

Can I show an understanding of
what happened to the Ancient
Egyptians after they died?

What is a Mummy?

A mummy is a body that has been preserved after death. This could be a human body or an animal body.

What comes to mind when you think of a mummy?



Make a Mummy!

In teams, you have got to wrap a member of your team in toilet roll and make them into a mummy.

The team with the best mummy are the winners!



You have
2 minutes



Mummification

The Ancient Egyptian process of mummification is much more complicated than wrapping someone in paper.

The Ancient Egyptians believed that when they died their soul left their bodies. After they were buried, they believed that their soul would return and, together with their body, live forever in the afterlife when the world had ended.



Unless their body was preserved, the Ancient Egyptian's believed it would be no good in the afterlife.

Not everyone could afford to have their body preserved though as it was a very expensive process that took around 70 days to complete.

How did this process start?

The first Ancient Egyptians didn't go through the long mummification process, they just buried people in small pits in the sand. The bodies would dehydrate in the dry heat of the desert which preserved them naturally.

However, the downside to this was the risk of the bodies being eaten by wild animals – a half-eaten body was no use in the afterlife! To stop this from happening, the Ancient Egyptians started using coffins, but when the bodies weren't lying on the sand they didn't dehydrate so they decayed.



As a result, the Ancient Egyptians developed the mummification process. They did this by 3400 BC.

The Mummification Process

Step 1

Wash the body with palm oil and water from the river.

The body would be washed and purified with a mixture of palm oil and water that was brought from the River Nile.



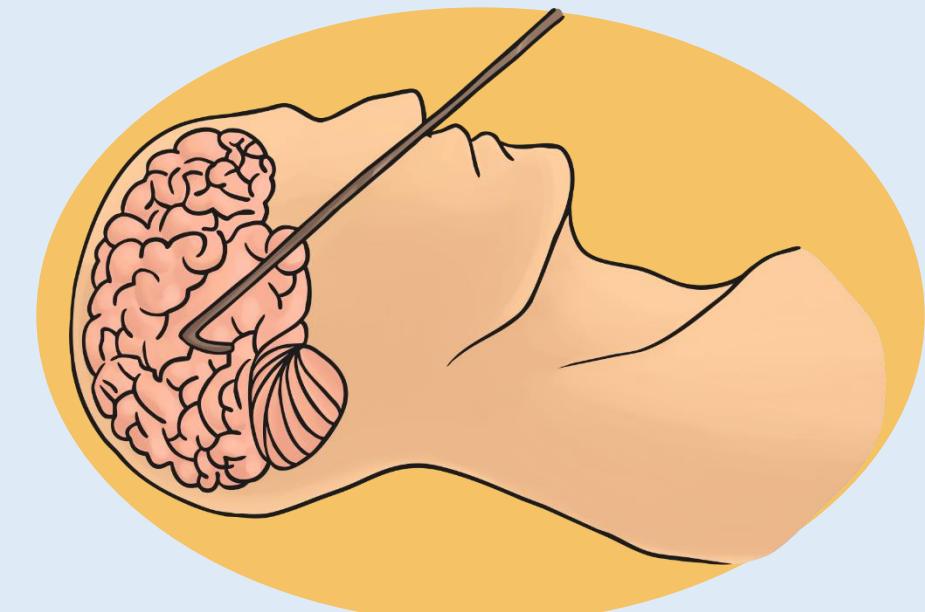
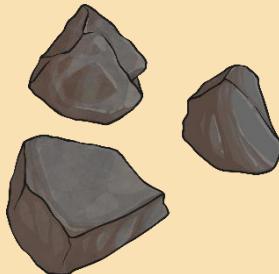
The Mummification Process

Step 2

Pull out the brains through the nostrils with a hook.

The brain would be taken out through the nose by using a hook.

The skull was then filled with sawdust or resin.



The Mummification Process

Step 3

Cut out the internal body organs except for the heart.

The organs were removed from the body except for the heart. The liver, lungs, intestines and stomach were put in canopic jars and left to dry. The jars were carved into the shape of the four sons of Horus - one of the ancient Egyptian gods. Each one protected a different organ.

A - Hapi, with the baboon head, protects the lungs.

B - Imesty has a human head and he guards the liver.

C - Duamatef has the head of a jackal and it protects the stomach.

D - Qebehsenuf had a falcon's head and protected the intestines.



