



THE BARNUM MUSEUM

# EDUCATOR GUIDE

THE WIDOW, THE PRIEST, AND THE MUMMY



**FUN LESSONS FOR ALL AGES!**  
**ENGAGE YOUNG MINDS!**  
**PROVOKE THOUGHTS!**  
**INSPIRE CURIOSITY!**  
**FREE FOR EVERYONE!**

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# BACKGROUND

This exhibit tells an amazing story of discovery that has taken place at the Barnum Museum. The exhibit is designed for curious people of all ages, but this guide is mainly for parents and teachers who want to help younger audiences engage with the story.

In this guide, you'll find lessons for all ages. You can tell what age the lesson is intended for by looking at the red banner in the center of the page. Above the banner, you'll find a "Background" section that provides enough information to deliver the lesson. You'll find the lesson itself in the lower left corner of each page.

Don't be afraid to try lessons for different ages! Any of the activities can inspire further exploration! We encourage you to keep asking questions, stay curious, and have fun!

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

### LESSONS

Simple instructions can be found here for each lesson. This isn't a script, just a starting point!

1. Make lessons fun by relating them to your students!
2. Some students may be able to explore the exhibit first.
3. For others, you might have to summarize the relevant parts.

You may prefer written student responses, or presentations to the class. It's up to you! Each lesson ends with a discussion prompt.



# BACKGROUND - TOOTH DETECTIVES!

A crucial breakthrough in our knowledge of Ipy came from Dr. Alan Lurie, a professor and dentist. He studied Ipy's teeth, and found many abscesses - sites of bad infections resulting from cavities and worn down teeth. *Ouch!*

These findings give us clues about what Ipy ate, and how often she brushed and flossed - probably not often. But teeth can tell us even more! People are born with all the teeth they'll ever have, and we start to lose our "baby teeth" at around 6 years old.

In this lesson, your students play the role of detectives seeking the "*tooth*" about each other's age. You can prepare them by leading them through [Dig Deeper: Mummy Teeth](#) or just start the lesson below:

## 1ST - 4TH GRADE LESSON

### WHAT DO TEETH TELL US?

Have your students pair up and take turns studying each others teeth! Then have students report their findings by answering the questions below:

1. How many teeth can you see?
2. Are there any baby teeth?
3. Are there any missing teeth?
4. Based on their teeth, how old do you think this person is?

Now, let's discuss: do some foods hurt your teeth? Which ones?



# BACKGROUND - SECRETS OF TRANSLATION!

By the 1800s, nobody spoke ancient Egyptian or could read ancient hieroglyphs. But during Napoleon's invasion of Egypt, a 2000 year old *stele* was found. A *stele* was an ancient way to share news, usually carved to mark an important event.

This *stele*, named the Rosetta Stone, carried the same text in hieroglyphs, Ancient Greek, and Demotic Egyptian - a language descended from hieroglyphs, but also forgotten. Crucially, people *did* still know how to read Ancient Greek.

People started translating! Using the Rosetta Stone, humanity regained the ability to read hieroglyphs. This is how we know who the coffin at the Barnum Museum belonged to: we can read his name. Don't forget to [Dig Deeper: How Hieroglyphs Work!](#)

