

## Year 4 – Derby Museum Visit

October 2023



This museum trip was for an Egyptian workshop as well as visiting the Stone Age exhibition to recap Year 3 learning and exploring many aspects of Derby, which are covered within school for the local study aspect of History and Geography e.g. the Joseph Wright Gallery.

The focus of this visit was to ignite the curiosity of the children as they began to study the Ancient Egyptians. Having provided an overview of the time period as well as teaching mummification, this trip really sets the scene for the module. As they explore the modern technology used to find out about the mummy artefact, they use their critical thinking and reasoning skills to extrapolate knowledge from the information provided by x-rays.

Whilst workshops to create a scarab beetle and to use hieroglyphics on authentic parchment supported the children's learning, the focus in the museum was fostering a sense of independence, curiosity and confidence as they explored the local history and geography of Derby. Whilst learning about Sir Richard Arkwright's industrial entrepreneurial spirit and skills, they also explored the art and culture of the time through the work of Joseph Wright. In addition, they explored the WWII exhibition to bring to life their Year 3 learning in addition to the Stone Age. Looking at Derby in 1066 also provides a foundation for when they study this in Year 5.

After a short coach journey, we arrived and one group went for the Egyptian workshop. During this, they learnt about the Valley of the Kings and different jobs within ancient Egypt. After this fun overview session through the eyes of Ramose, the scribe, the children moved onto practical activities. Using real parchment, the children enjoyed practicing their art and penmanship skills to create their own writing in hieroglyphics. Whilst some children did this, others learnt about mummification by removing body organs (from a fabric body) to place in canopic jars. This linked nicely as children visited Derby's very own mummy! An animated explanation of the process of using X-rays to find out about the inside of the mummy without opening it was captivating. The discussion about the wonders of modern technology was interesting. Another interesting debate, which continued back at school centered around the ethics of Egyptian artefacts, and mummies, being purchased and kept in the UK. A highlight for many children was meeting the mummy, Pepilou. "I like the mummy which was uncovered as it was 2500 years old." When back in school, this knowledge was used when mummifying a tomato, which created a great set of instructions.

When taking part in a fact-finding trail about Derby through the years, the children showed great resilience to find all the information, even the tricky ones. Happily, the children were able to touch the animals, use magnifying glasses and dress up as they explored. Throughout the whole visit, the children were respectful towards members of the public, the artefacts and staff within the museum having learnt about the atmosphere expected in museums. This was greatly enjoyed with children exclaiming this was a great fun day as they enjoyed seeing plenty of "different things in one place."

