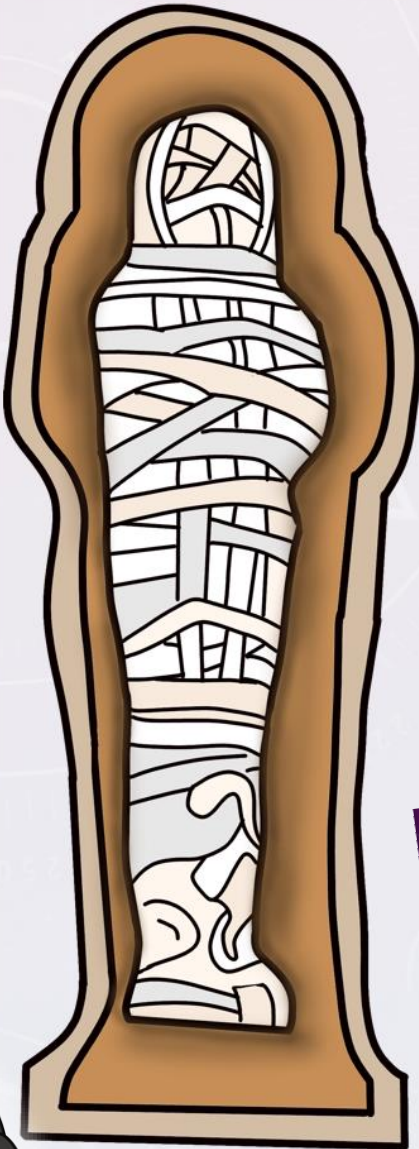


Week 2 – Isolation November

# What was mummification in Ancient Egypt?



**Starter Activity**

## I want my mummy!

In Ancient Egypt, many people believed that **after they died they would make a journey to the afterlife**. Rich people went to great lengths to preserve dead bodies to keep them in good condition to make the afterlife journey (unfortunately for poorer people, this process was very expensive). Usually, dead bodies started to decay, but there are **ways of preserving bodies** to stop this from happening.

A 'mummy' is a preserved body and 'mummification' is the process of making a mummy.

In Ancient Egypt, mummification was a complex process. Can you and your partner think of things that were used in the process?

**Main Input**

## Make a mummy!

Before we begin the process, use your sheet to help you to collect everything you need.

**Animal mummies!**

Did you know? As well as mummifying people, the Ancient Egyptians sometimes turned animals into mummies too!

Look at the photographs of each animal mummy and try to guess which one might be inside: **dog, crocodile, cat, ibis (bird)**.

**Step 4: Wrap the body**

After 40 days, the natron was removed and the body was wrapped tightly in many layers of linen strips. Sometimes spells or prayers were said during this process and lucky amulets were placed between the layers. The linen was coated in a waxy substance called Resin to seal it.

Wrap the whole body in strips of linen. Secure the ends with sealing paste (glue) and say a good luck spell while you wrap.

**Starter Activity**

Jars with animal heads

human organs

salt and oil

a death mask

linen strips

sharp tools

human body

**Resource 40: Canopic Jars**

Canopic jars were used to store the organs of the deceased. They were made of stone, wood, or faience and were shaped like the head of a god or a goddess. The jars were used to store the organs of the deceased so that they could be used in the afterlife.

**Resource 41: How to Mummify a Pharaoh**

This resource provides a detailed guide to the process of mummifying a pharaoh. It includes a list of materials needed, a step-by-step guide to the process, and a diagram of the mummification process.

**Resource 42: Mummification: Preparing Your Materials**

This resource provides a detailed guide to the process of preparing materials for mummification. It includes a list of materials needed, a step-by-step guide to the process, and a diagram of the mummification process.

