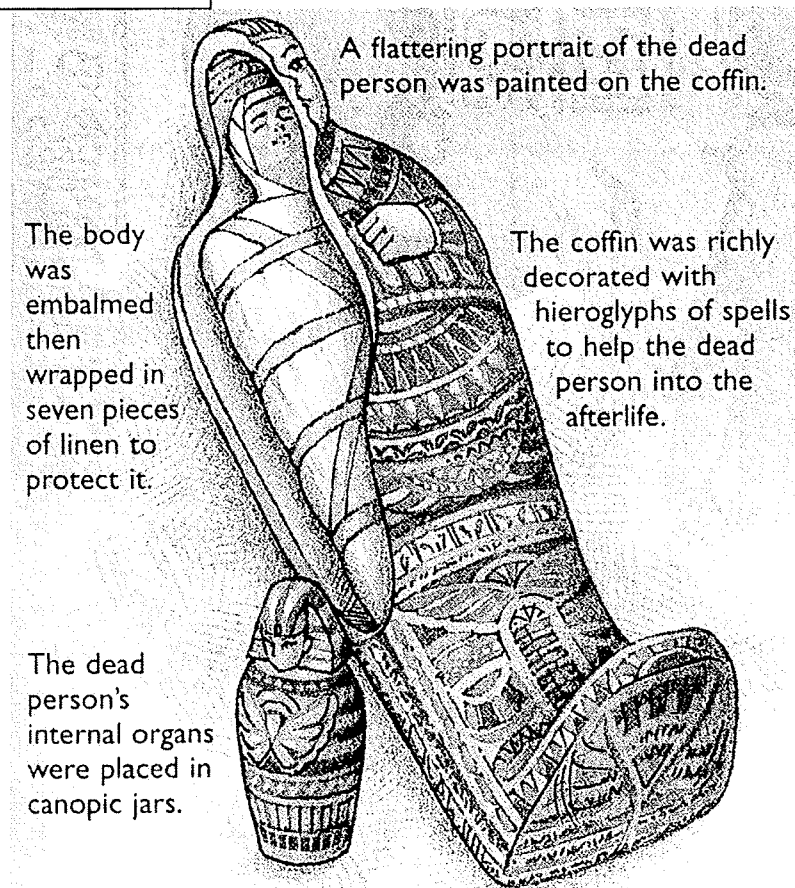


# Life After Death

Ancient Egyptians believed in life after death. They believed that in the afterlife the body and soul (called **ka**) could be reunited. They believed that **ka** was created at birth and when a person died it lived on in the tomb. Tombs were sometimes called the 'home of the **ka**' by Egyptians. Because of this afterlife it was important to prevent a body from decaying by preserving it. This is called mummification or embalming. The embalmed or preserved body is called a mummy.

Embalming or mummification was a very long process which could take up to 70 days. Once the mummy was fully prepared it was placed in a tomb with items that it was expected to need in the afterlife.

## Source A



The process of mummification

## Source B

### Making a mummy

Embalming was a careful step-by-step process.

**Step 1** The body was washed with wine and herbs. The brain was removed by forcing a wire hook through the nose and into the skull. Any parts of the brain remaining were rinsed out using more wine and oils. The lungs, stomach, intestines and other organs were removed through a long cut on the left side of the body. These soft organs were stored in special pots known as canopic jars. The heart was left in place.

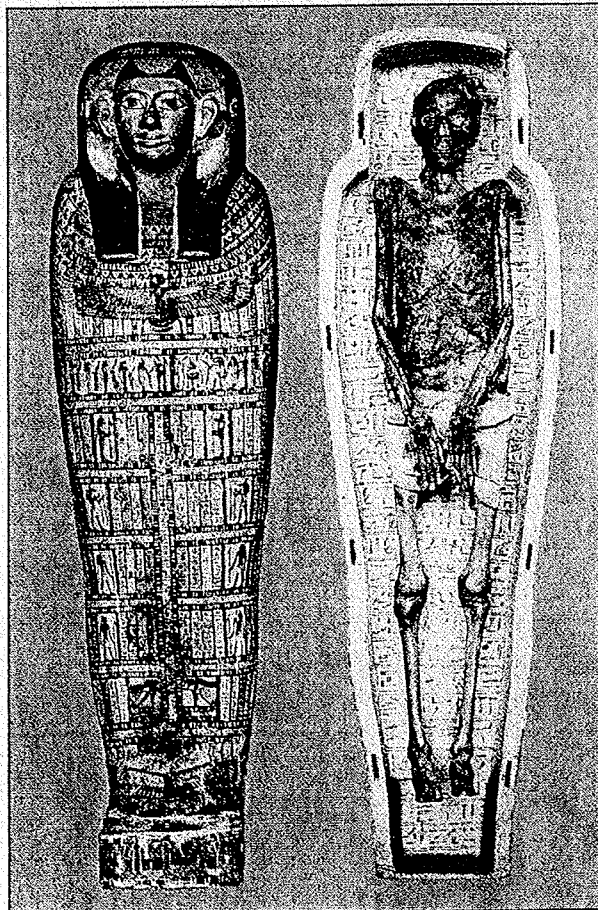
**Step 2** The chest was washed and filled with a type of salt called natron. The body was then covered with natron and left for 40 days. Natron dried the body and helped prevent decay. The internal organs were also treated with natron.

**Step 3** After the body had dried it was again rinsed with oils and perfumes and both the body and the head were packed with fine cloth. Sometimes if parts of the body were lost or badly decomposed they were replaced with rolls of cloth or even wooden carvings shaped to resemble the missing pieces.

**Step 4** The body was wrapped from head to toe in the finest linen bandages. Jewels and magical objects including sacred scarab beetles and ankhs were often placed within the layers of wrappings to protect the *ka* on its journey through the afterlife.

**Step 5** A mask, often inlaid with precious jewels or gold, was made to look like the dead person and was placed over the head to help the *ka* recognise the body.

**Step 6** The mummy was then placed inside a number of wooden coffins and finally into a stone sarcophagus shaped to resemble the human form.



The mummy of Tesmoupert,  
22nd Dynasty

**Activity:** You are an Egyptian embalmer. Write a procedure that shows how a body is embalmed and made into a mummy. Use Source A and B on the previous pages to help you.

### **What is a Procedure?**

Procedures tell how to do something. This might include instructions for how to carry out a task or play a game, directions for getting to a place, and rules of behaviour (Board of Studies, 1998, *English K-6 Modules*, p.45) .

A procedure usually has 3 parts to it:

1. Opening statement of goal or aim.
2. Materials required listed in order of use.
3. Series of steps listed in chronological order.

### **To Help You:**

A scaffold helps you set out your work and provide a framework (outline) for your activity.

Use the scaffold on the next page to set out your procedure for making a mummy.



## Procedure Scaffold

**Words to  
Think**

**Goal:**

**Materials:**

**Steps: (In Sequence)**

**Words to Write**