

Mummies





Essential Question:

Why were the
Ancient
Egyptians
mummified?

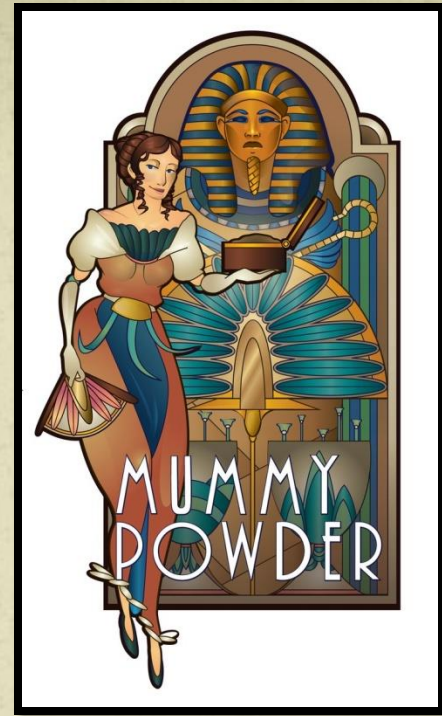
Where did the word “mummy” come from?

- In the 1400’s, the word “mummy”, or *mumiyah*, was actually the name of a medicine, taken from the Arabic word bitumen, which is a sticky oil now used to make roads.



(2-3)

- People in Europe thought that Mummies could cure diseases, they also thought Ancient Egyptians used bitumen in making mummies.
- Europeans thought mummies had special healing properties, so they would grind up the mummies into a powder. They put the powder on wounds, using it as a medicine, they would even EAT it!

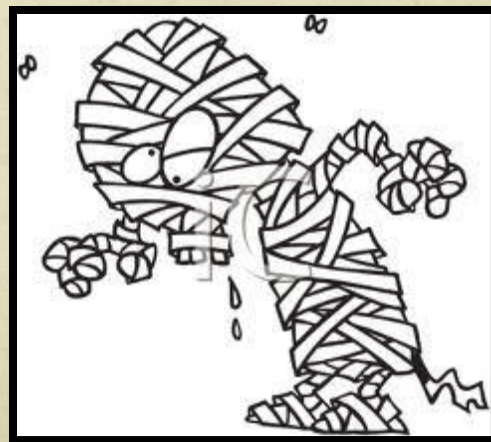



- Well, eventually mummies got really expensive to buy and ship over from Egypt, so people opened *mummy factories*. They would make FAKE mummies
- They would take people who had recently died, stuff them with bitumen, wrap 'em up and dry 'em out in the sun.
- Then they would grind the bodies up into a powder and sell it as medicine.



(5)

- Finally someone decided this probably wasn't very safe, so they quit doing it.
- Besides, it was a substance called resin the Egyptians used in mummy making, NOT bitumen.
- But it was too late, people had already started to call the dead bodies mumiayah, from the word bitumen.
- And that's how we got the word Mummy!





How did we get
the word
“mummy”?

(6)



How were the earliest mummies made?

