

ANCIENT EGYPT

Post-Primary School Activity Sheet

‘Everything you **never** wanted to know about Mummies’

The Ancient Egyptians loved life so much that they did not want it to end with the body's death, so they developed the process of **mummification** to preserve the body for the next life. The bodies were placed in tombs or sometimes, enormous Pyramids.

Before you begin, can you think of the country that has a pyramid on the back of its money? It's **not** Egypt...

This Activity Sheet will show you some of the things a person **needed** for a successful journey to the next life to join the Egyptian Gods...

This worksheet belongs to

Name:

Class:

Teacher:

1.

YOU NEED GRAVE GOODS AND FOOD TO SUSTAIN YOU.

Starting at the entrance door



Look at the first case to your right.

Here there is a range of Ancient Egyptian **Pottery**.

fact FILE

Much of this pottery was recovered from graves and tombs, where they would have contained **grave goods**. For example Jars No. 3 and 4 contained perfumed oils... ☒

In the next case...

Look for the **Painted Milk Jar**.

This is from a place in Upper (Southern) Egypt called **Abydos** and belonged to somebody of some wealth.

Look at the **spouts** on this jar.

What are these spouts supposed to look like?

2.

YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR BODY PREPARED PROPERLY.

Turn around and look at the mummy closest to the door...

Back at the door, **look** at the mummy nearest to you. This is the coffin of the Lady Diafawet. It dates from the 26th Dynasty (664-525 BC) of Ancient Egypt. However, the body inside is from the Ptolemaic period of Ancient Egypt (305-30 BC).

Can you see what is wrong here? The coffin is more than 200 years older than the body! In other words this coffin may have been recycled... with a new body put inside it.

This is not the only strange thing about this case...

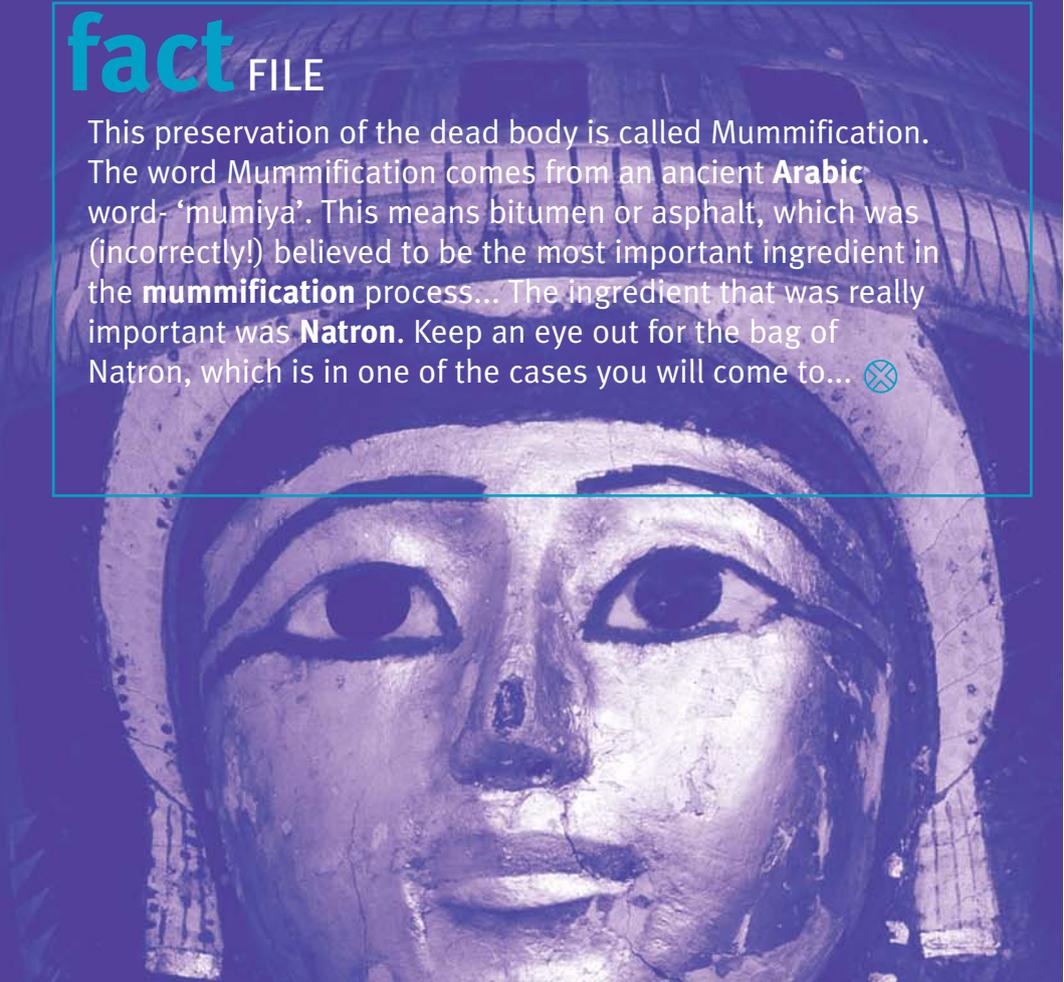
Take a close look at her body inside the coffin. There is something that is **seriously** wrong with the body.

