

The Usborne Encyclopaedia of Ancient Egypt

Phase 1 Day 3-4

By Gill Harvey and Struan Reid

RECALL:

Locate:

- the title
- the subheadings
- the page numbers

- the diagrams
- the photographs
- the captions

Afterwards, complete 1 minute speed read and record.

Self-assess. Have you increased your speed?

EMBALMING AND MUMMIES

The embalming process, which prevented bodies from rotting away, was perfected over hundreds of years. If it was done properly, it was a lengthy, messy and gruesome job, but it did work.

THE NEW KINGDOM METHOD

Mummification took 70 days altogether. First, a slit was made in the side of the body so that the 'viscera' – the intestines, lungs, liver and stomach – could be taken out. The viscera were embalmed separately and placed in four 'canopic jars' (see opposite). The heart was left in the body, because Egyptians believed it would be judged in the Next World.



The body is cut open and the internal organs taken out.

Next, the embalmers covered the body with a salt called natron, a preservative that also soaked up the moisture. After about 35–40 days, the body was completely dried out. Then it was stuffed with materials soaked in oils and resins to make it a normal shape again, and the slit was sewn up.



Embalmers covering the body with natron.

The body now had to be wrapped in layers of linen, starting with the fingers and toes.

Many New Kingdom mummies are still in amazingly good condition today. After the New Kingdom, standards waned, but bodies were still mummified until beyond the time of the Ptolemies.

Jewels and amulets (charms) were placed between the layers, to protect the person in the next life, and each layer was covered in oils, resins and perfumes, too.



The wrapping of the mummy is almost finished.

Finally, a mask was placed over the mummy's head. This was done by the chief embalmer, wearing the jackal mask of the embalming god Anubis. At last, the mummy was ready to be put in its coffin.



The chief embalmer says prayers over the completed mummy.

Over time, the oils and resins used in the wrapping stage became thick and sticky, almost like tar. The local word for this substance was *mumija*, meaning 'bitumen' (tar is made partly of bitumen). So, this is where the word 'mummy' comes from.

Seti I's amazing mummy shows the effectiveness of the New Kingdom method of embalming.

This is the mummy of Seti II, Ramesses II's grandson.



CANOPIC JARS

There were usually four canopic jars with each mummy, containing the mummified liver, lungs, stomach and intestines. Each jar had a different stopper, in the form of one of the four sons of Horus, who protected the viscera.



These are typical New Kingdom canopic jars. Hapy, a baboon, protected the lungs. Qehesemwef, a falcon, protected the intestines. Duamutef, a jackal, protected the stomach. Aneswy, a human, protected the liver.

MUMMIES REVEAL THEIR SECRETS

In the 19th century, mummies were often unwrapped so that investigators could inspect them. Later, it was recognized that this practice damaged them badly, so it was stopped. Now, when scientists want to find out about a mummy, they put it into a CAT scanner, which sees through all the bandages. They can also carry out tests on tiny scraps of mummy flesh to find out

about their DNA, the unique blueprint that each of us has in our cells. For example, DNA tests have shown that Tutankhamun and the body found in KV55 (see page 28) were definitely related.



Modern technology, below, a wrapped mummy inside a CAT scanner. Right, images of mummies' faces, reconstructed by a computer.



