

Draw and colour in a scarab beetle

The Museum has some ancient Egyptian scarab beetles in its collection. The ancient Egyptians used them in their art and religion. The beetle is actually a real one and is found all over Egypt; it eats a range of food including animal dung!

To the ancient Egyptians the scarab beetle represented hope and the restoration or renewal of life so was often used for good luck charms, jewellery and as a stamp to seal documents. The colours of the scarab beetle usually had meaning too: red represented the God, Ra; yellow, the sun and the desert; blue, the Nile; and green, growth.

Pictured is an example of a scarab beetle. In the box below, using felt tip pens or colouring pencils, draw and colour in your own scarab beetle. For inspiration, you can search online to see some pictures of real beetles and ancient Egyptian scarab beetles in museum collections.



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