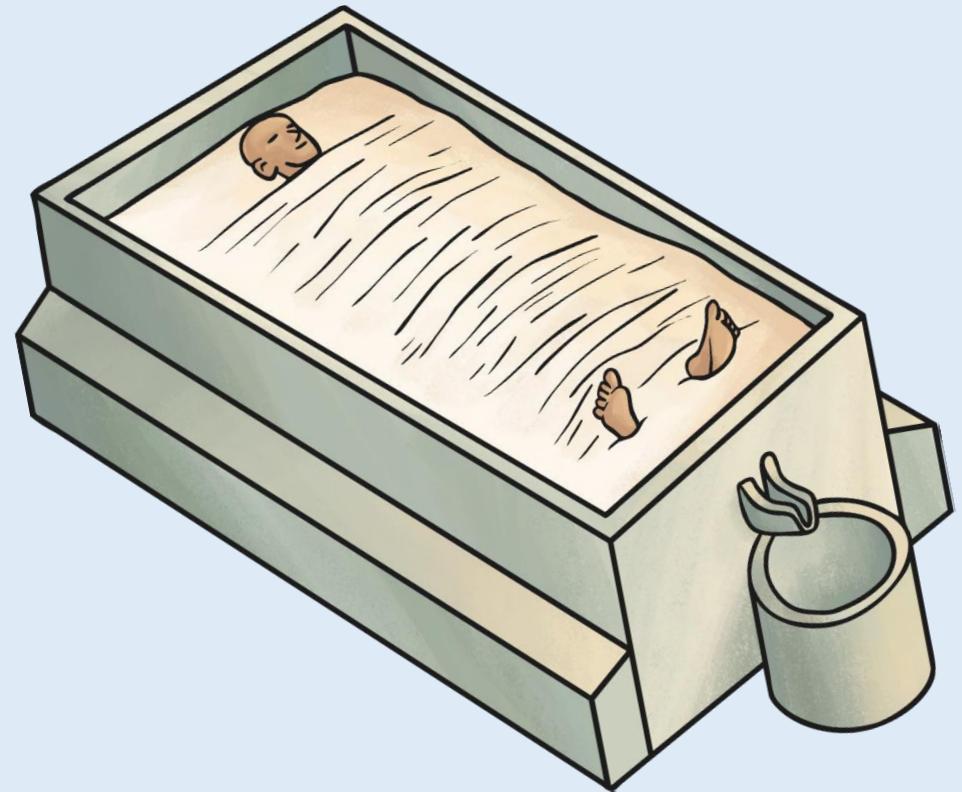
The Mummification Process

Step 4

Cover the body with natron salt. Leave it to dry for 40 days.

The body was placed in a bath of substance called natron. The natron would be used to dry up the rest of the moisture in the body.

The body was left in this natron bath for 40 days.



The Mummification Process

Step 5

Remove the body from the natron salt.

After the 40 days, the body was removed from the natron and packed with straw, dried grass and bits of linen.



The Mummification Process

Step 6

Apply make-up, fake eyes and hair to the body.



The Mummification Process

Step 7

Wrap the body with linen, add amulets and a book of the dead.

The mummy was wrapped in long rolls of linen and then covered in a sheet called a shroud. Amulets and a Book of the Dead were then added.

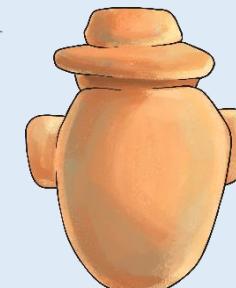
The Egyptian **Book of the Dead** is a collection of texts which were placed in tombs and believed to protect and help the dead person in the afterlife.



linen



Book of the Dead



amulet

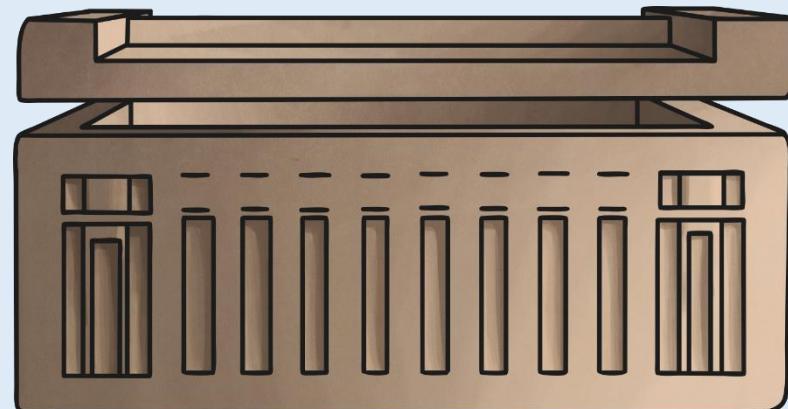
The Mummification Process

Step 8

The body was placed in a sarcophagus and moved to a tomb.

