

Anytown Muesum,
Anytown
AT1 8LE
14/11/11

Dear Children,
Thank you for your letter enquiring how a 'Mummy' would have been created in Ancient Egypt. This is what used to happen.

First, trained men called embalmers washed the dead person's body with sweet smelling palm oil. Next the brain was pulled out of the head bit by bit using a long bronze hook. Finally, the organs were removed from the body. All of the removed items were then stored in pottery jars.

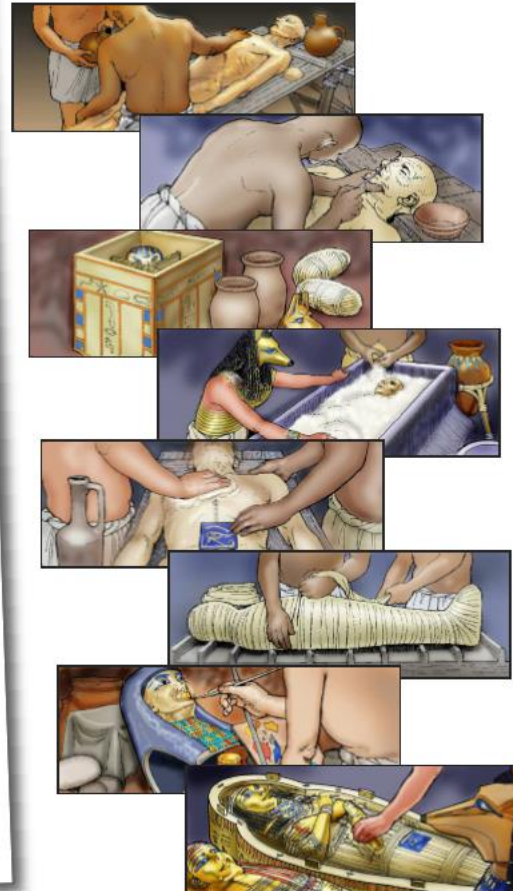
Next, the body was put in a bath of natron to dry it out. This took forty days. A lucky charm, the 'Eye of Horus', was placed on the body to ward off evil spirits. Sweet smelling oils were rubbed into the skin to soften and preserve the body. Finally, the body was wrapped in layers of linen bandages. Lucky charms were placed in between the layers of bandage.

When the bandaging of the body was complete, a mask of gold and jewels was made. It was placed over the head and shoulders of the body. The mask's face was made to look like the person who had died. The wrapped and decorated body was placed inside a human shaped wooden coffin. The priest said magic spells and finally the wooden coffin was sealed with wax.

I hope this information helps you with your project.

Yours faithfully,
B.C. History (Museum Curator)

LETTER FROM THE MUSEUM



LETTER FROM THE MUSEUM

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Dear Children, This is how a

1 **Mummy** **Daddy** **Uncle** **Aunty**

would have been created. First, the body was washed with

2 **soap** **washing-up liquid** **palm oil** **shampoo**

and then the organs were removed and stored in

3 **jam** **pottery** **stone** **glass**

jars. Next, the body was dried in a

4 **trough** **bath** **shower** **tub**

of natron before being wrapped in layers of linen

5 **cloth.** **strips.** **bandages.** **sheet.**

Finally, a mask made of gold and

6 **jelly** **jewellers** **jolly** **jewels**

was placed over the head and shoulders of the body.

Section B

1 Who wrote this letter?

2 Why did this person write to the children?

3 What were embalmers trained to do?

4 What were lucky charms used for?

5 Why do you think only wealthy ancient Egyptians were made into mummies when they died?

6 Why do you think robbers liked to break into the tombs of dead Pharaohs?

7 Why do you think the wooden coffin was sealed with wax?

Section C

Write your own letter to a museum curator asking how a pyramid was built in ancient Egypt.

TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB

Lord Carnarvon was a very wealthy man. He paid for Howard Carter, an archaeologist, to search for Tutankhamun's Tomb. When Carter found the entrance he 'wired' Carnarvon to come. On 26th November 1922 the two men, with help from some others, set about entering the tomb for the first time.

Carnarvon: *I came as soon as I received your telegram.*

Carter: *I wired you as soon as we discovered the steps hidden in the sand. I knew you would want to be here when we went in.*

Carnarvon: *How did you find the steps?*

Carter: *The water carrier stumbled across them. The wind had blown the sand away from the top step.*

Carnarvon: *How far have you gone?*

Carter: *The men have removed all the sand from the steps. They lead down to a wall below the ground's surface, a bit like a man-made cave.*

Carnarvon: *How exciting after all these years, lead me to it!*

Carter led Lord Carnarvon, Lord Carnarvon's daughter and the workmen to the site where they had found the hidden steps.

Carter: *Look down there.*

Lord Carnarvon looked down at the steps that had been discovered hidden by the desert sand.