**Resource 43: Ancient Egyptians Lesson 6: Mummification**

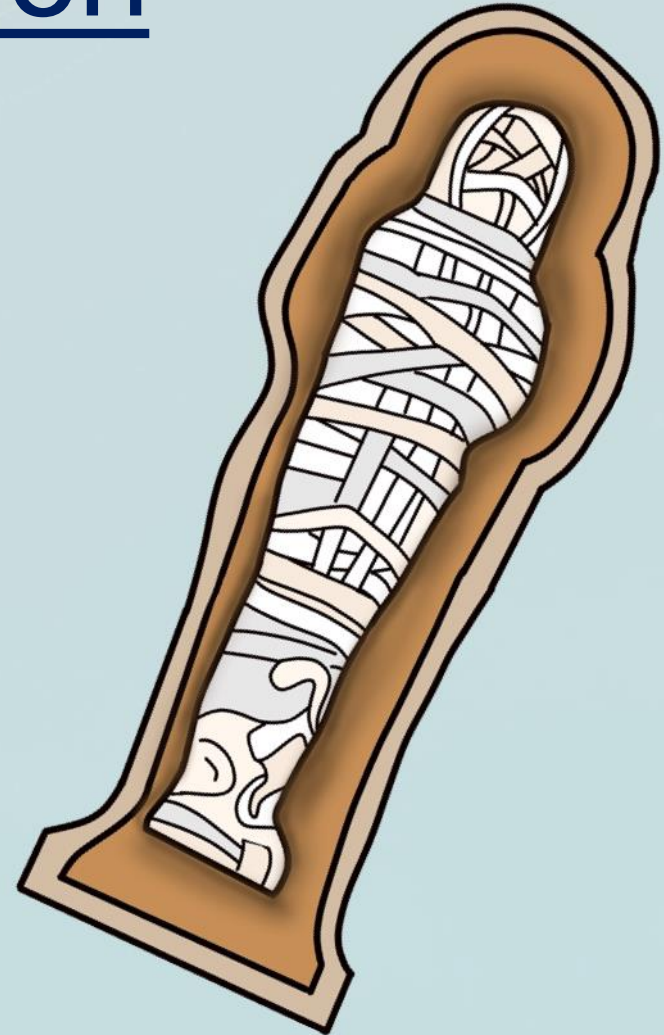
This resource provides a detailed guide to the process of mummification. It includes a list of materials needed, a step-by-step guide to the process, and a diagram of the mummification process.



# What was mummification in Ancient Egypt?

## Objectives

- To find out why the Ancient Egyptians mummified people
- To understand the different stages of the mummification process





# I want my mummy!

In Ancient Egypt, many people believed that **after they died they would make a journey to the afterlife**. Rich people went to great lengths to preserve dead bodies to keep them in good condition to make the afterlife journey (unfortunately for poorer people, this process was very expensive). Usually, dead bodies start to rot and decay, but there are **ways of preserving bodies** to stop this from happening.



Image: Met Museum / Public Domain

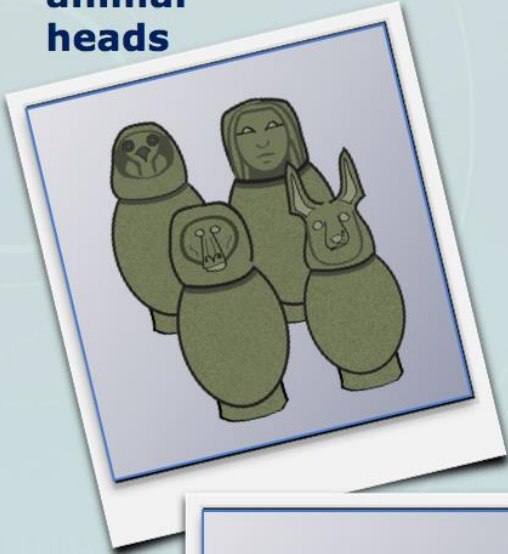
**A 'mummy' is a preserved body** and 'mummification' means the process of making a mummy.

In Ancient Egypt, mummification was a complicated process! **Look at the pictures on the next slide. Can you guess how all of the different things were used in the process?**



# Starter Activity

jars with  
animal  
heads



human  
organs



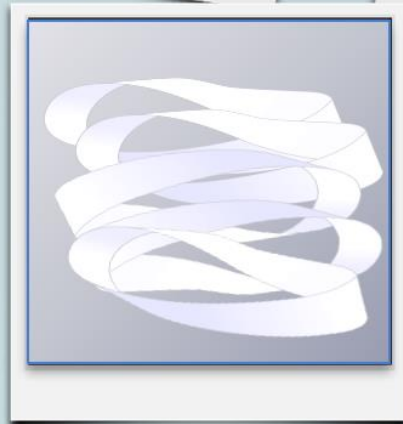
salt and oil



food, jewellery and  
precious objects



a death  
mask



linen strips



sharp tools



human body





# Video: Mummification

Connect to the website:  
<https://www.bbc.com/teach/class-clips-video/mummification-in-ancient-egypt/zdcrkmn> to  
watch a video about the  
process of mummification in  
Ancient Egypt.