Finally, the body was placed in a large stone coffin called a sarcophagus and taken to the tomb or pyramid.

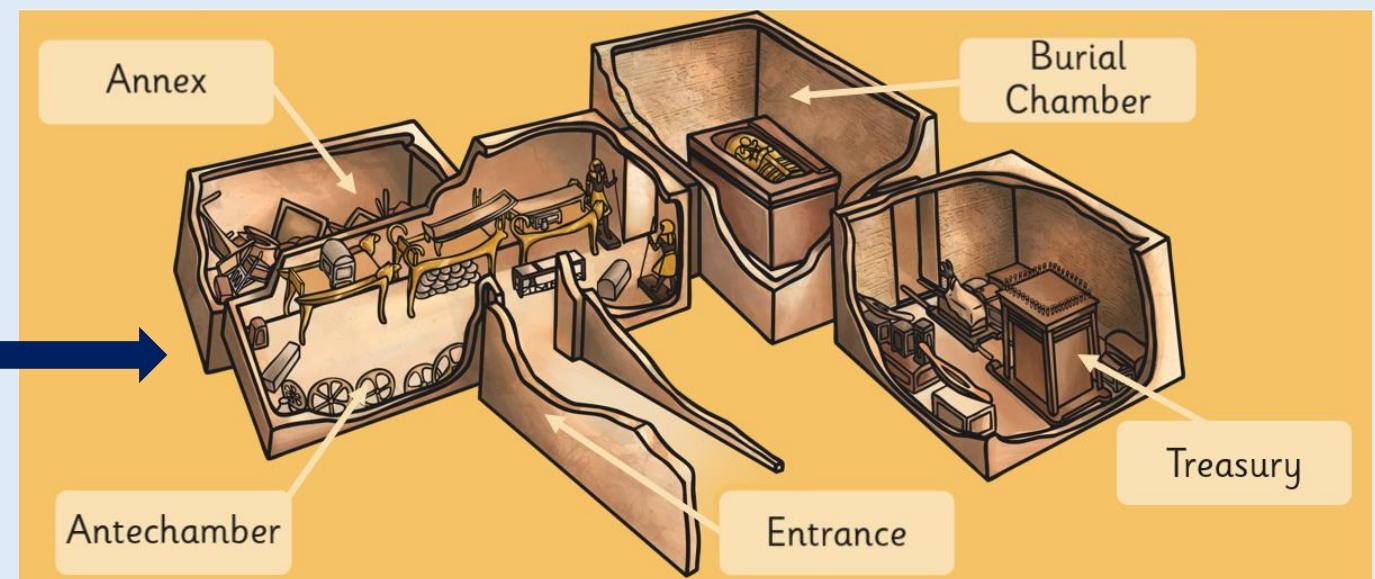
sarcophagus



Pyramids

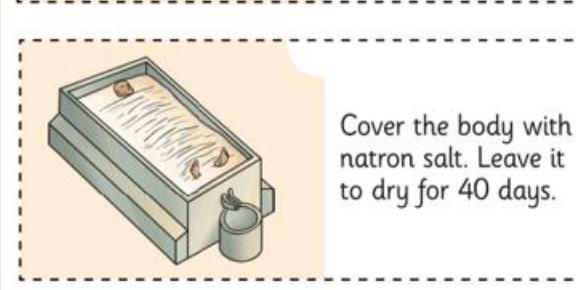
Pyramids were built in Egypt as tombs for the bodies of pharaohs, the rulers of Ancient Egypt.

The pyramids were designed with a series of complicated chambers to protect the buried pharaoh's body and their belongings so they could pass into the afterlife.



Task

Cut and stick the steps of the mummification process in the correct order.



Challenge

Label the chambers inside a pharaoh's pyramid.

