Mummification Process

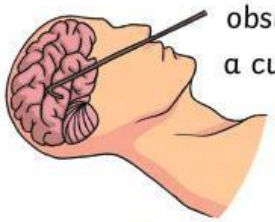
From Body to Burial

The ancient Egyptians believed in preserving the body ready for the afterlife. The mummification process was a complicated one and took over 70 days.



1 The body was put on a table and it would be washed and purified.

2 They would then take out the organs, leaving only the heart. The brain would be taken out through the nose using a hook. Using obsidian (volcanic glass), a cut would be made in the lower body and the organs removed by hand.



3 At this point, the body was filled with stuffing ready for the next stage.

Some of the organs removed from the body were placed in special jars called canopic jars. 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.

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

Imsety has a human head and he guards the liver.

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

Hapi, with the baboon head protects the lungs.



The four jars would be put in a chest and left in the tomb with the mummy.



4 The body was then stuffed with sawdust, before being placed in a bath of natron (a type of salt), to dry out.



5 Strips of linen would then be used to wrap the body. It could take up to 200 metres of linen strips to completely wrap a body! The body was then covered in a sheet called a shroud.



6 Finally, the body was placed in a large stone coffin called a sarcophagus which was inside the tomb.

The body was now ready for its long journey to the afterlife.



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