

SOUNDS OF ROMAN EGYPT

UCL PETRIE MUSEUM, LONDON

22ND JANUARY 2019 – 22ND APRIL 2019



SCHOOLS & TEACHER RESOURCE PACK

What did life in Roman Egypt sound like? What sorts of objects did people use to make music, and in what settings were they used? This exhibition, based on an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded research collaboration between the University of Kent, Manchester Metropolitan University, and the UCL Petrie Museum, begins to answer these questions, bringing to life the soundscape of Egypt during the Roman period.

You can download the “Petrie Museum” app to smart phones and tablets which has further interactive content and information relating to the exhibition.

To search for artefacts from the exhibition using their “UC” number, use the online catalogue: <http://petriecat.museums.ucl.ac.uk/search.aspx>

For more on the project, see: <https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/egypt-artefacts/blog/>

This resource pack supports the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2 History & Music.

KS2 History

This exhibition and the associated resources complement the understanding of world history and Roman Egypt in particular. It demonstrates how knowledge is constructed from a range of sources, showcasing the everyday lives of men, women and children through sound-making artefacts from Roman and late antique Egypt.

KS2 Music

This exhibition and the associated resources support the teaching and appreciation of music from different traditions, and an understanding of the history of music. It demonstrates the use of music for a range of purposes and the replica artefacts provide opportunities for the improvisation and composition of music.

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Timeline of Roman Egypt



True or False Quiz

Look at the Sounds of Roman Egypt exhibition, then try answering the following questions:

1) You can play the original instruments kept in the Petrie Museum

TRUE

FALSE

2) Sound making objects were only used by trained musicians in Roman Egypt

TRUE

FALSE

3) Music was played within the home in Roman Egypt

TRUE

FALSE

4) Bes was the god of love in Roman Egypt

TRUE

FALSE

5) Bells were only used in religious ceremonies

TRUE

FALSE

6) Clappers were made out of wood, metal, and bone

TRUE

FALSE

7) Rattles were used by children in the Roman period

TRUE

FALSE

8) All the replica instruments in the exhibition were made by 3D printing

TRUE

FALSE

9) We only know about sound making objects from Roman Egypt from written descriptions

TRUE

FALSE

10) Different kinds of sounds were used to scare off evil spirits

TRUE

FALSE

Quiz answers

Question	Answer
1. You can play the original instruments kept in the Petrie Museum	FALSE – the musical instruments are too old and fragile to be played
2. Sound making objects were only used by trained musicians in Roman Egypt	FALSE – objects like rattles, bells, and clappers were used by ordinary people in the home and in religious rituals
3. Music was played within the home in Roman Egypt	TRUE – especially in communal areas like courtyards which were shared by families
4. Bes was the god of love in Roman Egypt	FALSE – Bes was a god who protected children and pregnant women
5. Bells were only used in religious ceremonies	FALSE – Bells were also worn by children as amulets
6. Clappers were made out of wood, metal, and bone	TRUE – examples made of all three are included in the exhibition
7. Rattles were used by children in the Roman period	TRUE – we think the egg shaped rattle is to stop it rolling away from children
8. All the replica instruments in the exhibition were made by 3D printing	FALSE – some replicas are also made by craftspeople in metal, wood, and pottery
9. We only know about sound making objects from Roman Egypt from written descriptions	FALSE – we have surviving instruments from archaeology, and images of musicians in mosaics and figurines
10. Different kinds of sounds were used to scare off evil spirits	TRUE – the sounds from bells were used to protect children

Percussion in Roman Egypt

Rhythm Paeonic 5/8



Different percussion instruments would have accompanied singing, dancing and musical performances in Roman Egypt.

Rhythms for dancing were often based on 5 beats in the bar (rather than 4, as is common today).

Rhythm Ionic 3/4



Rhythm Paeonic 5/8



Try the rhythms on the left:

1. Which do you find the easiest, and which do you find the most difficult?
2. Which instrument is best to use for these, and why?
3. With a friend, choose 2 instruments to play one rhythm at the same time – how does it sound?

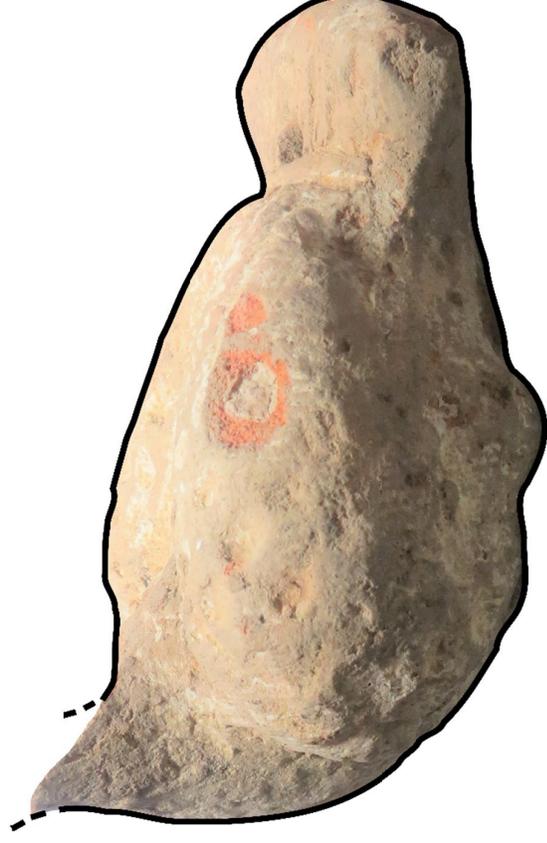
Rhythm Paeonic 5/8



Animal rattles

Our Roman bird rattle (UC34972) is missing its head! What did it look like before it was broken?

