



EMORY

MICHAEL C.
CARLOS
MUSEUM
carlos.emory.edu

Archaeology: Cultural Scene

Investigation Lesson Plan

Essential Question: How can objects in the Carlos Museum collections be used to understand the discipline of archaeology?

Relief of a Dwarf and Dog

Old Kingdom, Dynasty 5, Ca 2494-2345 BC.

Limestone, 2006.10.1

Gift of Wayne and Ellen Bailey



Show the picture of the *Relief of a Dwarf and Dog* from the Carlos Museum's Egyptian collection. Tell the students only part of its name, *Tomb Relief*. Ask the students to apply the 5 "W's" (who, what, when, where, and why), to see what information can be gathered through simple observation. Explain that the 5 "W's" are a tool that may shed light on the ancient people who made and used the artifact.

Give students a set amount of time (5-10 minutes) to write down a thorough description of what they see, and then answer the 5 "W's". Have the students share some ideas, focusing on how and why they drew each conclusion.

Further Information:

Explain that the relief was the Ancient Egyptian equivalent to a section of a tomb stone. These stone carvings were one of the primary ways to convey information about a person's life and often showed them moving successfully towards the after life. Stone carving was an extremely labor intensive process that could only be done by master artisans. This relief was found in an Old Kingdom mastaba tomb, and was created well over 4000 years ago. Mastaba tombs consisted of an above ground room where family members could leave food offerings, and an underground burial chamber. The tomb was decorated with scenes of the person's everyday life in the hopes that the afterlife would be similarly abundant. On the far right and far left, fragments of people are visible—the back of the front figure and an arm and foot of the back figure. Did the students notice them? The top of the relief shows a platform supported on a long pole carried by the larger figures. From these details, archaeologists have concluded that the figures on the edges were servants shouldering a chair on which the tomb owner would have been seated. The central figure beneath the carrying chair is another servant holding a short staff with a curled end in his left hand. His short, stocky proportions indicate he is a dwarf. The master's hunting hound walks in front of him, his short tail curled tightly behind and his ears pricked up. The dog wears an ornate collar reflecting his owner's status. The pair trotting along beneath the litter adds a note of humor to an otherwise somber procession. The breed depicted is the basenji, one of the most ancient of all dogs.



EMORY

MICHAEL C.
CARLOS
MUSEUM
carlos.emory.edu

The hieroglyphs beneath the carrying pole spell the dog's name, *hbn*. This is also the word for the dark African wood that we now call "ebony" derived from the ancient Egyptian. Egyptian pets were often given names that referred to their color or physical attributes. Today we might call a black dog Blackie.

Next, show a picture of a tomb stone from Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta. Ask the students what future archaeologists could learn from the picture, and if they feel it is an accurate representation of our culture. Why or why not?