



WESTON  
MUSEUM

# Mummification in Ancient Egypt

In Ancient Egypt, it was very important that the human body was preserved after death.

A method of artificial preservation - called mummification - was developed by the Ancient Egyptians.

Mummification was a complicated and lengthy process which lasted for up to 70 days.

Yesterday, we explored the mummification process, and the Ancient Egyptian afterlife beliefs, and today we will be looking at what we found out!



# First Activity - Questions About Death In Egypt

## What are Mummies?

A mummy is the body of a person (or an animal) that has been preserved after death.

## Why did the Egyptians make Mummies?

The Egyptians believed there was a life after death. They believed they had to preserve the bodies of the dead, as they were needed in the afterlife.

## Where were Egyptians who were poor buried?

Egyptians that were poor were buried in the sand. Only the rich Egyptians were buried in tombs.

## Where were Pharaohs buried?

Between 2,628 - 1,638 BC, Egyptian kings were buried in pyramids. Only about 50 royal pyramids have survived the test of time.

## What are pyramids?

Pyramids are stone tombs of Ancient Egyptian kings. They are also called Pharaohs.

## Why did the Ancient Egyptians build pyramids?

Pyramids were designed as tombs to protect the buried Pharaoh's body and their belongings. The Egyptians believed that if the Pharaoh's body could be mummified after death, the Pharaoh would live forever.

# Second Activity - How Were Mummies Made?

## The Most Costly Method of Mummification

1. Draw out the brain through the nostrils
2. Take out the whole contents of the belly, and clean the interior with palm-wine and spices
3. Fill the belly with pure myrrh, cassia and other spices and sew it together again
4. Cover up with natron for seventy days
5. Wash the corpse and roll it up in fine linen

## The Less Costly Method of Mummification

1. Fill the belly with oil of cedar-wood using a syringe by the breech, which is plugged to stop the drench from returning back; it dissolves the bowels and internal organs
2. After the appointed number of days with the natron treatment, the cedar oil is let out and the corpse is left as skin and bones
3. Returned the corpse to the family

## The Method of Mummification for the Poor

1. Cleanse out the belly with a purge
2. Keep the body for seventy days of natron treatment
3. Return the corpse to the family

# Third Activity - Gods of the Afterlife

There are 7 different Deities of the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt, and we are going to be exploring them.

We are looking for 2 sentences about each Deity.

## Osiris

The major God of the Afterlife, and also known as the God of the Dead.

He is also a judge of the deceased, and would not let any criminal journey to the pleasures of the Afterlife.

## Isis

Both the sister and wife to Osiris, and the mother of Horus. Isis is noted as the first to perform the mummification process.

Also known for her devotion to her son Horus, and can often be depicted with him sitting on her lap.

# Horus

A falcon-headed Sky God and the son of Osiris and Isis.

The tale is he was raised by his mother Isis, hidden because his father, King Osiris was killed by his brother Seth (Uncle to Horus)

# Anubis

The jackal or canine-headed god of embalming. During embalming ceremonies, the main priest would have to wear a jackal mask and chant prayers while the process of evisceration took place.

# Maaf

The Goddess of Truth, Justice and Balance. Represented by ostrich feathers and is the Goddess that would judge the deceased in the final phase of their trail to cross into the Afterlife.

# Ahemait

The Underworld Goddess - also known as the Devourer - taking the form of part lion, crocodile and hippopotamus. She devours souls of the unworthy. Some say Ahemait was not worshipped or considered a Goddess, but is what the Egyptians feared.

# Nehebkau

The God of Protection and Magic for the Pharaoh, and all the Egyptians in both life and their afterlife. Also associated as the god that unites the deceased their lost loved ones.

# Final Activity - Glossary

We have come across lots of new words, and we might have had to look up what some of them mean.

These are 5 words you should have come across, write the definition in these boxes!

## Natron

Natron is a natural salt, composed of sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate with traces of sodium chloride and sodium sulfate. It was used to dry out the body of Egyptians.

## Canopic Jars

Canopic Jars were used by Ancient Egyptians to hold mummified remains.

# Coffin

Coffin is the rectangular or human shaped (anthropoid) container that held the mummified body. The coffins were often decorated both on the inside and outside in a variety of styles.

# Sarcophagus

The Sarcophagus was the stone or wooden outer container which held the coffin or coffins. The exterior of Sarcophagi are painted with eyes on the east-side because it was believed that the dead person could look out at the world and see the rising sun.

# Hieroglyph

A system of writing that uses pictures instead of words, especially as used in Ancient Egypt.

# Did You Know?

Here are several facts about Ancient Egypt!

Did you know these facts?

Egyptian men and women wore makeup.

It was thought to have healing powers, plus it helped to protect their skin from the sun!

They were one of the first civilisations to invent writing. They also used ink to write and paper called papyrus.

The Pharaohs kept their hair covered. It was not to be seen by regular people.

Ancient Egypt was one of the greatest and most powerful civilisations in history. It lasted for over 3,000 years from 3,150BC to 30BC.

Cats were considered sacred in Ancient Egypt.

Ancient Egyptians loved board games, and often played games called "Mehen", "Dogs and Jackals" and also "Senet".

Pharoah Tutankhamen might have been killed by a hippopotamus! \*

## Pharoah Tutankhamen might have been killed by a hippopotamus! \*

Surprisingly little is known about the life of the boy Pharoah Tutankhamen, but some historians believe they know how he died.

Scans of the young king's body show that he was embalmed without his heart or his chest wall.

This drastic departure from traditional Egyptian burial practice suggests that he may have suffered a horrific injury prior to his death.

According to a handful of Egyptologists, one of the most likely causes for this wound would have been a bite from a hippopotamus.

Evidence indicates that the Egyptians hunted these beasts for sport, and statues found in King Tut's tomb even depict him in the act of throwing a harpoon.

If the boy pharoah was indeed fond of stalking dangerous game, then his death might have been the result of a hunt gone wrong.

# Fun Fact!

In 1981, a mummy was unwrapped at the  
Bristol Museum.

This significant event was witnessed by  
one of our volunteers - Sue Green - and  
we have created and uploaded a video  
to YouTube of her explaining the  
process and the reasons behind the  
unwrapping.

Either scan the QR Code or click the link  
below to watch the video!



**SCAN ME**

link to the  
YouTube  
video