



MUSEO  
EGIZIO

**STORIES FROM THE AFTERLIFE**

**Religion and funerary cults**

ONLINE MEETING  
VADEMECUM FOR THE TEACHER







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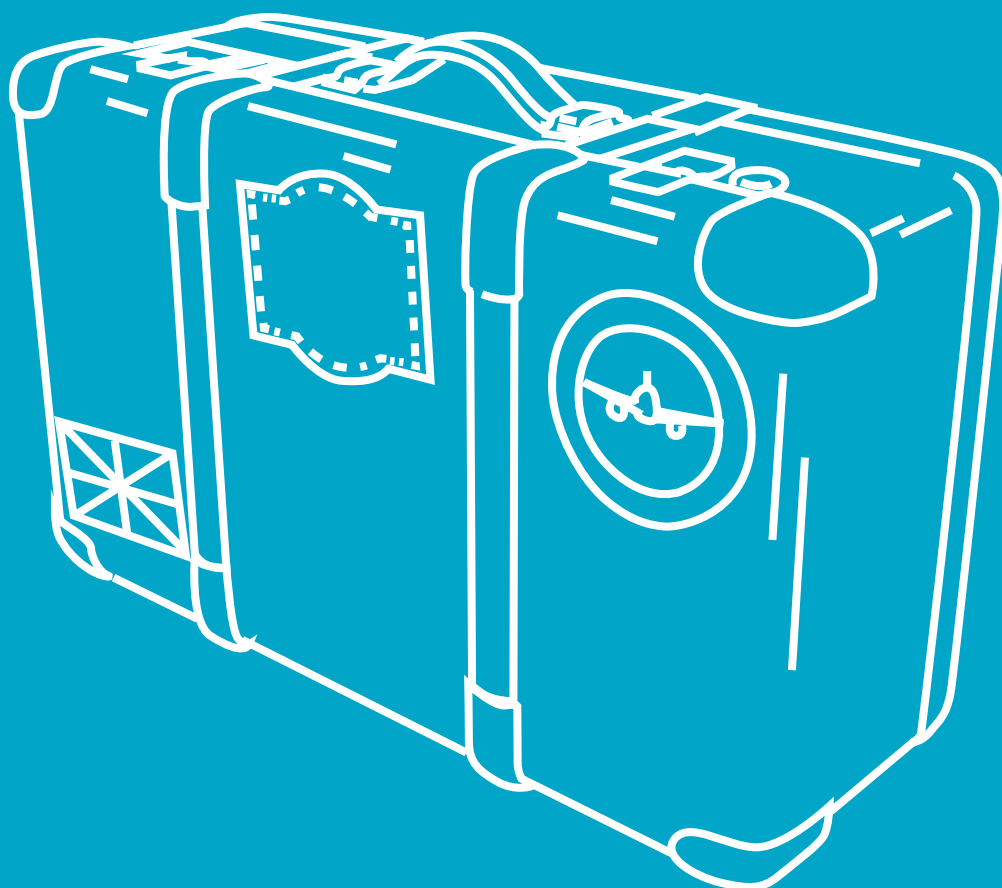




# **BEFORE**

## **THE MEETING WITH THE EGYPTOLOGIST**

### **THE ESSENTIAL SUITCASE**





## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

To prepare your students, we propose you a game through which you can involve your class before the live meeting with the Egyptologist: you should not reveal that this is a preparatory exercise: let's create a little bit of mystery!

**The purpose of the game** is to help the students to understand how the ancient Egyptians conceived life in the afterlife, a destination for which the grave goods were the “luggage”, the resources needed and considered indispensable even in their daily life.

Below **(p. 7)** you will find the **instructions to print and provide to each student**, so that they will be able to proceed independently.

At the end of the task, it will be fun for the whole class to share the contents of each suitcase: the result will be surprising for everybody! You can then choose together the ten most extravagant objects and keep the list at hand: it will be very useful during the meeting!





# THE ESSENTIAL SUITCASE: A MYSTERIOUS TASK

Imagine having to go on a trip.