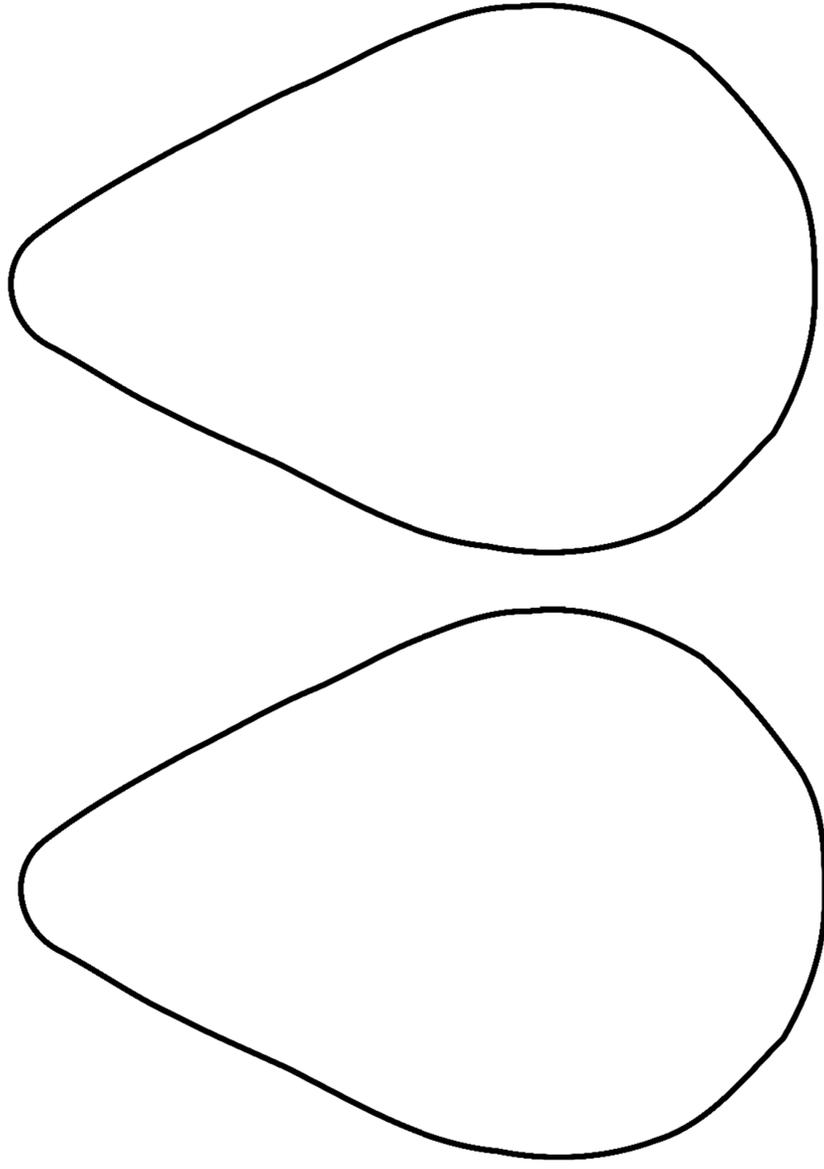
Draw your version on the picture below



Roman rattle designs

This rattle (UC65087) is egg-shaped and decorated with 2 different colours using slip (liquid clay).

- 1) *Why do you think it is egg-shaped?*
- 2) *Design your own decoration for the 2 blank rattles below*



Make your own clappers



Clappers were percussion instruments that made noise when shaken by the handle. Two loose panels are tied to the end of the main handle, meaning they hit the central section and make a 'clap' sound. The set on the left (UC71328) are made from bone, but other types in wood and metal also exist.

You can try and make your own set of clappers – follow the instructions below and use the picture on the left as a guide!

Instructions

- 1) Cut out a wide strip off the bottom of the A4 foam / card. If your foam / card is thin you can fold or roll it up to stop it being too floppy – staple at each end to secure it. This is your clapper handle.
- 2) Cut 2 rectangles out of foam / card to match the shape of your handle at the end (see picture). These are your clapper pieces that move to make noise. If your foam / card is too thin you can cut out more squares and staple together to make thicker panels.
- 3) Place each clapper piece either side of the end of your clapper handle to form a sandwich. Hold together whilst you push a pencil carefully through all the layers near the bottom edge of the panels.
- 4) Cut a length of string and feed it through the hole you have just made. Knot the string securely either side of the clappers, but don't make this too tight – you want the pieces to move enough to make a noise.
- 5) Shake your clapper by the handle to make a noise! If it is too quiet, you can add squares of thin plastic to the inner surfaces of the clapper pieces and the handle area where they hit. Use a stapler to attach them.
- 6) Don't forget to decorate your clappers! Use the Petrie Museum online catalogue for inspiration.

Materials needed:

- A4 piece of foam or corrugated cardboard
- String
- Pencil
- Stapler
- Safety scissors
- Thin plastic (optional)