

Mummies: Wrapped for the Ages

Week 4 • Wednesday • How Egyptians Prepared for the Afterlife

Reading Time

Ancient Egyptians believed that life continued after death in a place they called the **afterlife**. To get there, they believed a person's body needed to be kept safe. So they turned bodies into **mummies** — bodies dried and wrapped so they would last for thousands of years.

Making a mummy took about 70 days! Special workers washed the body and covered it with a salty powder called **natron** to dry it out. Then they wrapped it in hundreds of meters of linen cloth strips, tucking in lucky charms called **amulets** between the layers.

The mummy was placed in a decorated case called a **sarcophagus**. Egyptians even made mummies of cats, crocodiles, and birds! Thanks to mummies, scientists today can learn what ancient Egyptians ate, what sicknesses they had, and even how old they were.

Reading Questions

1. Why did Egyptians make mummies?

2. How long did it take to make a mummy?

3. What can scientists learn from mummies today?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

mummy

afterlife

natron

amulet

sarcophagus

linen

Making a Mummy: Step by Step

Number these steps 1 to 4 in the correct order.

Step	Order (1-4)
Place the mummy in a sarcophagus	
Wash the body	
Wrap the body in linen strips with amulets	
Dry the body with natron for many days	

Hands-On: Wrap a Mummy

You need: a doll or action figure and a roll of toilet paper or cloth strips.

Carefully wrap your 'mummy' from head to toe, just like Egyptian workers did. Tuck a small 'amulet' (a bead or button) between the layers for good luck. How many wraps did it take?

• **Design a Sarcophagus**

Draw a beautiful sarcophagus case. Decorate it with colors, patterns, and picture writing.



Think About It

1. Why do you think Egyptians also made mummies of cats and other animals?