Can you identify what may be missing?

If you can't see it immediately, read the text panel at the back of the case to help you find out...

fact FILE

This preservation of the dead body is called Mummification. The word Mummification comes from an ancient **Arabic** word- 'mumiya'. This means bitumen or asphalt, which was (incorrectly!) believed to be the most important ingredient in the **mummification** process... The ingredient that was really important was **Natron**. Keep an eye out for the bag of Natron, which is in one of the cases you will come to... ☒



3.

YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR BODY PROTECTED!

Go down the steps to your left...

Look at the large case in front of you. There is one section in this case (to the left) which has a lot of **amulets and pendants**.

Look for the amulet in the shape of an **eye...** This is the eye of the god **Horus**. Why do you think that an **eye of a god** might have been chosen to protect your body? **Give a reason for your answer...**

This is a common type of amulet, but there are other types as well...

Using the numbers in the left column, **find** three other types of amulets or pendants that are in the case. Then **write down the materials used in making them beside their names**.

No.	Name	Material
-----	------	----------

4		
---	--	--

8		
---	--	--

11		
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fact FILE

The body was protected by placing **magic pendants** inside the bandages of the mummy. They were placed **between** the layers of linen on the body, while it was being wrapped. They were placed there to **protect** the body from any harm. ☒

4.

YOU NEED TO HAVE FOOD OFFERINGS TO SUSTAIN YOU IN THE NEXT LIFE...

Stay at this case... now, **step** to your right...

Look for the **round** plate, which is called an ‘**offering platter**’. There are **carvings** on the left-hand side of this plate. **What do you think** these shapes are supposed to be? **Give** a reason for your answer.

Why do you think there is a channel or runnel carved in the platter? **Write** your answer here.

fact FILE

Sometimes, egyptologists find graves that contain an **offering platter**. These were usually put in the graves of less wealthy people who could not have afforded expensive grave goods and food to sustain them in the afterlife. ☒

5.

YOU NEED JARS FOR SOME PARTS OF YOUR BODY!

Step to your right...

What four parts of the body would have been kept in these jars? Use the label on Canopic Jars to help you. **Write your answer on these spaces**

a.

b.

c.

d.

The heart was left inside the mummified body...

Why do you think this was done? **Write your answer here.**

Some of the lids on the jars have faces on them. These are the animal representations of certain gods. Try to **identify** three **animals** that you can see on the lids of these jars?

1.

2.

3.

fact FILE

The four Canopic Jars each had a god to protect it. These were the **four sons of Horus**.

When a person was mummified some of the **internal organs of the body** were taken out and placed in special jars. These are called **Canopic Jars**. There would have been **four jars** in all. ☒



6.

YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR SHABTIS TO WORK FOR YOU IN THE NEXT LIFE!

Step to your right...

To the right of the amulets and pendants and the offering platter, there are lots of small **statues** of Egyptian people. These are called **Shabtis**.



Just in case you don't think that the Ancient Egyptians really believed in magic workers, **look** below the Shabti statues. There is a small but important wooden box. This was the coffin for the Shabti. This demonstrates that the Egyptians believed these Shabtis were real people.

Look carefully at the Shabtis. Some of them seem to be holding something in their hands. What do **you think** these objects that they are holding are? **and give a reason for your answer...**

fact FILE

A Shabti is a **magic worker** who will do your work for you in the next life. The Ancient Egyptians had these statues buried with them in their tombs. Sometimes, archaeologists can find hundreds of them in one just one person's grave. ☒

7.

YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR COFFIN MADE!

Turn around and go back up the steps. Now stop and look left...