# Make a mummy!

Today we are going to **perform a mummification process** to see how wealthy people like pharaohs might have been turned into mummies

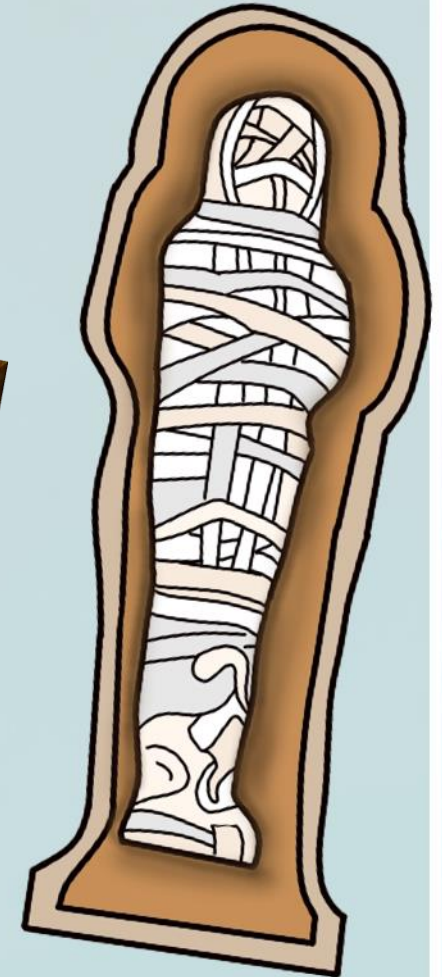
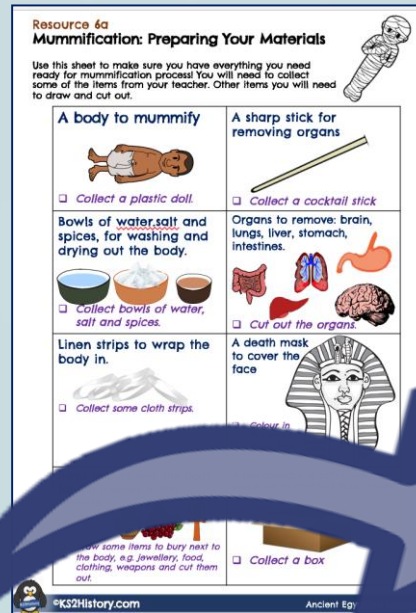
**This is an optional task- parents you do not need to do this if you do not want to I will totally understand. Perhaps wrap a family member in toilet roll instead.**





# Make a mummy!

Before we begin the process, use your sheet to help you to collect everything you need.



Photographs ©ks2history.com



How to make a mummy

## Step 1: Prepare the body

The Ancient Egyptians used wine and water from the River Nile to purify the body.

**Wash the body using water.**

Then the brain would be removed. The Egyptians thought the brain was not important, so they removed using a long hook pushed up the nose and wiggled about.