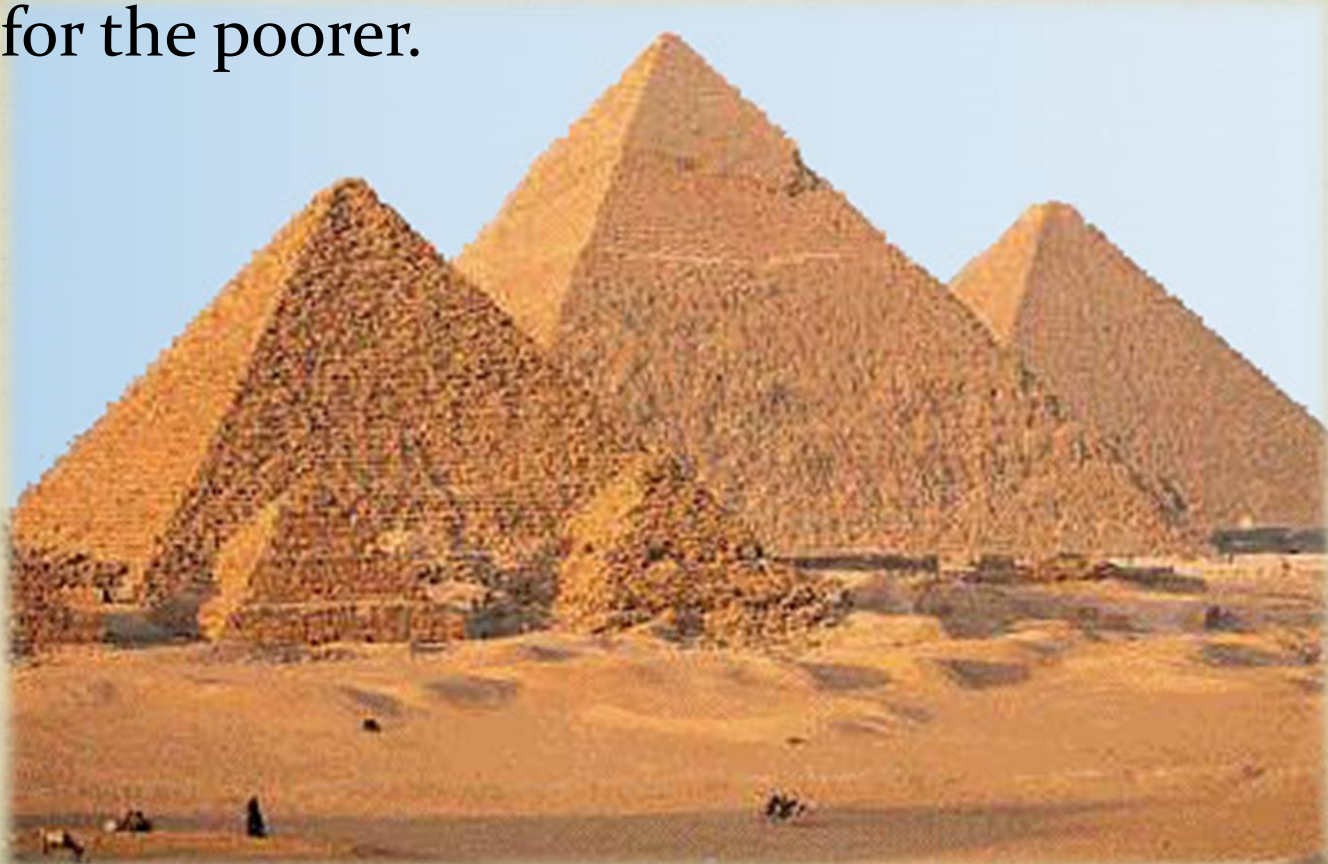
The earliest mummies weren't mummified at all, they wrapped in thin layers of linen and buried in the sand

- The dry sand preserved the bodies, and Egyptians soon realized they could preserve bodies even better by preparing them better.



(7)

- Soon, the more **important** you were, the more **preserved** and protected your body would be after you died.
- Great **pyramids** for the richest, shallow graves in the sand for the poorer.





How were the
earliest
mummies made?

(8)

What were done with a person's organs?

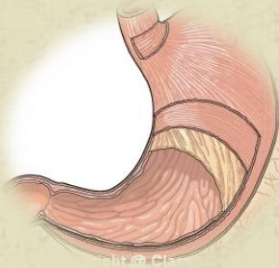
- When a wealthy person, such as a Pharaoh, died, the mummification process began.
- The body spent 70 days being cleaned in the Tent of Purification, or *Ibu* Tent.
- The body was cleaned with Natron Salt.



