

# SARCOPHAGUS FROM CERVETERI

C. 530 BCE  
TERRA COTTA, LENGTH 6'7"



The practice of covering tombs in earth may have been one of the primary reasons the tombs were preserved from invaders and pillagers.



The Tomb of Reliefs included depictions of objects necessary for everyday life, and spaces for family members to be added to a sort of “family funerary house” (Johnson).



Elaborate gold jewelry was found in some tombs, like this **Fibula, from Regolini-Galassi Tomb, Cerveteri, c. 670 BCE**. Such pieces exemplify the intricate metal work of the Etruscans.



Though cremation was the primary funerary practice during the early Etruscan period, the citizens would begin to practice burial for a time, and include many members of the family in one tomb. Cerveteri was a well preserved burial ground, in which many mass produced sarcophagi were located. The **Sarcophagus from Cerveteri** was made for two and showed the wife and husband - a generalized type - both engaged in a intellectual conversation on a symposia couch. This shows that the Etruscans, unlike the Romans, valued women as equals. The couple holds eggs, representing fertility, and wine, a symbol of community and relationship (Johnson). The smiles and relaxed posture induce a familiar feel.