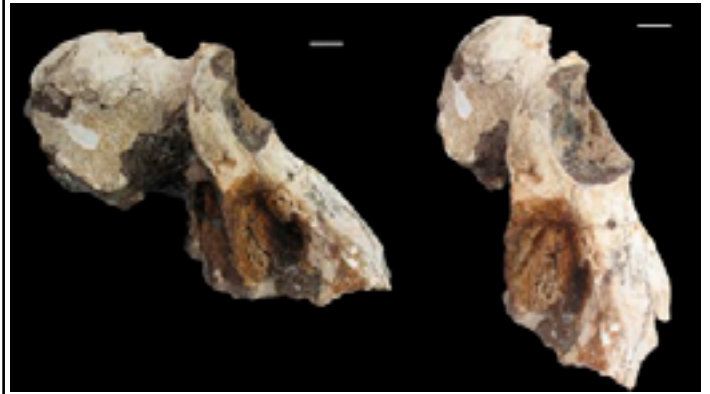
As early as 3500 BCE baboons were kept as pets or even possibly in the first Zoo! They can be seen in paintings and carv-ings on leads. This led to the story that some were used like our modern police dogs!

HIERAKONPOLIS



Mummified organs were buried in Canopic jars in around 700 BCE. The Baboon head of the god Hapi was used to look after the lungs.

GIZA



A 2.3 million year old skull of a Baboon ancestor was found in South Africa near to early hominid fossils.

MALAPA



Baboons are carved into bronze axe-heads from around 1700 BCE.

THEBES



Pharaoh Hatshepsut built a Red Sea Fleet 1500 BCE to trade by sea with Punt to the south. She brought back gold, ebony, spices and Baboons.

SAWW



12 Baboons are on a painting in Tutankhamun's tomb wall. They each have a name. These were painted around 1370 BCE.

VALLEY OF THE KINGS



Isis and Nephthys praise the sun in the hymn to Ra. The Baboons are in the background again. This dates from about 1450 BCE.

THEBES



Faience a turquoise ceramic was used to make jewellery, figurines and amulets around 600BCE. The Egyptians believed it had magic powers.

FAIYUM OASIS



The baboons who were kept near the Temple of Ptah-under-his-Moringa-tree at Memphis may be Olive Baboons. These date from around 400 BCE.

MEMPHIS



In 2014 archaeologists discovered baboon statuettes at the Temple in Karnak. They are believed to be from around 800BC.

KARNAK



A frieze with 22 baboons worshipping the rising sun with upraised arms were found at the Temple in Abu Simbel right in the south of Egypt near the border. They were built around 1200 BCE.

ABU SIMBEL



The baboons carved from red granite are found at the base of the pedestals of the obelisks at the Temple of Luxor. They were built by Ramses 11 in around 1300BCE.

LUXOR



Guenon Monkeys were also kept as pets and they often travelled with their owners. This was found in a tomb from 2000 BCE.

DEIR EL BAHARI



In some ancient Egyptian art baboons are shown harvesting fruits from tall trees in the tomb of Hetpet 2400BCE. In some parts of the world monkeys are still trained to harvest fruits

GIZA



Monkeys are helping to pick figs. These pictures date from around 1600BCE. They were found in tombs in Ben Hassan. 225 kilometres south of Cairo

BEN HASSAN MINYA



Vervet monkeys trying to break into nets containing doughnuts which they love to eat. This painting was on the wall of the tomb of Vizier Rehmire. Monkeys and nuts came down the Nile from Nubia in 1400BCE.

THEBES



These wall paintings were on the tomb of Anen 1390BCE. Vervet monkeys are playing under the armchair of Queen Tiye.

THEBES



Here is a painting of a monkey playing a double flute for a man dancing. This dates from 1100BCE and was found in Deir el Medineh.

LUXOR



The god Khonsu was also shown as a Baboon in his role as Moon God. His name is on this faience statue from 1000BCE.

LUXOR



Happy one of the 4 sons of Horus had the head of a Baboon. He was the god who protected the lungs 1550 BCE.

BUTO



Tests on tooth enamel from this Baboon skull 1275 BCE show it was not born in Egypt but much further south in Punt.

THEBES



A carving of a Baboon playing a musical instrument. Found in the Temple of Hathor at Philae 280 BCE

ASWAN



Found in 2017 a painting showing Baboons worshipping the boat of the sun god Ra on the wall of the tomb of a royal artist Khonsu 1200 BCE

THEBES