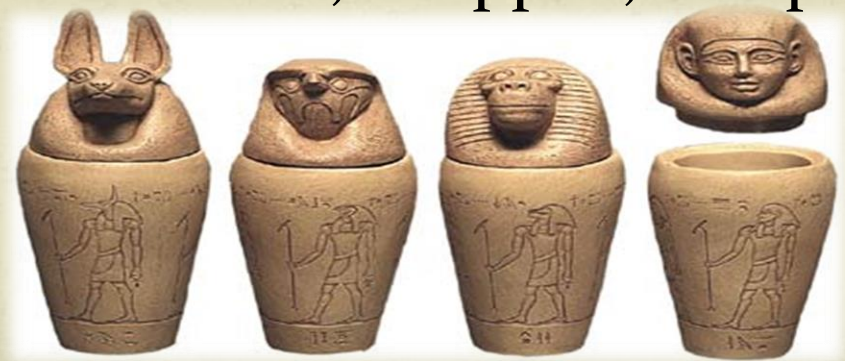
(9)

Place of Embalming

- The body was then taken to the *Wabet* tent, where it would be **embalmed**
- A slit was made in the **left** side of the body.
- The lungs, **liver**, stomach, and intestines were removed



- These organs were cleaned, wrapped, and placed in **Canopic Jars**.



Removal of the Heart



- The heart was also removed and wrapped in linen
- Unlike the other vital organs though, it was placed back inside the body after it was embalmed

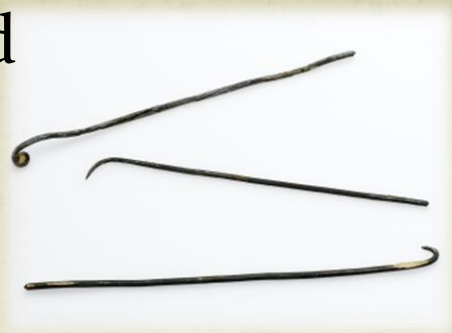


What about the brain?

- The Egyptians did not see the purpose of the **brain**, they believed all the thoughts came from the heart, that's why it was placed back inside the body.
- After death, the brain would dry up and become hard, some early mummies with the brain left inside sound like they have a rock in their head.



