OI MAGIC WORKBOOK
This week we have been learning about the history and significance of magic within the ancient Middle East, so we’ve created a magic-related scavenger hunt on our online database!

The rules are simple, go to https://oi-idb.uchicago.edu/ and type the provided registration codes (i.e. E26004) in the search bar. From there you will be able to access images, information, and related publications to the selected artifacts - you can even do an “off the books” search of your own and learn more about other objects, publications, and archival photographs in our collection!

What site is this amulet from? E6792

List 2 types of decorations that are incised on this wand. E10788

What language is used for the inscription on this incantation bowl? A25613
This inner coffin of the mummy of Meresamun is covered in magical symbols and text to help her get to the afterlife. Take a look at her mummy case, then use these symbols as inspiration to create a mummy case on the next page.

- The Four Sons of Horus are minor gods who watch over the internal organs of the mummy. These are the same gods often shown on canopic jars where a mummy’s organs were sometimes stored.
- The Sons of Horus on Meresamun’s coffin each carry a feather, an emblem of truth.
- The falcon god Re with a sun disk on his forehead symbolized the cycle of the rising and setting of the sun, which ancient Egyptians associated with rebirth.
- The Horus falcon carries the hieroglyph for eternity in each talon.
- The Djed Pillar, the backbone of Osiris, brings strength and stability.
- An image of a calf on the footboard, likely related to the god Apis, and a symbol of strength.
- Hieroglyphs tell us Meresamun’s name and also record an offering formula to help Meresamun in the afterlife.
- The Tiet or Isis Knot, a symbol for health and well-being.
- Ram, a pun on the ancient Egyptian word for “soul,” or a god.
- Winged serpents with sun disks were symbols of protection.
- The Eye of Horus, or Wedjat eye, symbol of health.
- Jackal god, Wepwawet, protector of ancient Egyptian cemetaries.
DESIGN A MAGICAL MUMMY CASE

Use ancient Egyptian symbols and symbols from your own life to design a mummy case. Add decoration and color to finish your design.
EGYPTIAN DEITY PERSONALITY QUIZ

Take this quiz and find out which ancient Egyptian deity matches your personality!

Instructions:
Choose one answer for each question, then add up all scores. The results are on the following page.

You have the day off! How do you spend it?
• Reading a book, or possibly several books. (+1)
• Partying, dancing, and listening to music! (+4)
• Spending time with my family and/or my pet. (+5)
• Organizing my living space. I like to have everything in its proper place. (+2)
• I really don’t get much time off in my profession. I have a ton of responsibilities that keep me busy all the time. (+3)

What is your ideal career?
• Something in the arts, like a musician. (+4)
• I’m an academic type—I’d like to be a writer or a teacher. (+1)
• I’m mostly interested in caring for my family, supporting them, and helping them reach their goals. I’d probably also make a good nurse. (+5)
• Something in the legal field or places I can help fight for social justice. (+2)
• I’d like to work in upper management or in a leadership role. (+3)

What is your favorite color?
• Silver (+1)
• Gold (+4)
• Red (+5)
• Green (+3)
• It really depends. I prefer whichever color seems right for the situation. (+2)

You and some friends get lost while hiking in the woods! What do you do?
• Call my mom. She always knows how to get me out of situations like this. (+3)
• I never get lost. I am good at directions, and I always have a map or GPS with me. (+1)
• I’d make sure to protect myself and anyone I’m with from all the dangerous and poisonous creatures out there. (+5)
• Well, I’d get all my supplies in order. Staying organized is crucial in a crisis. (+2)
• I’d make the best of it—play a game, start a campfire, and sing some songs! (+4)

If your friends could describe you in one word, which would they choose?
• Wise (+1)
• Orderly (+2)
• Heroic (+3)
• Festive (+4)
• Protective (+5)

A couple of your friends are having a serious argument about something, and you decide to get involved. What do you do?
• I research the pros and cons of each side of the argument and try to act as an intermediary between the two sides. (+1)
• I try to make a fair, objective judgment about which one of them is right. (+2)
• I passionately defend the one I believe is in the right and refuse to back down. (+5)
• I make a decision about who is right and act on it. (+3)
• I joke around and try to diffuse the situation by putting everyone in a better mood. (+4)

What sort of relationship do you have with your family or your loved ones?
• They are the most important people in my life. I would do anything to protect them. (+5)
• I’m very close to them, but not my extended family. (+3)
• They often turn to me for advice, and/or to help solve family disputes. (+1)
• They rely on me to keep things in order. (+2)
• I love them! We always have so much fun together. (+4)

How would you describe your home?
• Extremely well organized. (+2)
• My home is my palace. (+3)
• Always full of fun, good food, bright colors, and music! (+4)
• Full of books. Every room is a library. (+1)
• Homey and safe. I like to keep a lot of good-luck charms and family pictures around. (+5)
THE RESULTS

Score 8–13
Thoth “God of Wisdom”
You are creative, intelligent, deep-thinking, and diplomatic. Thoth was the god of the moon, writing, and learning. He was held to be the inventor of writing, the creator of languages, and the adviser of the gods.

Score 14–19
Ma’at “Goddess of Truth”
You enjoy peacefulness and are passionate for justice. You are not afraid to speak the truth even in times of adversity. Ma’at was the goddess of truth, justice, cosmic harmony, and order. She was associated with the balance of things on earth.

Score 20–26
Hathor “Goddess of Love/Beauty/Music”
You are multi-talented, a joyful performer/entertainer, and a great giver, who loves to be surrounded by people. Hathor is the goddess of love, beauty and music, dance, motherhood, and joy. She was a goddess of music, dance, foreign lands, and fertility, and helped women in childbirth.

Score 27–33
Horus “King of the Gods”
You are a strong and adventurous leader, and you always inspire the people around you. Known as the god of the sky and the protector of the ruler of Egypt, Horus was believed to symbolize the living pharaoh.

Score 34–40
Isis “Goddess of Protection”
You are a caring person, who listens to others’ needs and loves to seek ways to protect people you love. You are a good friend of people of all walks of life. Isis was the goddess of magic and life. She used powerful magic spells to help other people.

All these deities can be found in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery at the Oriental Institute Museum. Challenge yourself to locate them all online at oi-idb.uchicago.edu!
Animal bites, especially from snakes or scorpions, were a common problem in Egypt, and a popular magical treatment option was the healing stela, or *cippus*, like this one, showing the god Horus triumphing over the beasts sent by Seth to harm him. In this stela, a young Horus tramples crocodiles while holding wild animals of the desert in his fists: snakes, scorpions, lions, and gazelles. The protective head of the god Bes appears over Horus’s head, and divine figures and texts cover the rest of the stela. Patients did not read the words on the stela, but drank water that was poured over the surface and “charged” by touching the images and spells. There were large versions of these steles created to help the public, and smaller versions like this would have been carried by travelers for protection.
Ancient Egyptians believed that writing had magical powers, and that by reading and writing things, they would come true. Ancient Egyptians believed that writing had magical powers, and that by reading and writing things, they would come true. Egyptians believed it was possible to live forever in the afterlife with the gods, and to ensure they made it safely, they collected spells in the Book of the Dead. This scene is from the Book of the Dead, E10486J, on display in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery.