

photo by Guy Midkiff, courtesy Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities

Mini Fact:

This art of a body being mummified was found in the tomb of Bannantiu in Bahariya Oasis in Egypt.

Will you be trick-or-treating on Halloween? Along with monsters, witches and ghosts, you might see a mummy or two collecting candy.

But did you know that real mummies weren't meant to be scary at all? For some ancient Egyptians, **mummification** was just a way of preparing their loved ones for burial after they died.

A happy afterlife

Ancient Egyptians believed that after people died, they would have an **afterlife**, or a next life. They wanted loved ones to enjoy the next life, so they tried to provide things they would need.

In a tomb, they might put furniture, food, clothing, jewelry, artwork, prayers, and statues of servants to go with the body into the next life.

Mummification was also used by other societies, such as the Incas of South America, the Chinese, and the Anasazi people of the American Southwest. In more modern times, former Soviet leader V.I. Lenin and Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung both were mummified.

Making a mummy

Before an Egyptian funeral, the body was mummified. It took special priests about 70 days to make a mummy. They performed religious ceremonies as they worked.

• First, some of the vital organs were removed. The brain was thought to be the least important organ. It was removed by inserting a hook through the nose, and then it was thrown away.



photo by Mario Sanchez

The ancient Egyptians believed that some of their gods and goddesses could appear on Earth as animals. Some animals that were thought to be gods were the ram, cow, crocodile, cat and falcon. These and other animals that lived among royalty were mummified and buried much like people.

Sometimes organs were put into jars and buried with the mummy. Other times they were wrapped in linen and put back into the body.

• Next, the body was covered with **natron**, a type of salt that dried it out. Packets of natron were placed inside the body.

• When the body was dry, the packets were removed and the salt was washed off. Bundles of linen and other materials, including cinnamon, sawdust and onions, were put inside the body. False eyes were sometimes put into place.

• Priests then wrapped the body with linen. They used many long strips. To protect the body on its journey, they might write words on the strips, or place **amulets**, or charms, between the layers.

During this process, a coat of warm **resin**, a sap from pine and fir trees, was put on the linen, and then wrapping continued.

• The mummy was then placed in a decorated coffin made of wood, stone or even gold. The coffin then might be placed in a **sarcophagus** (sar-COF-uh-gus), a wood or stone box, for burial.

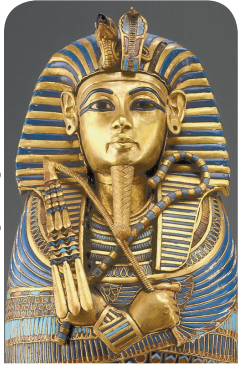


photo © Andreas F. Voegelín, Antiken Museum Basel and Sammlung Ludwig

The Tutankhamun tomb had four miniature coffins made of gold with colored glass and gems. These small coffins held King Tut's organs that had been removed during mummification. This one held his liver.

A famous mummy

You've probably heard of Egypt's King Tutankhamun (toot-ahnk-AH-moon), or King Tut. His tomb was discovered in 1922 in Egypt. It was considered one of the greatest finds in the history of archaeology (ar-kee-OL-uh-gee), partly because it had never been disturbed.

Archaeologists* discovered statues of servants to serve him in the afterlife, six chariots, furniture, feathered fans and two mirrors. A mask made of gold covered the shoulders and head of King Tut's mummy. The mask weighs about 20 pounds and is decorated with precious stones.

The mummy was inside a stone sarcophagus and three coffins that fit inside each other. The coffin holding King Tut's mummy was made of solid gold and weighed 269 pounds.

* Archaeologists study the remains of past human life.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPmummy

At the library:

- "Mummies" by Elizabeth Carney
- "Investigating Tombs & Mummies" by Jessie Alkire

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of mummies are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- AFTERLIFE, AMULETS, ANCIENT, ANIMALS, ARCHAEOLOGY, BRAIN, COFFIN, EGYPT, FUNERAL, GOLD, JAR, LINEN, MASK, MUMMIFICATION, MUMMY, NATRON, PRIEST, RESIN, SARCOPHAGUS, TUT.

R F L I N E N P R I E S T P R
A G U Q A R C H A E O L O G Y
J S L A M I N A N A T R O N M
N T N E I C N A R E S I N L M
T R Q A F T E R L I F E V A U
S A R C O P H A G U S M S R M
T G O L D T P Y G E I K B E R
D M U M M I F I C A T I O N U
A M U L E T S T U T S A M U A
X S E C O F F I N I A R B F B

Cook's Corner

Mini Mummy Dogs

You'll need:

- 32 little sausages (such as Lit'l Smokies)
- 1 (8-ounce) can refrigerated crescent roll dough

- Mustard or ketchup



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Unroll dough and separate at perforations, creating 4 rectangles. Press perforations to seal.
3. Cut each rectangle into 8 strips to make 32 strips. Wrap each strip around a little sausage to look like bandages, leaving room at the top for a face.
4. Place on ungreased baking sheet and bake for 12 to 14 minutes or until golden brown.
5. Use mustard or ketchup to draw a face above the "bandages." Serves 8.

Mini Jokes



- Michelle: What sport do mummies like best?
- Micah: Casketball!

Eco Note



Carbon dioxide is a big part of the **carbon cycle**: carbon's path from the atmosphere, into living organisms, then turning into dead organic matter, going into the oceans, and back into the atmosphere. The cycle has **sources** (parts of the cycle that add carbon to the atmosphere) and **sinks** (parts of the cycle that remove carbon from the atmosphere). The most important sinks are the ocean (the seawater itself, the organisms living there and sediments on the sea floor) as well as plants and soil on land.

adapted from climatekids.nasa.gov

For later:

Look through your newspaper for items about Halloween events in your area.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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1. Suddenly frightening; alarming (5-letter adj)

□ □ □ □ □

2. A creative ability in making a mental picture (11-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. Feeling or producing nervous shivery fear (6-letter adj)

□ □ □ □ □ □

4. A covering that curves around something (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Bonnie screamed when she saw the _____ costume.
2. Delores has an active _____ and draws great monsters.
3. Salvador refused to look at the _____ spider decorations.
4. The scientist examined the cloth _____ of human bones.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: scary, imagination, creepy, wrapping.

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