

Mummies in Ancient Egypt

by ReadWorks



Mummy in a museum

In ancient Egypt, people believed that a dead person's spirit lived on.

Pharaohs were the rulers of Egypt. Sometimes a pharaoh would die. The spirit of a dead pharaoh was very important. So people did what they could to help it.

One way they did this was by turning the pharaoh's body into a mummy. This made sure the body stayed in good shape. That way, the spirit could go back to the body.

To make a mummy, they dried the whole body out. They sometimes took out the brain. The last thing they did was wrap the body in cloth. This protected the body. The pharaoh's mummy was put in a special case in a pyramid.

The Egyptians did a lot to help their pharaoh's spirit out!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a pharaoh?

- A. a dead person
- B. a ruler of ancient Egypt
- C. a dried out body

2. This text explains how to make a mummy. What is the *last* step to make a mummy?

- A. take out the brain
- B. dry the whole body out
- C. wrap the body in cloth

3. Not every Egyptian was turned into a mummy, but pharaohs were. What part of the text tells us that this is true?

- A. "To make a mummy, they dried the whole body out. They sometimes took out the brain."
- B. "The spirit of a dead pharaoh was very important. So people did what they could to help it."
- C. "In ancient Egypt, people believed that a dead person's spirit lived on."

4. What is "Mummies in Ancient Egypt" mostly about?

- A. how to make a mummy
- B. Egyptian pharaohs and how they were mummified
- C. what happens to a dead person's spirit

5. What did Egyptians sometimes take out before turning a body into a mummy?

Before turning a body into a mummy, they sometimes took out the _____.

6. What did you learn from "Mummies in Ancient Egypt"?

7. **Class Discussion Question:** Why did the people of Egypt mummify pharaohs? Use information from the text to support your answer.

8. Draw a picture of an Egyptian mummy.