

Anytown Muesum,
Anytown
AT1 8LE
14/11/11

Dear Children,
Thank you for your letter enquiring how a 'Mummy' would have been created in Ancient Egypt. This is what used to happen.

First, trained men called embalmers washed the dead person's body with sweet smelling palm oil. Next the brain was pulled out of the head bit by bit using a long bronze hook. Finally, the organs were removed from the body. All of the removed items were then stored in pottery jars.

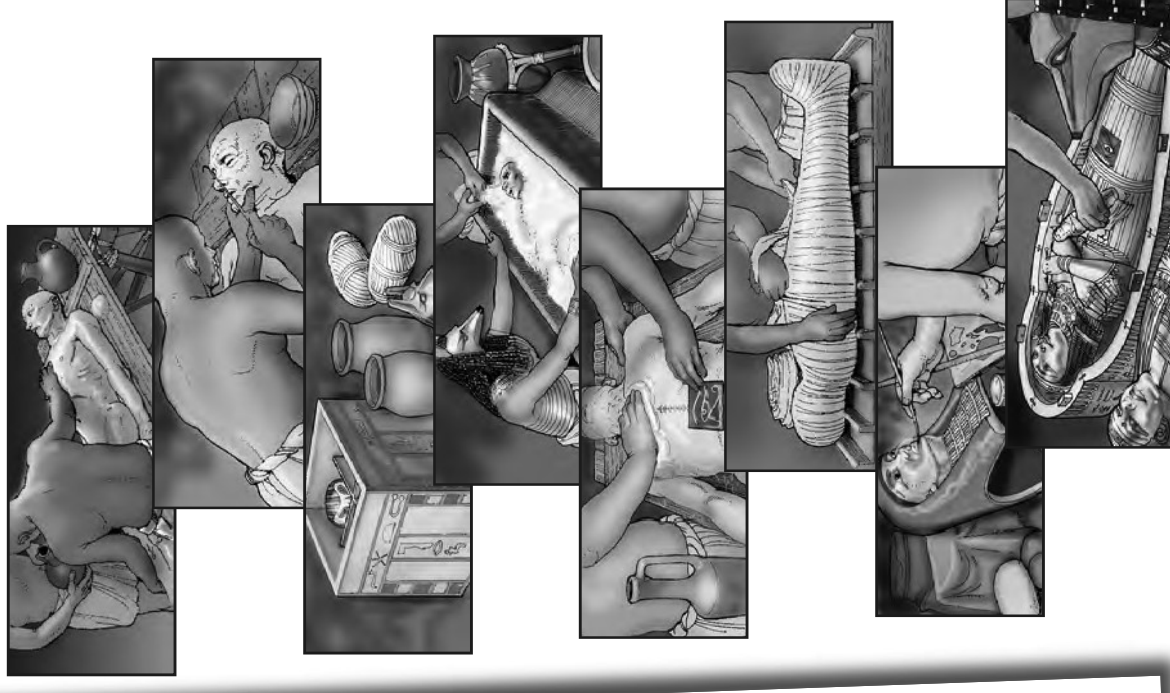
Next, the body was put in a bath of natron to dry it out. This took forty days. A lucky charm, the 'Eye of Horus', was placed on the body to ward off evil spirits. Sweet smelling oils were rubbed into the skin to soften and preserve the body. Finally, the body was wrapped in layers of linen bandages. Lucky charms were placed in between the layers of bandage.

When the bandaging of the body was complete, a mask of gold and jewels was made. It was placed over the head and shoulders of the body. The mask's face was made to look like the person who had died. The wrapped and decorated body was placed inside a human shaped wooden coffin. The priest said magic spells and finally the wooden coffin was sealed with wax.

I hope this information helps you with your project.

Yours faithfully,
B.C. History (Museum Curator)

LETTER FROM THE MUSEUM



LETTER FROM THE MUSEUM

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Dear Children, This is how a

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Mummy | Daddy | Uncle | Aunty |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
- would have been created. First, the body was washed with
- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2 | soap | washing-up liquid | palm oil | shampoo |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
- and then the organs were removed and stored in
- | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 3 | jam | pottery | stone | glass |
|---|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
- jars. Next, the body was dried in a
- | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 4 | trough | bath | shower | tub |
|---|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
- of natron before being wrapped in layers of linen
- | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 5 | cloth. | strips. | bandages. | sheet. |
|---|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
- Finally, a mask made of gold and
- | | | | | |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 6 | jelly | jewellers | jolly | jewels |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
- was placed over the head and shoulders of the body.

Section B

1 Who wrote this letter?

2 Why did this person write to the children?

3 What were embalmers trained to do?

4 What were lucky charms used for?

5 Why do you think only wealthy ancient Egyptians were made into mummies when they died?

6 Why do you think robbers liked to break into the tombs of dead Pharaohs?

7 Why do you think the wooden coffin was sealed with wax?

Section C

Write your own letter to a museum curator asking how a pyramid was built in ancient Egypt.