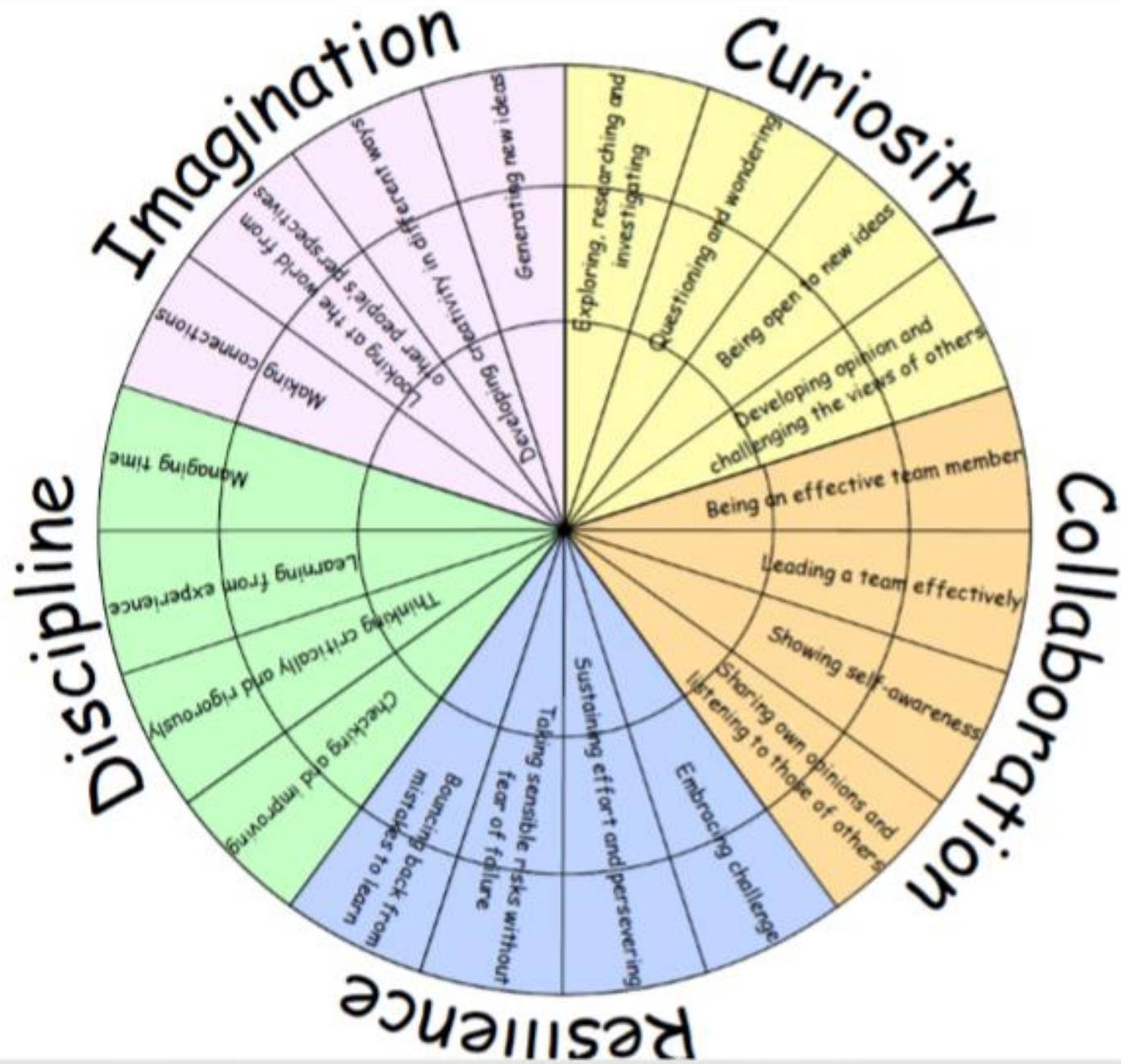
The mummy has been unwrapped. You can see how thin the arms and legs were when they were dried out.

LEARNING LADDER AND SKILLS:

- **Decoding**- I can use the context of the sentence to help me to read unfamiliar words.
- **Decoding** - I can use knowledge of root words, suffixes and prefixes to read/understand new words.
- **Decoding** - I can read out loud confidently, understanding how to use a range of punctuation.
- **Responder** - I understand why a writer has written a text.
- **Language Lover** - I can discuss/clarify the meanings of words, linking new meanings to known vocabulary.
- **Comprehender** - I can identify the features of different text types.
- **Comprehender** - I can use a range of organisational features to locate information, such as labels, diagrams and charts.

SKILLS:

- Reading
- Thinking
- Verbalising ideas
- Collaborating - listening to others



LEARNING HABITS:

Which learning habits do you think we will need to use today?

READING SKILL: (practise a RIDSS skill)

Retrieval - Use the text to complete the missing words in this extract.

