

Ancient Egypt

AFTERLIFE & MUMMIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

MUMMIFICATION STEPS

AFTERLIFE

NUMBER THE STEPS

MULTIPLE CHOICE

CROSSWORD

ANSWER SHEETS

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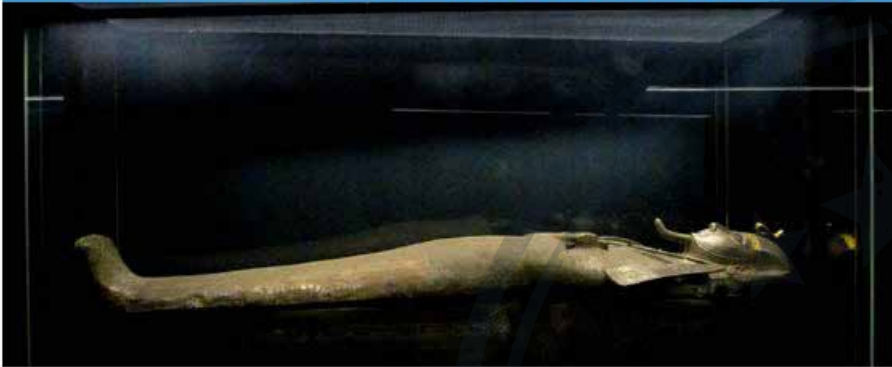


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AFTERLIFE AND MUMMIFICATION



Egyptians believed that death was not the end of life, but only a short pause. They believed that the spirit of the deceased had to make a dangerous journey through the underworld to get to the next life, a paradise called the Field of Rushes where they would live forever.

PREPARING FOR THE AFTERLIFE

Ancient Egyptians performed elaborate rituals to make sure the dead were prepared for the afterlife. Egyptians were buried with food and possessions to help them in their journey. Ancient Egyptians believed that to have an afterlife, the body needed to be recognised, so it had to be preserved.

ORIGIN OF MUMMIFICATION

Early ancient Egyptians buried their dead in pits in the desert. The desert sand dried the body and preserved it. When Egyptians started to bury their dead in coffins, where they would not be preserved by the dry desert sand, they needed another way to preserve the body.

MUMMIFICATION

The process that Ancient Egyptians used to preserve the body is called mummification. The mummification for a pharaoh or a rich noble took 70 days. There were cheaper versions of the process for less wealthy families. During the process all of the organs were removed but the heart, and the body was dried and wrapped in linen. The process was religious as well as practical. At certain stages priests would recite incantations and sometimes a priest would dress as Anubis, the god who oversaw mummification.

The mummification process was so effective that bodies that were preserved over four thousand years ago still have skin and hair.

STEPS OF MUMMIFICATION

1. The body is washed.
2. The brain is pulled out of the nose with a long hook.
3. Many of the internal organs are removed through a cut in the left side of the body. The heart is left in the body because the spirit will need it in the afterlife.
4. The liver, stomach, lungs and intestines are washed and dried with a type of salt called natron.
5. The body is filled with herbs, covered with natron and left to dry out for 70 days.
6. The body is washed with wine made from dates and water from the Nile and covered with oils.
7. The dried organs are replaced in the body or placed in canopic jars and the body is stuffed with dry materials.
8. The body is wrapped in linen while a priest recites spells. Amulets are placed between the layers of linen to protect the body and a scroll of the Book of the Dead is placed with the body.
9. The body is wrapped again with linen, painted with resin, covered in a shroud, and placed in a coffin.



CANOPIC JARS

Four internal organs were dried, wrapped in linen and placed in four containers, called canopic jars. Canopic jars were made of wood, stone or pottery. The lids of the jars were in the shape of the four sons of Horus.

Imsety - God with the head of a human guarded the liver.

Hapy - God with the head of a baboon guarded the lungs.

Duamutef - God with the head of a jackal guarded the stomach.

Qebehsenuf - God with the head of a falcon guarded the intestines.

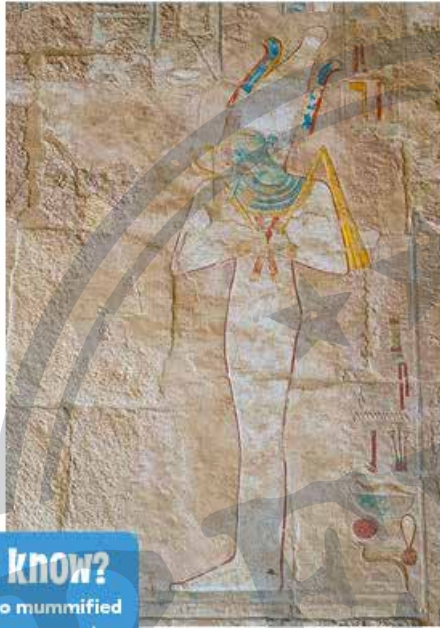
The jars were placed in a chest, separate from the body. Eventually, the embalming process changed so the organs were wrapped in linen and replaced into the body, but Egyptians continued the tradition of burying canopic jars.



THE FUNERAL

Most Egyptians were wrapped in cloth and buried in the desert. Wealthy Egyptians were laid in a tomb called a mastaba. The more wealthy they were, the more lavish the funeral. The family of the deceased had to have the most expensive funeral they could afford. If not, they took the risk that the dead person's ghost would haunt them. Sometimes they even hired mourners to wail loudly at the funeral to show how important the deceased was.

Ancient Egyptians buried their dead with possessions because they believed the spirit could take them to the afterlife. The eldest son would perform a magic ritual called the Opening of the Mouth to bring the senses back to life in the underworld. If the family could afford it, they would bury their dead with at least part of The Book of the Dead.



A painted relief of Osiris, god of the underworld at the mortuary temple of Hatshepsut.

