

How to make a Mummy!

It was very important in ancient Egyptian religious beliefs that the human body was preserved for the afterlife. A method of artificial preservation called mummification was developed by the ancient Egyptians. Mummification was a very complicated and lengthy process which lasted up to 70 days.

First the dead body was washed in wine and Nile water. A cut in the side was then made and all the organs taken out. To get to the brain, a hook was shoved up the nose and jiggled about. The brain was then thrown away as it was not thought to be important!

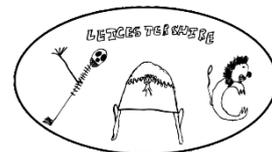
The liver, lungs, intestines and stomach were cleaned and popped into special canopic jars whose lids look like the gods that guard them. The heart was put back into the body, though, as it was thought that it was the centre of intelligence.



A special Egyptian salt called natron was used to fill up the cavities and cover up the body. This would get rid of all the moisture. The body was left for about 40 days to dry out completely. Once it had dried out the natron was removed and the body stuffed with spices, rags and plants so it did not lose its shape.



Finally, the body was wrapped in fine line bandages. Lucky amulets were tucked inside and spells were said to activate their magical protective powers. When the wrapping was all done, the mummy was put in a coffin. Then that coffin was put in another coffin, and that coffin in another one and so one. Then the whole lot was placed in a tomb.



Oh what a mummification mess!

The process is so complicated that Imhotep, the priest responsible for mummifying people has gotten a little confused. Can you help him out?

The Pharaoh has died and Imhotep must get the procedure correct or the mummy might come back to life! No one wants that!

The Pharaoh's organs must be removed from his body in the correct order and placed in the correct canopic jars in order to ensure a peaceful rest. There are four jars (Falcon, Baboon, Human and Jackal) and the Pharaoh's body. The five organs to be removed are the liver, stomach, intestines, heart and lungs.

Imhotep can remember some of the steps he must take, can you work out what he must do?

1. Leaving the last organ in the body is the final step.
2. The liver is in the third jar.
3. The Baboon jar, which does not contain the stomach, must be filled first.
4. The Human jar must be filled before the intestines can be removed from the body.
5. None of the animal jars contain the heart, though one does contain the stomach.
6. The Falcon jar is filled after the stomach is placed elsewhere.

	Human	Baboon	Falcon	Jackal	Body	Heart	Liver	Lungs	Stomach	Intestines
First										
Second										
Third										
Fourth										
Fifth										
Heart										
Liver										
Lungs										
Stomach										
Intestines										



Order	Organ	Jar
First		
Second		
Third		
Fourth		
Fifth		