1. The _____ process, which prevents bodies from rotting away, was perfected over _____ of years. If it was done properly, it was a lengthy, _____ and _____ job, but it did work.
2. Mummification took _____ days altogether. First, _____ was made in the side of the body so that the 'viscera' - the _____, _____, _____ and _____ could be taken out.
3. The viscera were embalmed separately and placed in four _____. The _____ was left in the body, because Egyptians believed it would be _____.
4. Next, the embalmers covered _____ with a salt called _____, a preservative that also soaked up moisture. After about _____ days, the body was completely _____.
5. Then it was stuffed with _____ soaked in _____ and _____ to make it a normal shape again, and then the _____ was sewn up.
6. The body now had to be wrapped in _____ of _____, starting with the fingers and _____.

DIVE DEEPER: (PQSSV skill)

EMBALMING AND MUMMIES

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THE NEW KINGDOM METHOD

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Next, the embalmers covered the body with a salt called natron, a preservative that also soaked up the moisture. After about 35-40 days, the body was completely dried out. Then it was stuffed with materials soaked in oils and resins to make it a normal shape again, and the slit was sewn up.

Embalmers covering the body with natron

The body now had to be wrapped in layers of linen, starting with the fingers and toes.

Jewels and amulets (charms) were placed between the layers, to protect the person in the next life, and each layer was covered in oils, resins and perfumes, too.

Finally, a mask was placed over the mummy's head. This was done by the chief embalmer, wearing the jackal mask of the embalming god Anubis. At last, the mummy was ready to be put in its coffin.

The chief embalmer says prayers over the completed mummy.

Over time, the oils and resins used in the wrapping stage became thick and sticky, almost like tar. The local word for this substance was *mummy*, meaning 'bitumen' (tar is made partly of bitumen). So, this is where the word 'mummy' comes from.

Seti I's amazing mummy shows the effectiveness of the New Kingdom method of embalming

CANOPIC JARS

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Why does the author use third person?
Formal, impersonal language.

(names, a _____, the _____, it, they, he, his, she, her, their)

Find these examples in the text and neatly copy into your book.

A mask...
Mummies were...
The mummy...
The chief embalmer
The body...
Embalmers...
It... *(what is the 'it'?)*
The viscera were...
The heart was...
Jewels and amulets were...
Scientists...
Tutankhamun...
They...

READING SKILL: (practise a RIDSS skill)

Retrieval - Use the text to complete the missing words in this extract.

1. Jewels and _____ (charms) were placed between the _____ to _____ the person in the next life, and each layer was covered in _____, _____ and _____, too.
2. Finally, a _____ was placed over the _____. This was done by the _____, wearing a _____ mask of the _____ Anubis. At last, the mummy was ready to _____.
3. Over time, the _____ and _____ used in the wrapping stage became _____ and _____, almost like _____.
4. There were usually four _____ jars with each mummy, containing the mummified _____, _____, _____ and _____.
5. Hapy, the _____, protected the _____.
6. _____, a falcon, protected the _____.
7. _____, a _____, protected the stomach.
8. _____, a human, protected the _____.

DIVE DEEPER: (PQSSV skill)

Summarising means explaining something in a short way. This means using fewer words. It's like a challenge! Let's have a go orally.

My example

PETALS



An often colourful part of the plant that is found at the top of a stem. It opens up from a bud and contains pollen that bees collect and turn into nectar.

Summarising
Colourful parts of a flower.

Can you summarise these objects in less than 5 words?



How about these?



DIVE DEEPER: (PQSSV skill)

Here are some chunks of text from the extract. With your talk partner, read each coloured box and **summarise** what the text is about. Try to summarise in just a few words.

Which subheading does each example belong to? How do you know?
Draw a neat line to match the text box to the correct subheading.

THE NEW KINGDOM METHOD

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The heart was left in the body, because Egyptians believed it would be judged in the next world.

CANOPIC JARS

Now, when scientists want to find out about a mummy, they put it into a CAT scanner, which sees through all the bandages.

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