

Art Artifact: Ancient Egyptian Sarcophagus

A sarcophagus is a stone coffin. Scholars believe that early limestone coffins had the properties to dissolve the body quickly, hence the translation of sarcophagus to "flesh eater."

In the case of royalty some were made of solid gold or silver. In the 18-20th Dynasties, the upper classes enclosed inner coffins of wood or metal in stone outer sarcophagi, a practice that continued for many years.

Make your own sarcophagus:

1. Use the template to create an outline for your sarcophagus on heavy stock paper.

Or you can create your own sarcophagus using your own ideas and designs.

2. Cut out, leaving the broad outline intact.
3. Using King Tut's coffin as a model, draw your own face on the top part of the sarcophagus.
4. Next, divide the lower half into quarters and decorate the spaces with symbols that signify your interests. For instance you might draw musical notes in one section, sports symbols in another, fish, etc.

