

MUMMIFICATION

We are used to seeing mummy costumes during Halloween, but did you know that mummies originally came from Ancient Egypt? Ancient Egyptians would mummify their pharaohs and other important people. They believed that when a person died they would go to an **afterlife** and would need their body with them, so they would mummify or '**preserve**' it.



To mummify someone, they first had to pull the brains out through the nose – yuck! If that wasn't bad enough, the **organs** were then pulled out through a little cut in the stomach. The lungs, liver, intestines and stomach were placed in separate containers called canopic jars. They were stored in jars because the Egyptians believed these organs would be needed in the afterlife. Each jar had a lid which represented one of the sons of the Horus, who was the Egyptian god of the sky. The jars were placed in a chest next to the mummy and sealed within the tomb.

The Egyptians didn't believe the brain was important, so it was pulled out and thrown away!



Do you think the brain or the heart is more important?



But what about the heart? The Egyptians believed that they would be tested to check that they had led a good life. Their heart would be on one side of some scales and a feather on the other side. If the feather was heavier than their heart, then they passed the test and could enter the afterlife.



This meant the heart was left in the body because it would be needed for the test.

1. Use this information to design and make your own set of jars. What images can you use to show what's inside?

Design your jars here!

Glossary

Afterlife what happens to you when you have died

Organs group of tissues with a specific function (like your heart or lungs)

Preserve to keep safe and undamaged