

Bringing the Museum Home: Mighty Maces

A **mace** is a weapon with a heavy head on the end of a long stick. People have used maces since prehistoric times to hunt animals and fight battles.

In Ancient Egypt around 6000 years ago maces were used by the army to fight their opponents. Their maces were made with a wooden handle and a heavy piece of stone attached to one end. Soldiers would aim for their enemy's head and a blow would cause a serious injury.

Later, when Egypt had become more peaceful, maces became symbols of power and were carried by important people during special ceremonies as a sign of their power and high status. These ceremonial maces were often very beautiful. The stone heads were made from expensive stones like marble and decorated with hieroglyphs.

Today, in the British Houses of Parliament, a mace is still used as a symbol of power and authority, just like in Ancient Egypt.

You can make your own stick of power. Here's how:

1. Take a big piece of paper and role it into a tube as tightly as you can. Secure with tape.
2. Take a piece of scrap paper and scrunch it into a ball. Put lots of tape around the ball.
3. Now tape the ball to one end of the stick.
4. Now decorate your stick with coloured paper or tin foil. Will you write you name on it, or add some streamers?



The Ancient Egyptian Narmer palette showing man holding a mace in the air.