Walk to the case with the **white coffin** in it. This is the coffin of another Egyptian woman. Her name is Lady **Djedeseiunfankh**. (Don't worry if you can't pronounce the name!)

There are Egyptian Gods painted on this coffin. What **evidence** can you **find** on this coffin that would prove that the Ancient Egyptians believed the gods took part in the funeral?

Horus, the son of Osiris is shown on the coffin twice. However in one place he is shown by only one piece of his body. **Can you work out what it might be?** Hint: You have already seen this sign in another case! **Write your answer on the space below.**

fact FILE

Gods were placed on the coffin to help protect the body. The Ancient Egyptians also believed that their gods **took part** in the funeral of a person. ☒

8.

YOU NEED ANIMAL SACRIFICES!

Go down the steps to your right and then come to the other side of the same case you have just looked in...

Often Archaeologists find mummified **animals** in tombs as well as the body of the dead person.

Find and name the three mummified animals in this case.

1.

2.

3.

How do we really know what is **inside** the wrappings of these animals? **Find out** by looking at the panel in the case... What do **you see** here that convinces you that these animals are **real**?

fact FILE

Animals were considered important because certain animals **belonged to certain gods**. For example, the **cat** was believed to be sacred because it belonged to the Goddess **Bast**.

An ancient Greek historian called **Herodotus**, tells us that when a cat died in an Egyptian house the entire family shaved off their eyebrows... ☒



9.

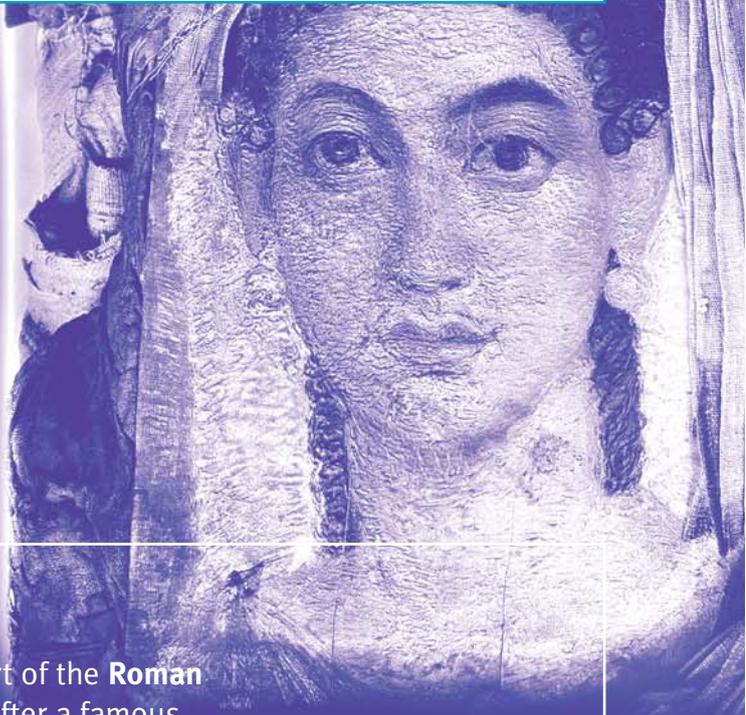
YOU NEED A FUNERAL SHROUD

Turn around and **Look** at the case on the wall in front of you...

Behind the case with the animals (which you have just been looking at) there is a case on the wall with a **Funeral Shroud** in it. This is the shroud which the dead man was **covered** with when he died. This funeral Shroud is important because it is from the **Roman Period**.

What evidence is there on the shroud that this is from the Roman period? Is there anything **distinctly Roman** about this?

Write your answer here.



fact FILE

Egypt became part of the **Roman Empire** in 30 BC after a famous battle (the year before), called the **Battle of Actium**. This was when Cleopatra, the Egyptian Queen and her Roman lover, the General Mark Antony, were defeated by the Roman Emperor, Augustus. This was the end of **Dynastic Egypt**. ☒

10.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE BURIED IN YOUR GRAVE TO KEEP YOU COMPANY?

Now, try to think of the four most important things that you would have placed in your tomb... perhaps some books, a television?

Take a moment to think about this...

What would you want with you for the rest of eternity?

Name four things you would bring with you to the after life...

1.

2.

3.

4.

Compare your choices with your friends or classmates!

fact FILE

The Ancient Egyptians filled their tombs with **personal things** so that they could use them in the afterlife. These were things like tables, chairs, pottery, food and musical instruments. ☒