BOOK OF THE DEAD

The Book of the Dead was a long scroll of magical spells written in hieroglyphs on papyrus. It was like a guidebook to help the spirit of the deceased make it through the underworld. Some of the book was spells that protected the spirit from danger and some of the book contained words that needed to be spoken by the spirit during judgement. The book of the dead was rolled up and placed in the coffin.

THE UNDERWORLD

In the underworld, spirit of the deceased would have to pass through gates guarded by dangerous spirits to reach the Hall of Truth. Once the spirit reached the hall, they would have to declare their innocence before Osiris,

Did you know?

Egyptians also mummified animals. Some were pets who were mummified to keep the deceased company and some were mummified as an offering to a god.

the god of the dead, and 42 divine judges. This is where the Book of the Dead came in handy. It had all the words that needed to be said.

Ancient Egyptians believed the soul was the heart. At the Hall of Truth, the heart was placed on a scale and weighed against the feather of Ma'at. If the heart was heavy with sin it was fed to a creature called the great devourer. If the heart was as light as the feather, the soul could travel to the afterlife.

NUMBER THE STEPS

Number the steps of mummification in the correct order from 1-9.

The liver, stomach, lungs and intestines are washed and dried with a type of salt called natron.

Many of the internal organ are removed through a cut in the left side of the body. The heart is left in the body because the spirit will need it in the afterlife.

The dried organs are replaced in the body or placed in canopic jars and the body is stuffed with dry materials.

The body is washed with wine made from dates and water from the Nile and covered with oils.

The body is wrapped in linen while a priest recites spells. Amulets are placed between the layers of linen to protect the body and a scroll of the Book of the Dead is placed with the body.

The body is wrapped again with linen, painted with resin, covered in a shroud, and placed in a coffin.

The body is washed.

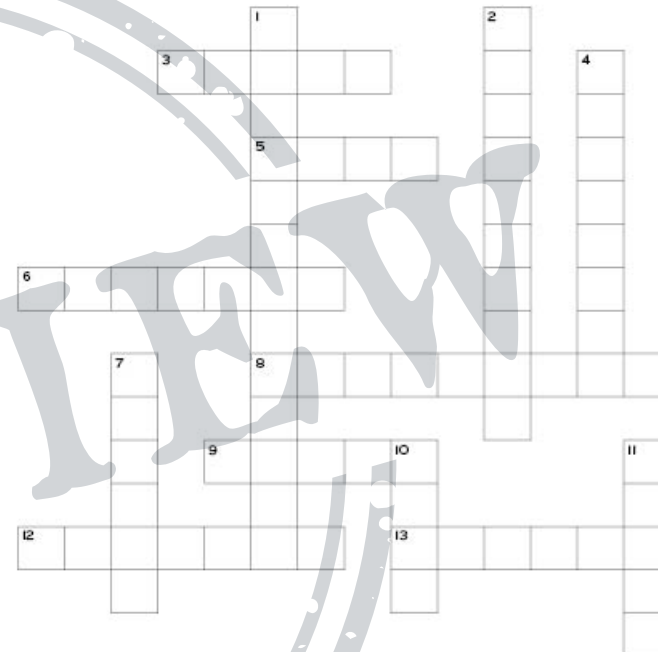
The body is filled with herbs, covered with natron and left to dry out for 70 days.

The brain is pulled out of the nose with a long hook.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1 Which canopic jar lid was in the shape of the son of Horus with a head of a baboon?
 - (A) Imsety
 - (B) Hapy
 - (C) Duamutef
 - (D) Qebehseuef
- 2 Who was the ancient Egyptian god of the underworld?
 - (A) Anubis
 - (B) Sobek
 - (C) Osiris
 - (D) Hades
- 3 What would the family of the dead do to help them in the afterlife?
 - (A) Bury them with possessions
 - (B) Hire mourners
 - (C) The Opening of the Mouth ritual
 - (D) All of the above
- 4 At the Hall of Truth, what was the heart of the dead weighed against?
 - (A) A bar of gold
 - (B) The feather of Ma'at
 - (C) The eye of Ra
 - (D) A blue scarab
- 5 What was in the Book of the Dead?
 - (A) Spells
 - (B) Equations
 - (C) Fables
 - (D) Questions
- 6 Why did the family do so the ghost of the dead would not haunt them?
 - (A) Have a seance
 - (B) Visit their gravestone
 - (C) Have an expensive funeral
 - (D) All of the above

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

3. Hall of _____
5. Feather of _____
6. Organs were wrapped in linen and placed in these jars
8. The next life
9. _____ of Rushes
10. A magical ceremony was performed by the eldest son called the _____ of the Mouth
- 13 The god of mummification

DOWN

1. This process took 70 days
2. The deceased had to pass through this world to get to the afterlife
4. God with the head of a jackal who guarded the stomach.
7. The spirit had to declare their innocence before 42 divine _____
10. Book of the _____
11. The body is wrapped in linen and covered in _____

CROSSWORD



STEPS OF MUMMIFICATION

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which canopic jar lid was in the shape of the son of Horus with a head of a baboon?
 - A Imsety
 - B Hapy
 - C Duamutef
 - D Qebehseuef
2. Who was the ancient Egyptian god of the underworld?
 - A Anubis
 - B Sobek
3. **3 answer sheets**
4. At what stage of mummification was the body washed with natron, what was placed in the body?
 - A A bar of gold
 - B The feather of Ma'at
 - C The eye of Ra
 - D A blue scarab
5. What was in the Book of the Dead?
 - A Spells
 - B Equations
 - C Fables
 - D Questions
6. Why did the family do so the ghost of the dead would not haunt them?
 - A Have a seance
 - B Visit their gravestone
 - C Have an expensive funeral
 - D All of the above

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