Carnarvon: *No wonder we took so long to find it. What now?*

Carter: *Hand me that hammer and chisel and then have a candle ready. I'm going in.*

One of the workmen handed Carter the tools. He carefully walked down the steps and then started to hammer away at the top left hand corner of the wall.

Carnarvon: *How is it going?*

Carter: *It's beginning to crumble.*

Suddenly a piece of stone falls inside the opening and warm stale air rushes out.

Carter: *Just a bit more, and another, and another! Quickly man, light that candle and pass it to me.*

Lord Carnarvon makes several attempts to light the candle. Finally it lights and he passes it to Carter who stretches his arm through the opening with the candle gripped tightly.

Carnarvon: *What can you see? What can you see? Have the grave robbers beaten us to it?*

Carter: *It's so bright out here in the sun I am struggling to focus. I'll just get a little closer.*

Carnarvon: *Can you see anything?*

Carter: *Yes, wonderful things!*



TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Lord Carnarvon paid Howard Carter to look for Tutankhamun's

1 **coffin.** **grave.** **tomb.** **mask.**

When Carter found the entrance he

2 **telephoned** **faxed** **emailed** **wired**

Carnarvon to come. The men removed the

3 **sack** **sand** **railings** **door**

from the hidden steps. Carter used a hammer and a

4 **nail** **spade** **chisel** **saw**

to knock some stones out of the wall. As the first stone fell, warm stale

5 **sand** **water** **oxygen** **air**

rushed out. Carnarvon asked if Carter could see

6 **gold.** **a coffin.** **a chariot.** **anything.**

"I can see wonderful things," replied Carter.

Section B

1 What was Howard Carter's job?

2 What do you think a telegram is?

3 What do you think the term 'water carrier' refers to?

4 Why were the steps to the tomb difficult to find?

5 Carter said, "I'm going in." Where was he going?

6 Why was Lord Carnarvon concerned the grave robbers may have 'beaten us to it'?

7 What do you think Carter meant when he said he could see "wonderful things"?

Section C

Continue this playscript telling what Carter and Carnarvon said to each other as they enter the tomb for the first time.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TRANSPORT

Evidence from objects dug up by archaeologists show us how goods were transported in ancient Egypt.

Reed Boats

A model in Tutankhamun's tomb showed him using a small boat made from reeds to hunt in the marshes close to the River Nile. Many wall paintings showed larger reed boats with sails being used to carry goods up and down the River Nile.



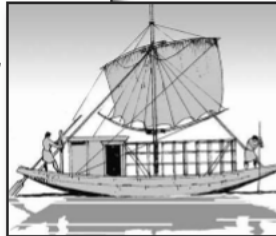
Litters

A stone carving shows a Pharaoh being carried in a chair on two poles on the shoulders of four slaves. These 'litters' would only be used for short journeys in the city.



Wooden Boats

A wooden model from a tomb in the Valley of the Kings shows us that wooden boats with sails, oars and large rudders were used for the heaviest of loads on the River Nile.



Carrying Large Loads

Stone carvings in the Temple at Thebes show slaves carrying large loads on their backs fastened to a pole. Heavier loads were carried on two poles between two men.



Chariots

On the staff of a fan from Tutankhamun's tomb are engravings of the king hunting wild animals. The Egyptians had copied the idea of the wheel from the Sumerian people. The staff shows us that the Egyptians had trained horses to pull wheeled chariots.



Donkeys

Papyrus rolls (an early form of paper) with hieroglyphic writings tell us about food crops being brought to the Pharaoh's stores in reed baskets carried on donkeys.



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TRANSPORT

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Evidence dug up by

1 **miners** **workmen** **archaeologists** **moles**

show us how ancient Egyptians transported goods. A

2 **toy** **painting** **hieroglyphic** **model**

showed Tutankhamun using a reed boat. A

3 **stone** **wooden** **papyrus** **cardboard**

model boat was found in the Valley of the Kings.

4 **An engraving** **A boat** **A model** **A painting**

from Tutankhamun's tomb showed him using a wheeled chariot. A stone carving shows a Pharaoh being

5 **carried** **wheeled** **pulled** **pushed**

in a chair. Hieroglyphic writing on

6 **paper** **card** **papyrus rolls** **kitchen roll**

show donkeys carrying food in baskets.

Section B

1 What were large reed boats with sails used for?

2 Which type of boat carried the heaviest loads on the River Nile?

3 Where did the Egyptians get the idea of the wheel?

4 How did a Pharaoh travel in a city?

5 How do you think slaves felt about carrying heavy loads with a pole?

6 What is 'papyrus'?

7 What do you think a 'hieroglyphic' is?

Section C

Write an imaginary report about a Pharaoh going hunting with his chariot when a wheel falls off!