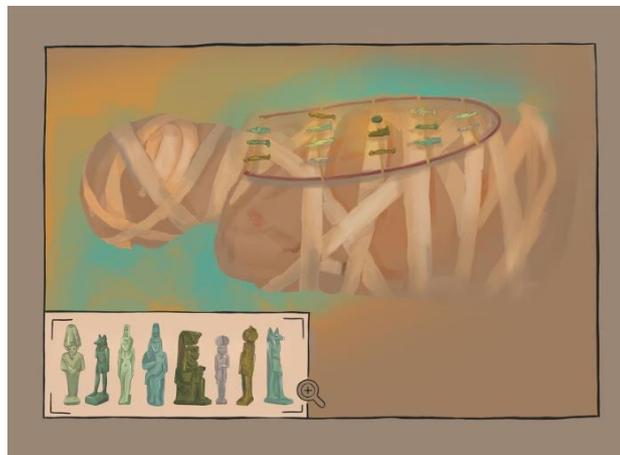




## Exploring the Power of Amulets: Design Challenge!

Do you have something special you wear or carry around to bring you good luck? In ancient Egypt people of all ages, both rich and poor, would have owned at least one small personal charm or amulet. An amulet was often worn like a piece of jewellery and could be made in many shapes and colours from different materials like glass, faience, linen, stone and even wood.

The design of each amulet was believed to have different protective powers. Amulets were important to the living but they were also needed to protect the dead. This is why amulets are often found in mummy wrappings or in graves as they were placed with the bodies of the dead before burial.



Sometimes people were buried with the amulets they wore in life. There were also special amulets that were only used in burials to help the dead in the afterlife.

Thousands of amulets with different protective powers have been found during archaeological digs (excavation) at Amarna.



The most commonly found design for jewellery and amulets at Amarna was the wadjet eye design. Ancient Egyptian stories link the eye to the god Horus who lost his eye in a battle with another god call Seth. The eye probably had protective powers and was worn in life and death. The sign of the eye is also a hieroglyph. When said aloud it would make a word that sounds something like wadjet.



Bes was one of the ancient Egyptian gods. His main job was to protect women and children. Bes was usually shown as a man with dwarfism wearing a scary mask. Sometimes he had a lion's mane and tail and held a tambourine! Lots of small amulets and jewellery pieces in the shape of Bes have been found in the houses at Amarna. These would have been worn especially by the women and children who once lived there to help keep them safe.



Scarab beetle amulets were very common in ancient Egypt. They were linked to the god Khepri who was often shown with the body of a man and the head of a beetle. The flat bottom of scarab amulets was normally decorated with images or hieroglyphs. Scarabs were also linked to rebirth and are often found in burials.



Lots of fish amulets have been found at Amarna. The fish was another symbol of rebirth and was used in burials. Fish amulets were also believed to give protection during life, particularly to children!

### **Design Challenge!**

Now you are an amulet expert!

Have a go at designing your own special amulet.

What would it look like?

Is it based on the shape of an animal, a plant, a person or something totally different?

What colour will your amulet be?

What protective powers will your amulet have?

Why did you choose this shape for your amulet?