But, unlike our usual trips, this time you will be alone, without knowing the destination (where you are going) and how long you will have to stay away.

In short, an adventurous and **mysterious journey**.

As with any departure, what you need to do is... pack a **suitcase**!

Luckily it's only an imaginary journey that offers a great advantage: you can carry **as much luggage as you want** and your suitcases can be as big as a train wagon!

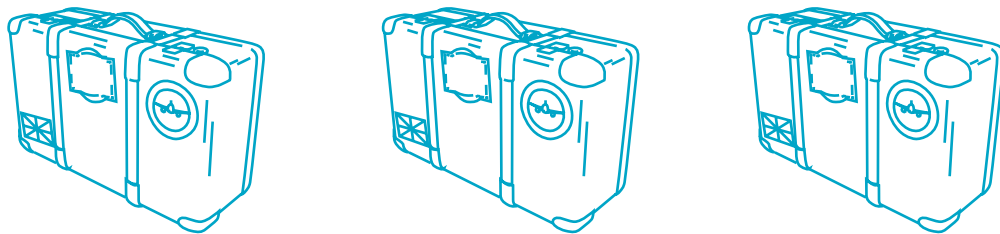
Put the backpack aside, space is not a problem!

That said, you just have to decide WHAT to take with you...

**Think carefully**, because the destination can be far away: you can't go back to fetch what you have distractedly forgotten.

To decide what to choose, try asking yourself some questions.

For example, "Who or what could I meet?", "Will it be cold or hot?", "Will there be shops or restaurants?", "Is there something I care about and that I would never leave behind?"



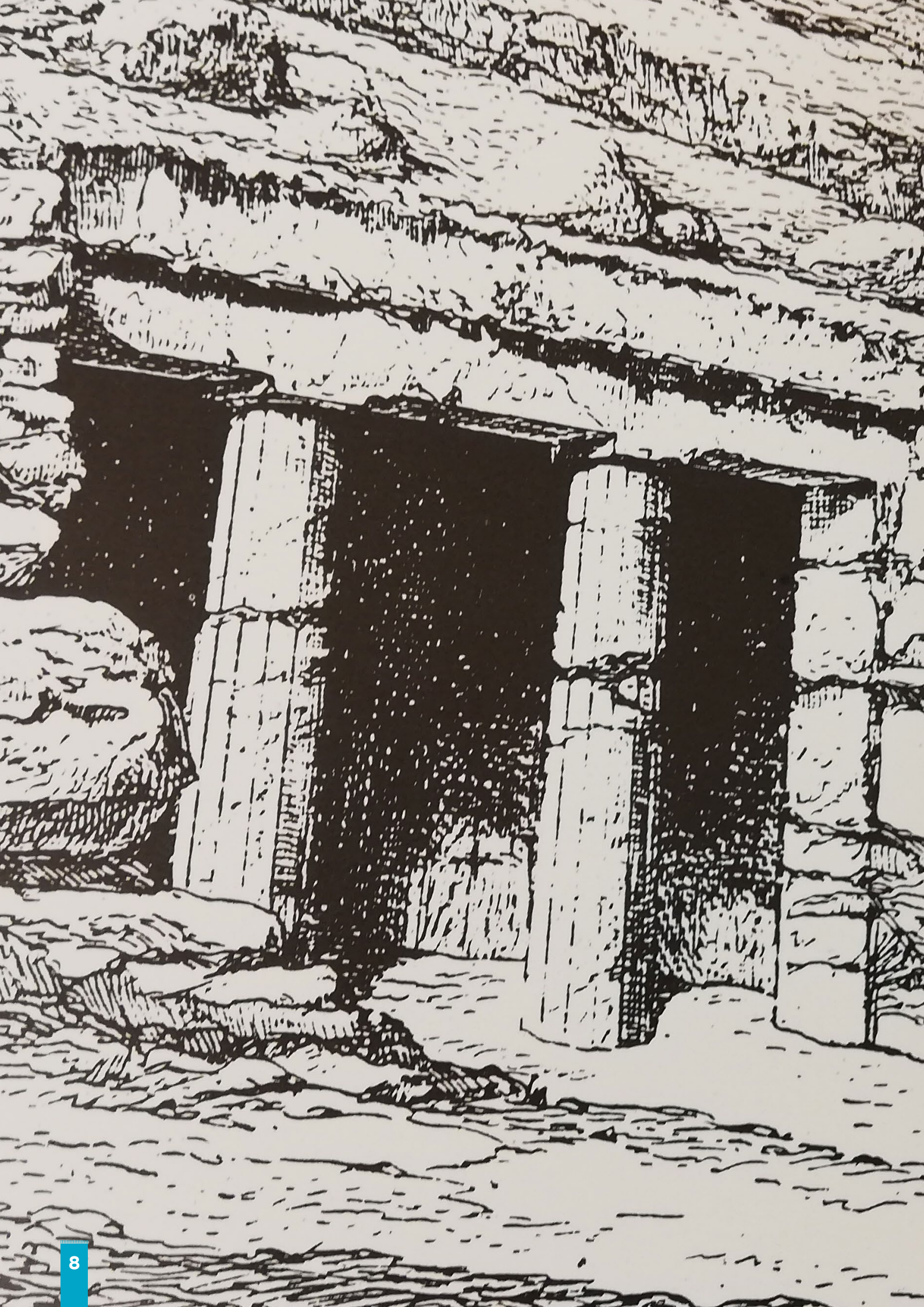
Now, let's see **how to proceed**:

