

Instructions

Materials needed: Clay, cocktails sticks or similar, work mats, jewels (optional!)

Information to give the children:

1. This is a great introduction to superstition, religion, and the afterlife beliefs of the Ancient Egyptians. This special amulet, also known as the backbone of Osiris, was especially important in the process of getting the mummified person to sit up when it was time.
2. Some Djed amulets are fabulous jewels, others are made from a basic plaster, showing they were important to both rich and poor.
3. It is chapter 155 of the *Book of the Dead* that specifically refers to the Djed amulet.

Instructions to give the children:

- a) Read and follow the instruction sheet!
- b) If the clay dries and cracks before they finish, apply a little water.
- c) To make the amulets more decorative 'jewels' could be added once dry so think ahead when designing.
- d) Inscribe your name on the back of the amulet.

Follow-on activity

1. Research other specific amulets and their importance – then create an Ancient Egyptian Top Trumps game.
2. Once dry glue on decorative jewels, assorted lentils make excellent decorations. View Tutankhamun's Djed amulet for inspiration.
3. Versions of the Seth/Osiris myth are worth exploring. Not only do they explain the pillar/backbone of Osiris, they are also great stories!