**Put a stick in the body's nose to remove the brain!**





## How to make a mummy

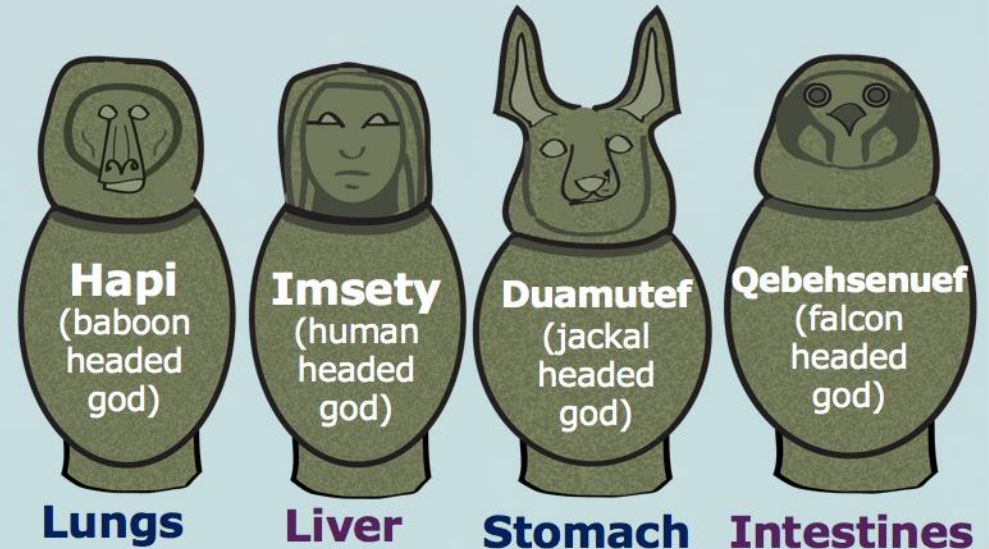
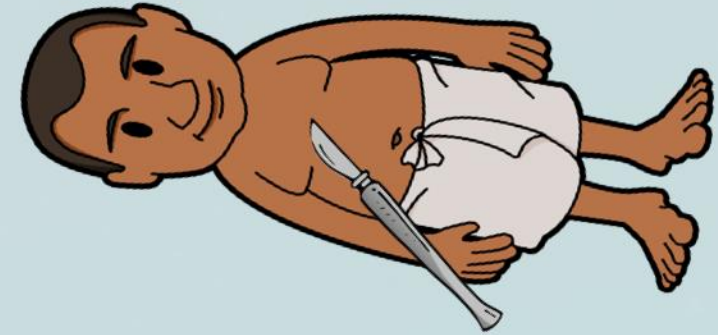
# Step 2: Remove the organs

The next step was to remove key organs to make sure that they did not cause the body to decay. They made a cut in the body and removed the lungs, liver, stomach and intestines but kept the heart in place because it was believed to be the centre of intelligence and a person might need it in the next life!

**Remove the lungs, liver, stomach and intestines.**

The organs were stored in special canopic jars to be preserved for when they were needed in the afterlife. Each of the four jars had a different god's head, designed to protect each specific organ.

**Place the organs in the correct jar.**



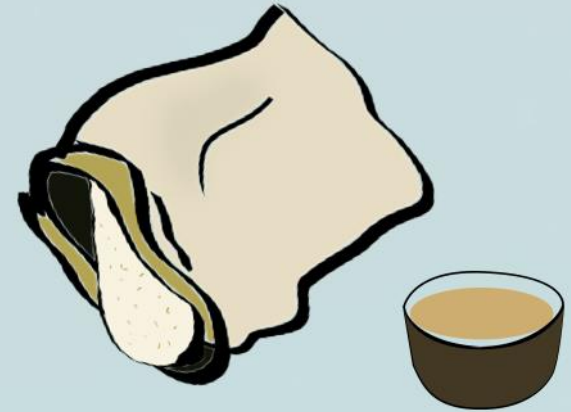
How to make a mummy

## Step 3: Dry out the body

The Ancient Egyptians then placed the body in a special salt called natron. The aim was to dry the body out to stop it from rotting. The salt absorbed the moisture from the body, but it had to be left for 40 days. Spices were sometimes added as fragrance.

**Cover the body with salt and spices and count to 40.**

**Then rub away excess salt from the body.**





How to make a mummy

## Step 4: Wrap the body

After 40 days, the natron was removed and the body was wrapped tightly in many layers of linen strips. Sometimes spells or prayers were said during this process and lucky amulets were placed between the layers. The linen was coated in a waxy substance called resin to seal it.

**Wrap the whole body in strips of linen. (toilet roll) Secure the ends with sealing paste (glue) and say a good luck spell while you wrap.**



How to make a mummy

## Step 5: Lay the body to rest

The embalmed body was placed in a special coffin called a sarcophagus, with a death mask over the face. People often placed personal items like jewellery or treasure alongside the body, and sometimes food, clothes or weapons for the journey to the afterlife.

**Place the mummified body in its box along with some personal items.**







# Mummification Complete!

Well done – your pharaoh is preserved and is ready for the journey to the afterlife!



# How to mummify a pharaoh

Use your sheet to write a set of instructions for mummifying a pharaoh.





# Spot Check

Write down what these words mean:

- **Mummification**
- **Natron**
- **Sarcophagus**
- **Canopic jar**
- **Afterlife**



# Animal mummies!

Did you know? As well as mummifying people, the Ancient Egyptians sometimes turned animals into mummies too!

Look at the photographs of each animal mummy and try to guess which of these animals might be inside: **dog, crocodile, cat, ibis (bird).**



*Answer on next slide!*





# Answers:

cat



ibis



crocodile



dog

