

EGYPTIAN BURIAL CEREMONY

PREPARING THE BODY FOR BURIAL

- 1. *What the Egyptians did:*** The Egyptians removed all the internal organs from the body except for the heart. They believed that the heart was the place where a person's soul was kept.

What you will do: Make an incision in the side of the stuffed animal. Remove the stuffing from the torso. Leave a little bit where the heart should be and do not remove any from the head, arms or legs. Cut the nose and remove the brain.
- 2. *What the Egyptians did:*** The Egyptians put the organs in a ceremonial vase called canopic jars. They painted pictures of the person on the vase in bright colors.

What you will do: Place the stuffing you removed into baby food jars decorated with scenes from the stuffed animal's life.
- 3. *What the Egyptians did:*** The Egyptians spread a special kind of salt called natron inside and all over the body. They let the natron dry out the body for 40 days.

What you will do: Sprinkle some table salt inside the stuffed animal. Then lightly sprinkle outside the body as well. Wait 40 seconds (symbolizing 40 days).
- 4. *What the Egyptians did:*** After the body was dry, the Egyptians put items of value, like gold, jewelry and food inside the body. This was so the person would be able to purchase things and live comfortably in the afterlife.

What you will do: Put items you think are interesting inside the stuffed animal. Put in what you think will be helpful to it or items it might need.
- 5. *What the Egyptians did:*** To protect the body from harsh weather, the Egyptians coated it with a thick layer of tree sap. This kept water from leaking in and prevented the desert heat from destroying the mummy.

What you will do: Carefully cover the stuffed animal in plastic wrap. Make sure there are no places where water can get in.
- 6. *What the Egyptians did:*** The body was now ready for the ceremonial cloth wrapping. The Egyptians started at the feet and worked their way up. They placed magic stones called amulets between the strips of cloth as they went. The amulets had phrases of good luck written on them. Over the mouth, they placed a special phrase the person might have spoken when he was alive.

What you will do: Wrap the stuffed animal with strips of cloth or bandages. Place some of your stones with good luck messages in the wrapping.

PREPARING THE BURIAL CHAMBER

7. ***What the Egyptians did:*** After wrapping the body, a ceremonial mask was placed over the head. This was so Osiris, god of the dead, could identify the person in the afterlife.
What you will do: Attach a string or rubber band to your mask and place the mask over the face of your stuffed animal.

8. ***What the Egyptians did:*** The sarcophagus, or coffin, was brightly decorated with more scenes from the person's life. The mummy, along with the canopic jars and other items needed in the afterlife, was placed in the sarcophagus. The sarcophagus was then sealed for the long journey to the Land of the Dead.
What you will do: Place the mummified animal, jars and other items in the box. Seal the box with packing tape.

9. ***What the Egyptians did:*** After the sarcophagus was sealed, it was carried in procession to the tomb. Pharaohs' bodies were ferried across the Nile River from the east bank, where the royal palaces were, to the west bank - the City of the Dead. A priest led the way, accompanied by grieving relatives and loudly wailing professional mourners. At the tomb entrance, the sarcophagus was held upright and the priest performed the Opening of the Mouth ceremony. Before a mummy was buried, priests touched its face and lips. Egyptians believed this ceremony allowed a dead person to see, hear, eat, and speak in the City of the Dead.
What you will do: Form a procession and carry your sarcophagus to the tomb. Perform the Opening of the Mouth ceremony before placing your box in the tomb.

10. ***What the Egyptians did:*** Tombs were decorated with paintings of the person hunting, worshipping the gods, and enjoying family life. Tombs had everything the dead person might need - food, drink, clothes, weapons, and games. Models of houses, boats, animals, servants and companions were also placed in the tomb so the dead person could enjoy these too. The tomb was then sealed. A happy afterlife was only certain once the soul had made a perilous journey through the underworld. Finally, the soul faced judgment. The dead person's heart was weighed. If it passed the test, one of its spirits, the *akh*, joined the immortals while other spirits, the *ka* and the *ba*, lived on in the tomb.