

Text interrogation: Looking for conjunctions
How did Ancient Egyptians Mummify their Dead?

Mummification was the process the Ancient Egyptian people used to preserve their dead. They did this because they believed that when a person died, their soul left their body and went on to a new life. In this after life, they would need all of the things that they had in their first life and they would need to have a body to reunite with. Ancient Egyptians believed the soul and body reunited after burial.

First, the body was taken away to be embalmed. The embalmers were located in special tents or buildings, called embalming workshops, and were maintained by teams of priests. Quite often, during the embalming, the priests would have to step outside to get away from the horrible smell!

Then came the gruesome task of removing the organs. The first part of the body to be removed was the brain. Egyptians did not know the purpose of the brain, so they thought it was a waste of space. To extract the brain, a hook was inserted through the nose and wriggled around. The embalmers pulled out as much as they could.

The next part of the process, was to remove the internal organs: the liver, the lungs, the stomach and the intestines. A small slit was made on the left side of the abdomen and then the embalmers reached in and pulled out the organs. Each of the organs was individually mummified, then stored in little coffins called canopic jars. This is so that when the soul returned to the body, they had the organs they needed to live again. There were four canopic jars, one for each of the organs. These jars were protected by the four sons of Horus.

Once the internal organs were removed, the inside of the body was washed out with palm oil, lotions, and preserving fluids. Next,

The body was then placed on a slab and covered with natron salt. Consequently, this removed moisture from the body and prevented it from rotting. The body was allowed to dry for about forty days.

After the body was completely dried out, the body was stuffed with linen, straw, or other packing material to give the general shape of the person. Sometimes the embalmers were careless and either stuffed too much or too little. This caused the mummy to look puffy or disfigured.

Then, the wrapping of the body began. Wrapping the body was a painstaking process. Egyptians started the wrapping process from the head. They wrapped each arm and leg separately, before binding them all together. Charms, amulets, and inscribed pieces of papyrus were placed between each layer of bandage. Egyptians believed that these charms had magical properties that would protect and bring luck to the body.

A final shroud was placed on the mummy to keep all the wrappings together. A resin was then added to the shroud to 'glue' it all together.

Finally, a painted portrait mask was placed over the mummy's head so that dead person's soul could recognise its owner. The mummy was then placed into a painted, decorated coffin called a sarcophagus.