

1. How do MPM scientists define a mummy?

- A) A preserved body with soft tissue of a human or another animal.
- B) Being wrapped in toilet paper, ready to go trick-or-treating on Halloween.
- C) A and B

2. The first step of mummification is washing the body.

Which body of water was the most important to the ancient Egyptians?

- A) The Amazon River
- B) The Yangtze River
- C) The Nile River

3. The second step of mummification is removing the brain.

What did the ancient Egyptians do with the brain once it was removed?

- A) Stored it in a jar
- B) Discarded it
- C) Placed it back inside the head

4. The third step of mummification is removing the internal organs.

Which of the four organs below were preserved in canopic jars?

- A) Stomach, Liver, Lungs, Intestines
- B) Brain, Heart, Kidneys, Pancreas
- C) Heart, Stomach, Lungs, Liver

5. Which organ was the most important for the ancient Egyptians?

- A) Brain
- B) Heart
- C) Stomach

6. The fourth step of mummification is drying the body and organs.

What did the ancient Egyptians use to do this?

- A) The Sun
- B) Sand
- C) Natron Salt

7. The final step of mummification is wrapping and adorning the body.

Approximately how many layers of wrapping could a Pharaoh receive?

- A) 70-90 layers
- B) 35-40 layers
- C) 15-20 layers

8. After mummification was complete, the mummified body was placed into a coffin.

What material was the coffin made out of?


- A) Wood
- B) Stone
- C) Clay

9. Before placing the coffin in the tomb, priests would perform the “Opening of the Mouth” ceremony on the mummy. Why did the priests do this?

- A) To restore the senses back to the person who was mummified.
- B) To make sure the person’s dental hygiene was proper before entombment.
- C) It is still a complete mystery to this day.

10. Finally, the coffin was placed into a sarcophagus in the tomb and the tomb was sealed forever. According to the ancient Egyptian belief system, what is next for the mummy?

- A) This is all; the ritual is complete.
- B) The mummy would undergo a perilous 12-hour journey through the underworld, leading to the “Weighing of the Heart” ceremony.
- C) It is still a complete mystery to this day.

Take this  quiz to test your knowledge about the ancient Egyptian belief system and mummification.



1. **A)** A preserved body with soft tissue of a human or another animal.

Ancient Egyptian mummies are intentional. This means that the soft tissue was preserved through artificial means by humans to purposely stop or slow down decomposition.

2. **C)** The Nile River

The Nile River was sacred to the ancient Egyptians. The Nile provided the ancient Egyptians with life--water for drinking, irrigating crops, and raising livestock, allowing the ancient Egyptian civilization to flourish in the desert.

3. **B)** Discarded it

The brain was removed using a copper or bronze hook to keep the body as intact as possible for the afterlife. The ancient Egyptians believed not only the soul but also the body lived for eternity in the afterlife.

4. **A)** Stomach, Liver, Lungs, Intestines

There were four canopic jars, each named for one of the four sons of Horus: Qebehsenuf (the falcon-headed jar that protected the intestines); Imsety (the human-headed jar that protected the liver); Hapy (the baboon-headed jar that protected the lungs); and Duamutef (the jackal-headed jar that protected the stomach).

5. **B)** Heart

The ancient Egyptians did not understand the function of the brain; they believed that it was the heart, not the brain, that would store all your memories and good and bad deeds. The heart was usually left in the body.

6. **C)** Natron Salt

Natron, meaning “divine salt,” is a naturally occurring salt found in the Egyptian desert. Archaeologists and scientists believe that the drying process took approximately 40 days.

7. **B)** 35-40 layers

The wrapping process was often very elaborate, and for a Pharaoh it may involve 35-40 layers of wrapping. Between layers and individual lengths of the linen wrappings, priests attending the mummification would apply coats of resin to seal the mummy against insects and moisture. Each individual finger and toe would be wrapped until the entire body was wrapped.

8. **A)** Wood

Mummies were placed in rectangular or anthropoid (human-like) shaped coffins. The coffins were made of wood and elaborately decorated. The wood was imported from the Levant, or Middle East in certain eras, but often local Egyptian woods were used, like, sycamore, fig, or acacia.

9. **A)** To restore the senses back to the person who was mummified.

A priest would place a metal implement onto the mouth of the mummy in order to restore the senses (breath, smell, and speech) back to them. It was understood that the individual would need those senses in the afterlife just as they did in life.

10. **B)** The mummy would undergo a perilous 12-hour journey through the underworld, leading to the “Weighing of the Heart” ceremony.

At the ceremony, the heart of the mummy was weighed on a scale against the feather of Maat, the goddess of truth and justice. If the heart was not heavy or burdened with misdeeds and therefore balanced with the feather, then the mummy gained access to eternal life in the afterlife. If the heart was filled with misdeeds and therefore heavier than the feather, then the mummy failed the test. The demoness Ammut (or Ammit) would devour the heart, and the mummy would not gain entrance into the afterlife.