- if you have chosen to bring small items with you, you can try to really pack your luggage, asking permission to use a real suitcase for the task! Once finished, you can take a picture (before putting everything back in order!);
- alternatively, you can draw or photograph each of the objects you would take with you on this adventure;
- for the lazy, even a simple list is fine!

In any case, don't forget to write the reasons that made you choose *exactly that object*, and not another one!

And you never know, sooner or later, somebody could ask you what you packed in your suitcase...







# **DURING**

## **THE MEETING WITH THE EGYPTOLOGIST**

### **TIMELINE**





## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

To help guide you during the meeting, we have prepared an essential timeline with some of the museum exhibits described during the live meeting.

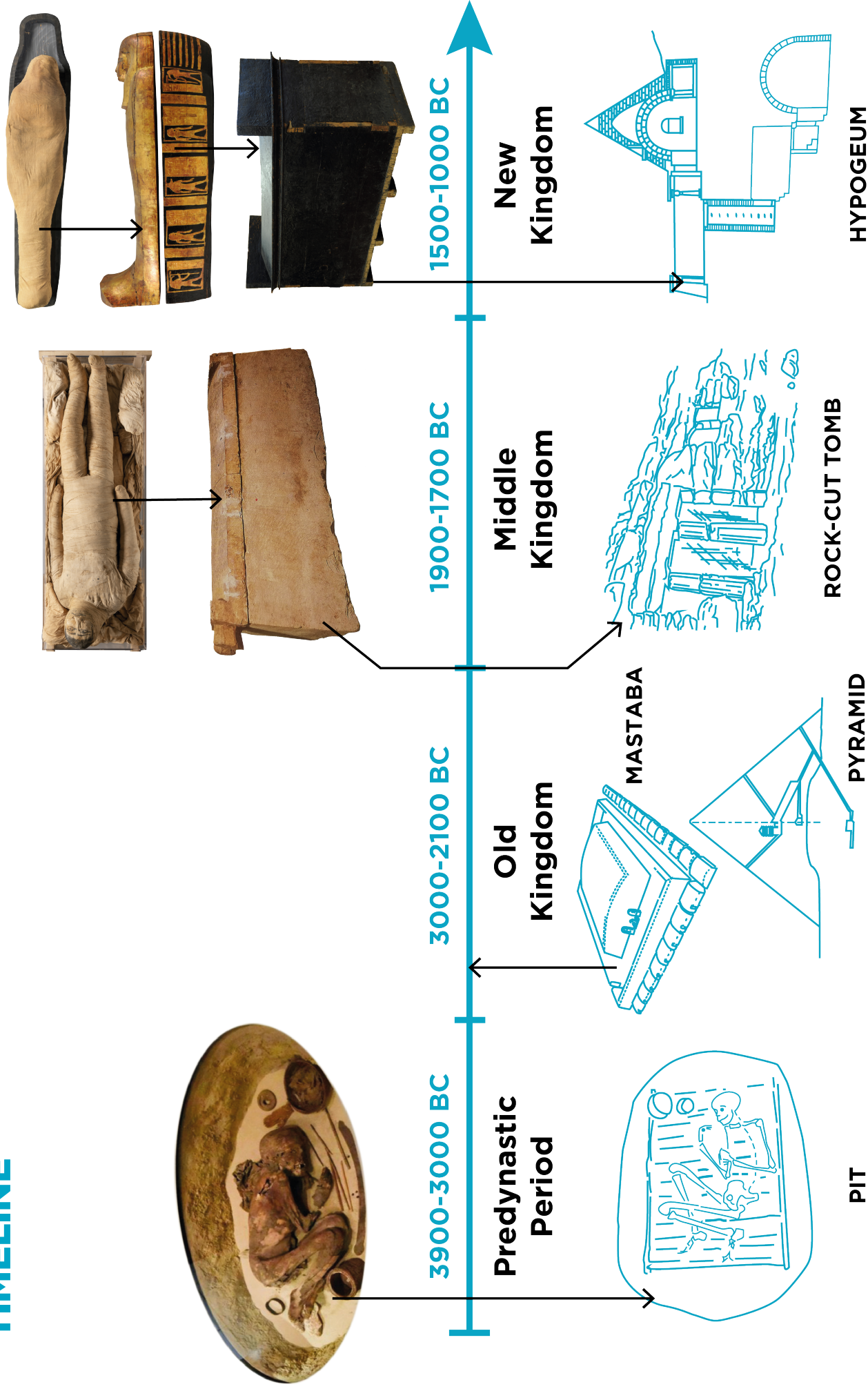
The dates provided have been deliberately “rounded” to facilitate memorization. This tool helps the class to relate each individual archaeological find with a “before” and an “after”, respecting the cultural and historical evolution of Egyptian funerary traditions.

You can use the timeline of **p. 11** during the meeting.  
**We recommend printing a copy for the class.**





