

YEAR 5 - ANCIENT EGYPT FACTS

Key Vocabulary for the topic.

afterlife	The place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died.
amulet	An object to protect its owner from harm or danger.
canopic jars	Special jars that held the organs of a mummy including the lungs, intestines, liver and stomach.
dynasty	A period of rule when a series of kings or pharaohs all came from the same family.
hieroglyphics	A type of writing that used a combination of pictures and symbols.
mummy/ mummification	A dead body that has been specially preserved/ the process of making a mummy.
papyrus	A plant that grew on the banks of the Nile that they used to write on.
pharaohs	The supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt.
pyramids	Monuments providing tombs for pharaohs.
sarcophagus	A large stone box that held a mummy's coffin.
scarabs	Amulets - often in the form of beetles.
shroud	A painted linen commonly wrapped or laid over a mummified body before it is put in the coffin.
sphinx	A mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh.

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.



- The body was put on a table and it would be washed and purified.
- 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.
- 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 body was then stuffed with sawdust, before being placed in a bath of natron (a type of salt), to dry out.
- 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.
- 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.

Ancient Egyptians and the Afterlife:

Religion was really important to the Ancient Egyptians, with a strong belief in the afterlife. They often had elaborate burial processes for the wealthy or high ranking in the civilisation. This processes helped the deceased pass into the afterlife where they would live on.

TIMELINE OVERVIEW OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS:

7500BC	3200BC	2640BC	2555BC	2520BC	2000BC	1539BC	1332BC	51BC	30BC
The first settlers arrived in the Nile valley.	Trade increased. Hieroglyphics were introduced.	The first pyramid is built. The 'Step Pyramid'.	The Giza Pyramids were built.	The Great Sphinx was built.	Ploughs were attached to oxen which revolutionised farming.	The mummies of pharaohs were buried with their treasures to take with them in the afterlife.	The 10 year rule of Tutankhamun begins.	The reign of Cleopatra VII the last pharaoh of Egypt begins. During reign she has a son with the Roman leader Julius Caesar.	Cleopatra VII was defeated by the Roman leader Octavian.
									