

ART IN ACTION VIDEO SERIES: CANOPIC JAR FROM AFAR WORKSHEET

As part of the Ancient Egyptian mummification process the organs of the deceased were removed and placed in canopic jars, which were believed to provide protection on the mummy's journey to the afterlife. During the New Kingdom (approx 16th century BCE – 11th century BCE) the tops of these jars began to take the form of one of the four sons of Horus, the falcon-headed god of the sky. Each son was believed to protect a specific body part; Imsety (the human headed son), protected the liver, Hapi (the baboon headed son), protected the lungs, Duamute (the jackal headed son) protected the stomach, and Qebehsenuf (the hawk headed son), protected the intestines.

Design a canopic jar inspired by those found in the Ancient Egyptian Art collection at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

What will you put in your jar for safe-keeping?



Canopic Jar, Egyptian
Gift of Randall Worthington
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Materials

- A clean jar that is ready to be reused and recycled
- A 4 oz bag of model magic (we suggest a natural color)
- Toothpick
- Permanent marker (optional)

Instructions

1. Separate your top from the jar.
2. Next, divide your model magic up it into four pieces (three larger pieces and one small piece). Roll *each* piece into the shape of a sphere.
3. Next, roll the first big piece of model magic so it becomes long like a rope or snake
4. Begin to coil your snake all the way around your jar. As you coil, squish it flat until your model magic covers the exterior of your jar. Be sure not get model magic on the bottom of



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your jar - you want your canopic jar to be able to stand on its own! Also, make sure you don't squish the model magic over the lip – you want to be sure you can still attach the cap.

5. Take your second piece of model magic and place it on top of your cap. Make a “thumbs up” sign with your hand and then press your thumb into the center of the ball. Pinch the sides of the model magic until it takes the shape of a cup and covers the sides of the cap (be sure you don't fold the model magic underneath the cap).
6. Roll the third large piece of model magic into the shape of an ice cream cone. Place wider side into the “cup”. The pointy end will serve as your canopic jars' nose!
7. Pinch and shape the head and face with your fingers. Then, use the small piece of model magic to add ears or other features.
8. Use a toothpick and add details such as eyes, a mouth, or even hieroglyphics or symbols onto your jar. You can also trace over your carvings with a sharpie to give your hieroglyphs an added pop!