# TIMELINE



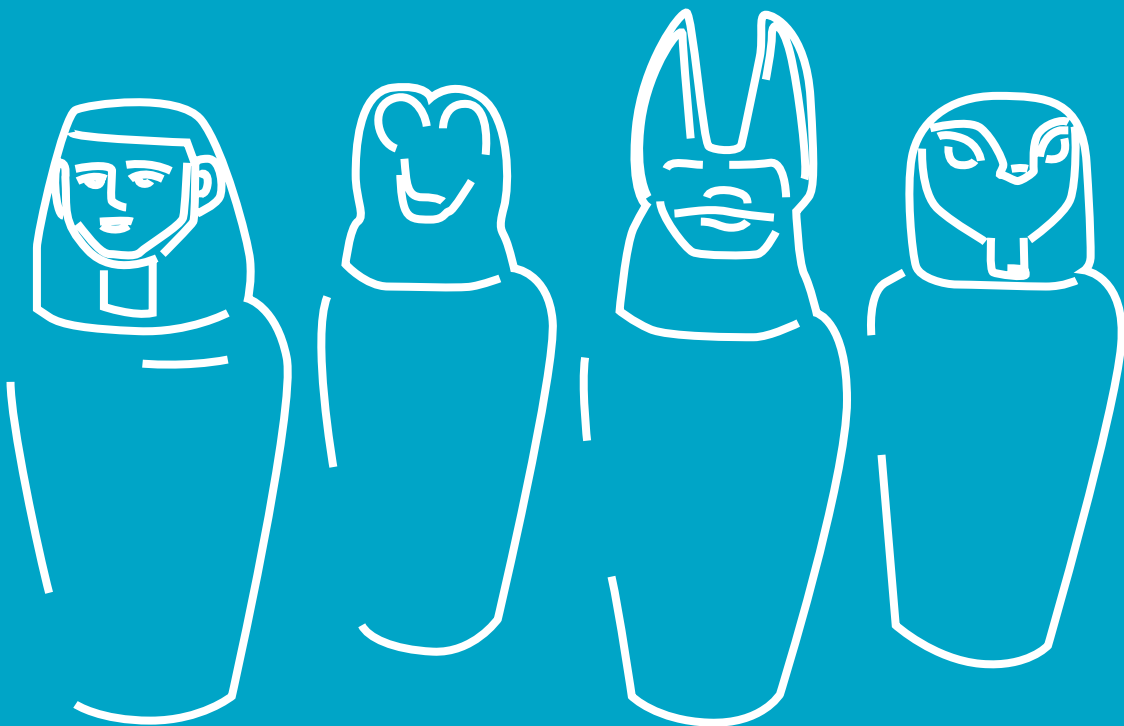




# **DURING**

## **THE MEETING WITH THE EGYPTOLOGIST**

### **THE CANOPIC JARS**





## INSIGHT

The special containers used to store the internal organs extracted from the deceased during the mummification were called “canopic jars”.

In the tombs they are found in series of four, because they are associated with the four sons of the god Horus, specialized in the protection of organs, as shown in the illustration of **p. 15** **(we recommend printing a copy of it for the class).**

It may be surprising that **brain** and **heart**, two of the most important organs, have never been found in the canopic jars.

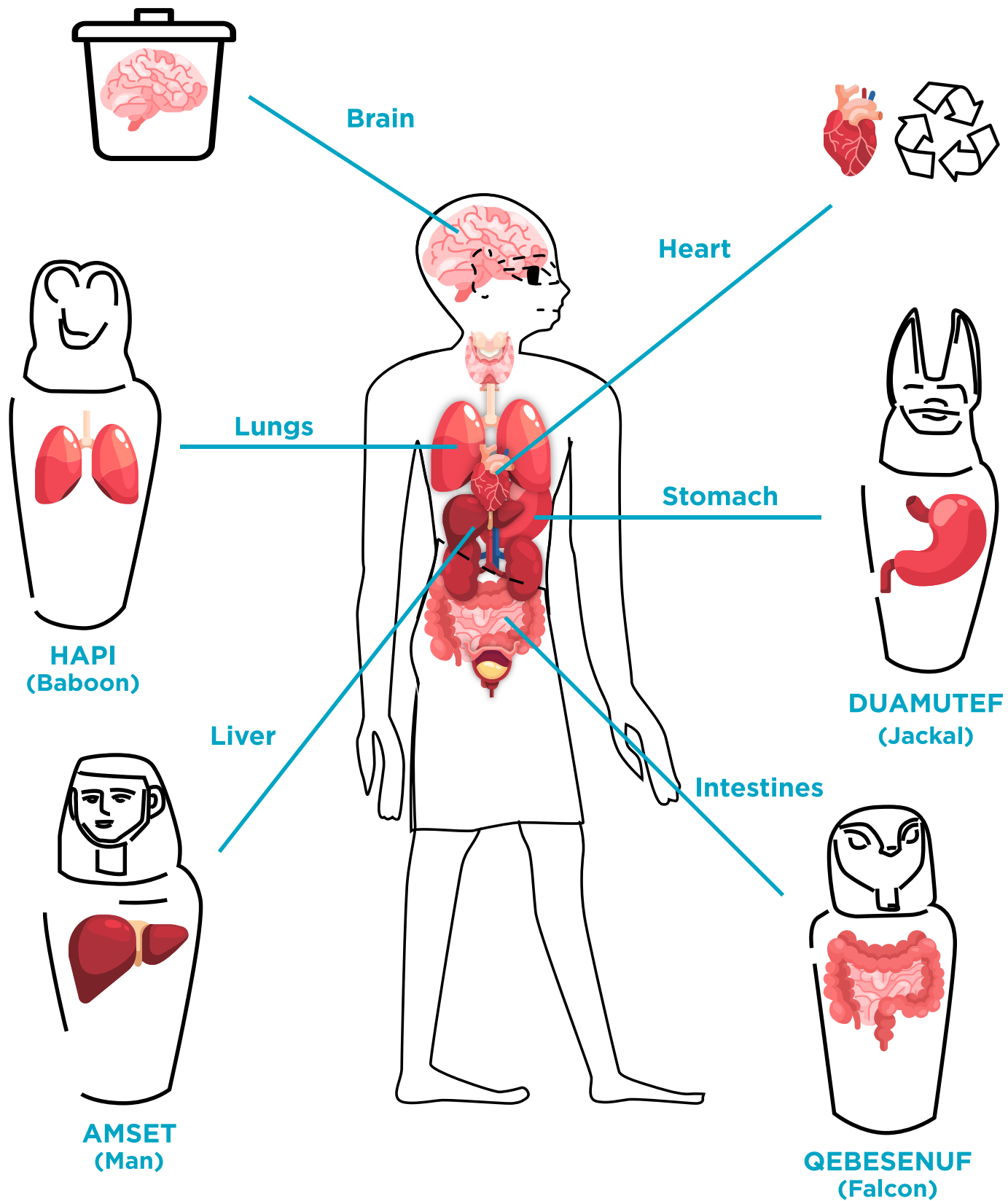
The ancient Egyptians considered the heart as the “seat of thought and feelings”; for this reason it was extracted, embalmed and put back inside the chest. The brain, on the other hand, wasn’t so lucky, because it was literally thrown away!

