

## Art Artifact: Scarab Beetle

The scarab beetle is a real beetle, a common beetle. To the ancient Egyptians, this common beetle symbolized hope and the restoration of life. They used the design of a scarab beetle in many ways.



Seals were created in the shape of a scarab and used to stamp documents. Artisans made scarab jewelry using precious gems and painted clay. The same design was used to make good luck charms and amulets to ward off evil.

In ancient Egypt, scarab jewelry, good luck charms, and amulets were often given as gifts. An inscription was often added with the name of the owner and perhaps a motto or a message, like, "good luck in your new job".

Scarabs came in many designs including winged scarabs. The colors were rich and beautiful. Blue symbolized the Nile River. Red symbolized Ra. There were touches of yellow for the desert and sun.

Green was used to emphasis growth. Over time, the scarab became a sacred symbol.

Make a scarab and inscribe the bottom with ancient hieroglyphics just like the Egyptians' sacred amulets.

You can use clay, wood, paper mâché, etc. Then paint your scarab with the beautiful colors of Egypt.

