



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Earring with ram's head

The god Amun was often portrayed as a ram and both were associated with creativity and virility. Earrings were worn by men and women, both in life and after death, and were made in many different shapes, using a variety of materials. Gold was commonly used, as were inlays of precious stones and glass. The Egyptians were excellent goldsmiths. Gold was valued in ancient Egypt as a precious metal, and was associated with the gods, particularly the sun god, because of its warm reflective qualities.

Unknown (Egyptian)
Earring with ram's head, no date
gold
5/8 x 9/16 in., 3/16 in. (1.6 x 1.5 cm, 0.4 cm)
Gift of Mrs. Cole Porter
JE.1.C

Sources

C.A.R. Andrews, *Ancient Egyptian jewellery* (London, The British Museum Press, 1996), excerpted on the British Museum website, catalogue entry for object EA 54315
http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/aes/g/gold_hoop-shaped_earring.aspx

Andrews, Carol. *Amulets of Ancient Egypt*. 1994 (British Museum Press). University of Texas Press, 1998.

"Ram's-Head Amulet [Egyptian/Nubian] (1989.281.98)". In *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000.



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DISCUSS

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In ancient Egypt, both men and women wore jewelry. The color, form, and materials used can tell us about the person who originally wore the jewelry. This earring takes the form of the head of a ram (male sheep), which was associated with the god Amun and was connected with creativity, vigorous strength, and masculinity.

Roll your cursor over the image of the earring to magnify.

- What details do you see?
- What details indicate that this was made to look like a ram's head?
- How do you think it was made?
- What do you think this earring says about the person who wore it?
- Do you think that what you wear says something about you?
- What do you like to wear?
- What do your clothes and accessories say about you?

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CREATE

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Try your hand at designing your own animal-inspired symbol to represent you. Use markers or paint to add your animal design to the cover of a notebook or use fabric markers to design your own t-shirt. What animal will you choose? What characteristics does that animal have? What does your choice of animal say about you?

What materials did ancient Egyptians use to make their jewelry? They mined metals, minerals, and stones, which were used to create jewelry, sculpture, structures such as the Pyramids, and even makeup.

Use a map of Egypt to find these important mine locations:

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Mine Location</u>
Limestone	Along the Nile River
Gold	In the Nubian Desert
Quartzite	Near Cairo
Galena (lead ore used in makeup)	The eastern border of Egypt along the Red Sea

Draw or trace your own map of Egypt. What features of the landscape strike you as interesting or important?