Maybe this drastic solution was due to the difficulty of conserving some organs rather than others. However, the Egyptians discovered the functions of the brain, to the point of even practising delicate surgical interventions, described in medical papyri still preserved today!

Remember that removing the internal organs and placing them in canopic jars is a tradition that changed over time. In fact, it may happen that some deceased never had their organs extracted and that others, who lived in more recent times, had them put back in the right place once embalmed.

This is why in some intact tombs (not looted by thieves) the canopic jars are not there, as in the case of Kha and Merit!

# THE CANOPIC JARS



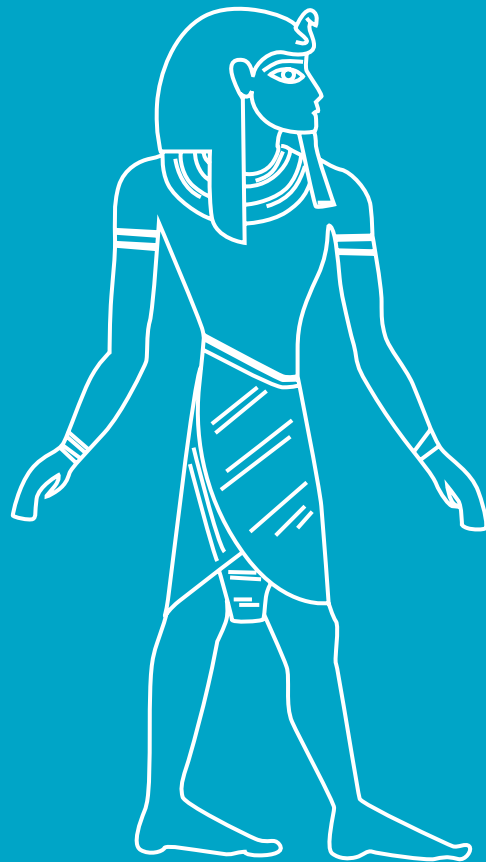




