

# Sculpting a Scarab

with Mr. Southey



## What you need:

Clay (Air drying is best but any will do even salt-dough), plastic clay modelling tool or similar

Something like these!



Hello! My name is Harry Southey. I was born in Merthyr and I once owned the Merthyr Express newspaper.

In 1901, I travelled to Egypt. I love Ancient Egyptian history and I decided to bring many objects back to Merthyr for my fellow townspeople to see. They are all now in Cyfarthfa Castle.

This Scarab is an Egyptian Amulet that I brought home with me to Merthyr Tydfil. For the Ancient Egyptians amulets were very important objects and the Scarab was one of the most important!

**Find out more on page two and try to sculpt your own!**

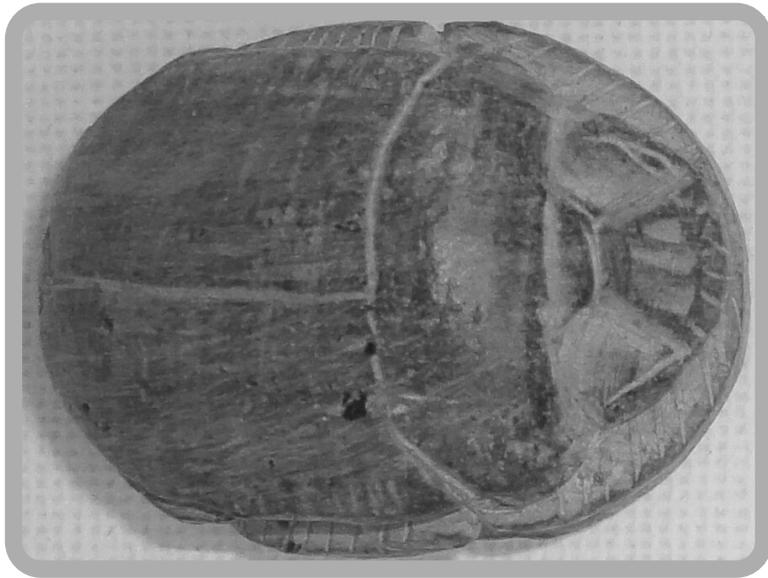


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Amulets were worn by both the living and the dead. The Scarab amulet is based on a dung beetle that was native to Egypt. The Scarab amulet symbolised rebirth and when it was placed over the heart of a deceased person the scarab amulet prevented the heart from speaking out against the deceased in the afterlife.

Top



Bottom



**Tip!!**  
Leave your scarab amulet to dry out and become hard. Then paint it!

1. Take a handful of clay and flatten it; around 2-3cm thickness and 5 cm or more in width and length.
2. Use a modelling tool to cut an oval shape out of your clay.
3. Use the same modelling tool to carve the lines of the scarab. **Copy the picture as much as possible.** Look at the lines and make your lines in the same places.
4. Once you have finished shaping the scarab, turn it over and lightly carve some of the designs from the bottom on to the bottom of your scarab. Don't push hard!! You don't want to crush away the work you have already done.