

Cultural Corner

HOW MUMMIES WERE MADE



A mummy is the body of a person that has been preserved after death. The ancient Egyptians believed that mummifying a person's body after death was essential to ensure a safe passage to the afterlife. Mummification was a very long and expensive process. From start to end, it took about seventy days to embalm a body. High-ranking officials, priests and other nobles who had served the pharaoh and his queen had fairly elaborate burials.

The pharaohs, who were believed to become gods when they died, had the most magnificent burials of all.

The art of mummification consisted of many steps:

- First, the body was washed and ritually purified.
- Then, the deceased person's inner organs were removed through a slit on the left side of the body. The intestines, the liver, the stomach and the lungs were embalmed with a chemical product: natron to dry out the organs.
- The organs were then individually wrapped into long strips of linen and placed in jars. The lids of these jars were shaped after the four sons of the God Horus, as they were each entrusted with protecting a particular organ.

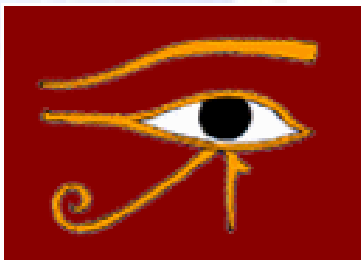
Here are some jars with lids depicting the four sons of Horus:

- **Qebehsenuef:** the falcon head for the intestines
- **Duamutef:** the jackal head – for the stomach.
- **Hapy:** the baboon head for the lungs
- **Imsety:** the human head for the liver



Kelsey Museum of Archeology,

- After the removal of the inner organs, the body cavity was stuffed with natron. The body was then placed on an embalming table and completely covered with natron to slowly dry out. This part of the process took about forty days, after which the natron was removed, inside and out, to reveal a dried, shrunken body. After another cleaning, the body was rubbed with unguents to aid in preserving the mummy's skin.



The mummy was then prepared for bandaging. First, the embalming cut on the side of the body was sewn up and covered with a patching with the protective eye of

Horus. The body was adorned with gold, jewels and protective amulets. Fingers and toes were covered with protective gold caps and individually wrapped with strips of linen. Arms and legs were also wrapped, and then the entire body was wrapped in about

twenty layers. The embalmers used resin to glue the layers of wrappings together. The wrapped head was covered with a mummy mask. Finally, The mummy was then ready for burial.



Once the mummy was finally prepared, it was time for the funeral. The mummy and its jars were transported from the embalming tent to the tomb. At the site of the tomb, religious ceremonies were held to prepare the dead for the afterlife.

In the ancient times almost all Egyptians became mummies when they died - a total of about 70 million mummies in 3,000 years. By the 4th century AD, many Egyptians, who no longer believed that mummification was necessary for life after death, gave up the art and science of making mummies.

So where did all the mummies go?

Sadly, most were destroyed by grave robbers and vandals looking for treasures wrapped up in the bandages.

The best preserved mummies are those of the pharaohs and their relatives. These mummies tended to be more carefully embalmed and protected from harm. The mummies that have survived allow us to look back into the past and know something of the ancient Egyptians and their time.

Three of the most famous Egyptians mummies are Tutankhamen, Seti I and Rameses II (Ramses the Great).



Tutankhamen, known to many as King Tut, was probably just a boy when he was crowned pharaoh in the 18th Dynasty. He was still a teenager when he died and buried in the Egyptian Valley of Kings.

Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter. Over the next several years, Carter's expedition carefully uncovered the treasures, including the gold mask above.

Tut's mummy and its magnificent solid gold sarcophagus, along with wall paintings, furniture, weapons, games and other artifacts have survived to the present, giving us a unique glimpse at an ancient pharaoh's life.



Seti I is considered to be one of the greatest of pharaohs and warriors, and was also the father of another very notable pharaoh, Rameses II (or Rameses the Great). Seti ruled in the 19th Dynasty, several generations after Tutankhamen. He was highly successful at protecting Egypt from invaders.



Rameses the Great ruled over Egypt from 1279-1212 BC. Rameses was legendary in many respects. At a time when most people lived only a few decades, Rameses was about 90 years old when he died. He was a tall man about six feet in height, when the average Egyptian was a little over five feet tall. Rameses had many wives in his lifetime and is believed to be the father of over 100 children.



Activity1: - Answer the questions below:

1. Why did ancient Egyptians use mummification?

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2. Why were the pharaohs ` burials impressive ceremonies?

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3. Where were the inner organs kept? Why?

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4. Why did ancient Egyptians bury the deceased with their belongings and treasures?

.....

5. When did Egyptians stop mummifying the dead? Why?

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6. What happened to most mummies?

.....

7. Why were the mummies of the royal family better preserved?

.....

8. What does the process of mummification teach us?

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Activity 2:

Reorder the different steps the process of mummification:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
c										

- a)**- The inner organs were removed.
- b)**- fingers and toes were protected with gold caps.
- c)**- The body was washed.
- d)**- The body was adorned with precious jewels and amulets.
- e)**- They were dried out with a chemical product put into four jars with special lids.
- f)**- 40 days later, The natron was removed from the inside and outside of the body.
- g)**-The whole body was wrapped with layers.
- h)** – the cut on the left side was sewn up and covered with the eye of Horus
- i)**- The empty body was stuffed and covered with natron.
- j)** - The body was cleaned again and rubbed with unguents.
- k)**- The head was covered with a mask before burial.

Activity3:

Read the information about the three most famous Egyptians mummies and write their name in the appropriate space.

- The greatest leader:
- The youngest pharaoh:
- The tallest and oldest pharaoh:

Activity4:

Complete the table below with information about each pharaoh:

pharaohs names	period of reign	Characteristics
.....	1279-1212 BC	- - -
.....	19th Dynasty	- - -
.....	-

Activity 5:

Supply the appropriate word in the provided space:

infection – addition – at – deceased – fractures – noticed – even – able –
issued – getting – some – medical – for – needs – diagnosed – decided
– revealed –

In 1974, Egyptologists the Cairo Museum
that the mummy's condition was worse rapidly. They
..... to fly Rameses II to Paris so that a team of experts
could give the mummy a examination. Did you
know that a mummy a passport to
travel? Rameses II was an Egyptian passport that
listed his occupation as "King"
Once in Paris, Rameses was and treated for
..... During the examination, scientific analysis
..... battle wounds and old, as well as the
pharaoh's arthritis and poor circulation. In, experts
were to determine of the flowers and
herbs that were used the embalming, including lots
of camomile oil.