# **DURING**

## **THE MEETING WITH THE EGYPTOLOGIST**

### **AN UNUSUAL MAP**





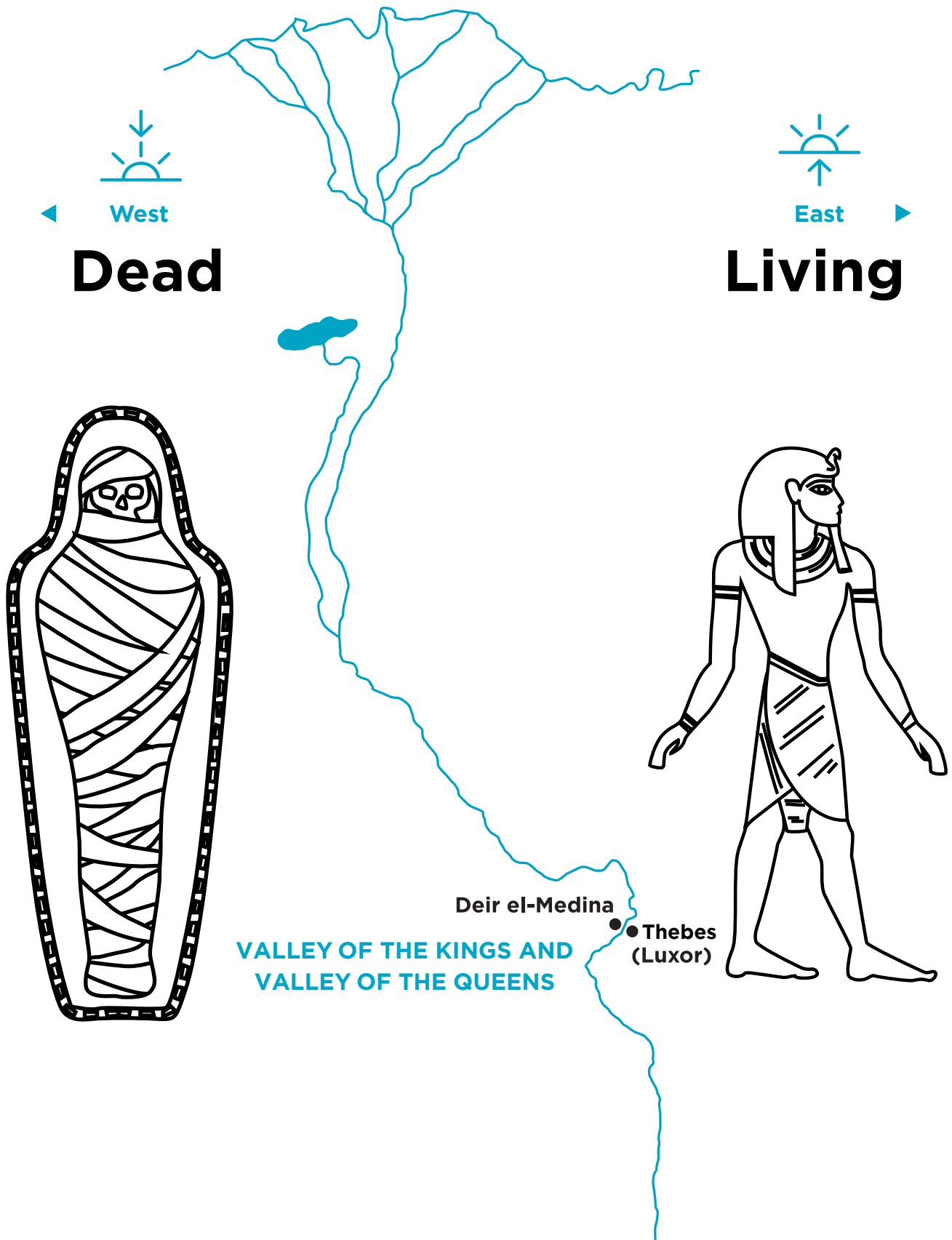
## INSIGHT

Ancient Egypt is not only divided between North and South, that is, between Lower and Upper Egypt.

The unusual map of **p. 19** shows a funerary tradition inspired by the course of the sun: the Nile is the border between the world of the living (to the east, where the sun rises) and that of the dead (to the west, where it sets), with the intention to guarantee to the soul of the deceased the rebirth that the sun repeats every day. **(You can print a copy of the map of p. 19 for the class).**



## AN UNUSUAL MAP









## SUMMARY MAP OF THE TOPICS COVERED DURING THE MEETING