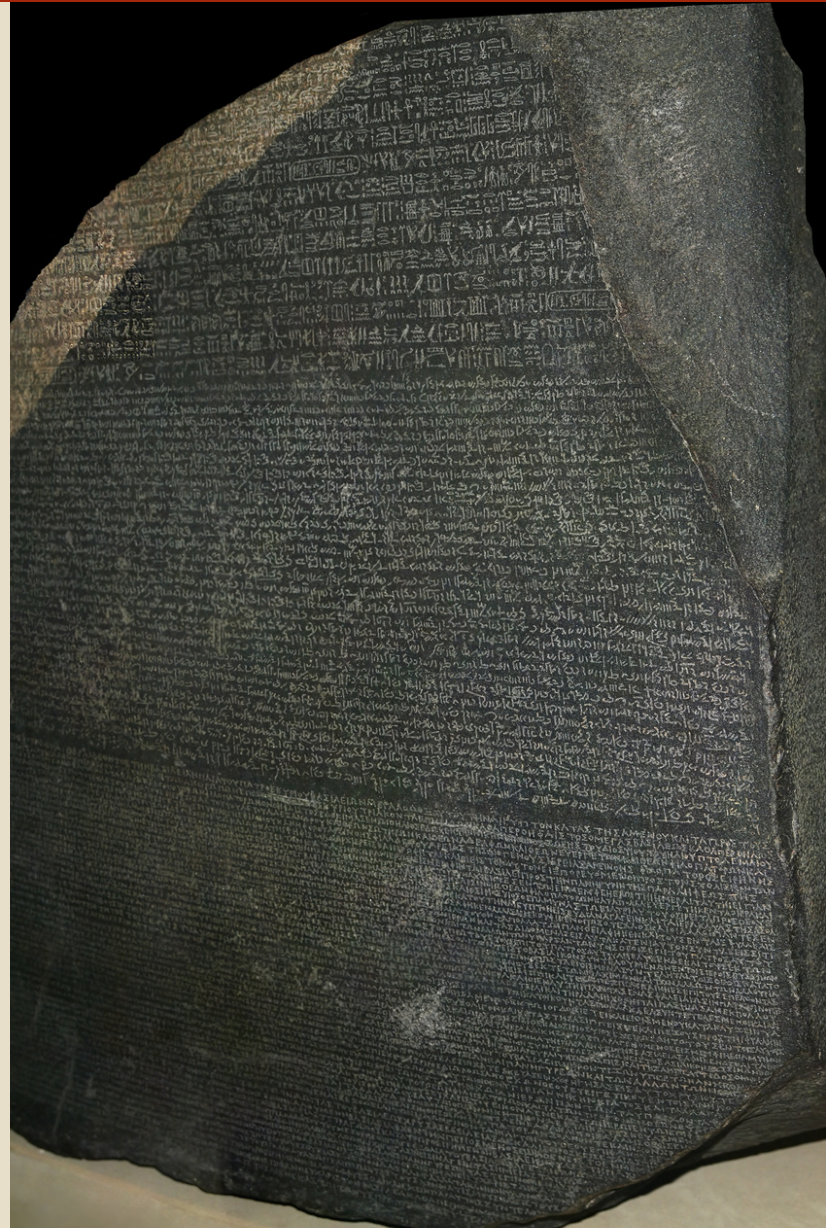
## 5TH - 8TH GRADE LESSON

### HOMEGROWN GLYPHS

Have students form an even number of small groups, working together to make a new alphabet:

1. Make a 1 page translation of the English alphabet into 26 new glyphs. Be creative!
2. On the same sheet, write a brief message in this new alphabet. Keep it simple!
3. Swap pages between groups.
4. Translate the messages!

Now, let's discuss: can you think of any other glyphs that we use?



# BACKGROUND - GENDERS, CULTURE, AND HISTORY

In Ancient Egypt men held most power, but women occupied important roles and were respected members of society. They could own property, do business, and even become pharaohs. Some women wielded power as royal wives, priestesses, or scribes.

Although women had certain restrictions compared to men, they still contributed greatly to Ancient Egyptian culture and society. They had more rights and influence than women in some other ancient civilizations, and even some modern ones.

While we know very little about Ipy personally, you can learn more by watching Dr. Sahar Saleem's presentation, [A Woman From Ancient Egypt](#).

## HIGH SCHOOLER LESSON

### GENDER IN SOCIETY

Have students independently research and report on gender in history:

1. Work inclusively and as a class to define Gender.
2. Each student researches a historic culture's gender roles.
3. Students share their findings and sources with the class.
4. In class discussion, contrast findings across history.

Now, let's discuss: how does our contemporary society compare?