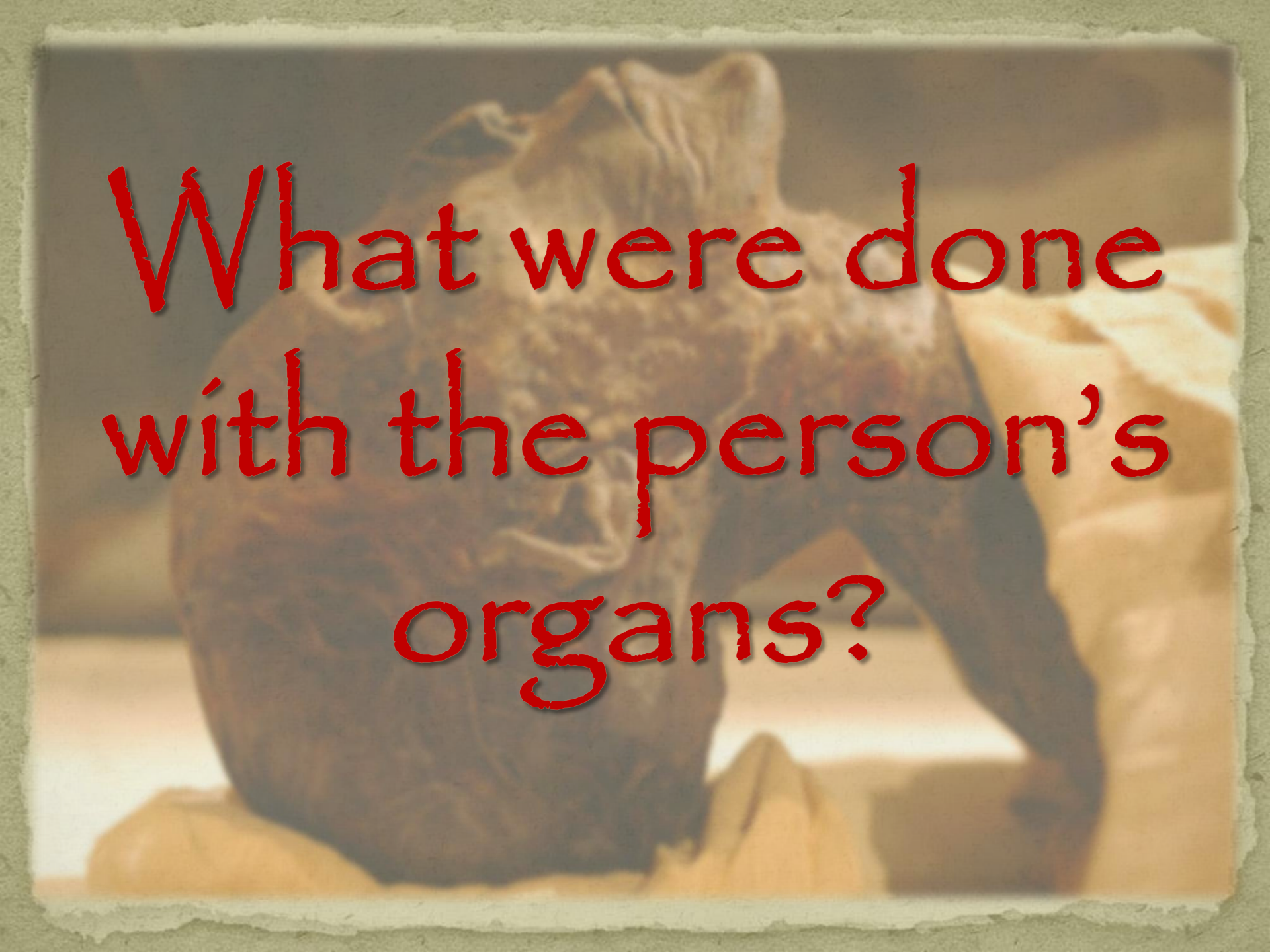
- The Egyptians would remove the brain by shoving a hook up through the nose, mush up the brain and then let the goop pour out through the nose.



NO!!! Not my brain!!!!

- Whatever was left of the brain after it 'drained' was thrown away.

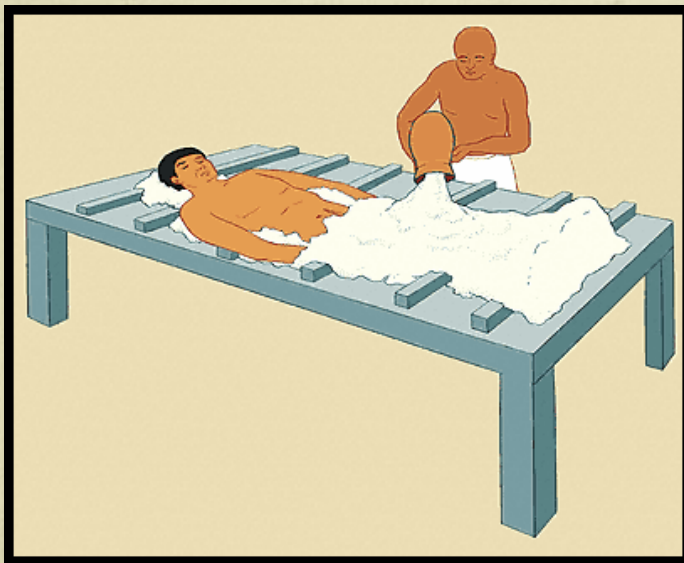


A photograph of a person lying on a table, possibly a medical or forensic examination, with their torso open, overlaid with red text. The text is in a stylized, outlined font and reads: "What were done with the person's organs?"

What were done
with the person's
organs?

What was the Per Nefer?

- The body was then dried out for 40 days. Natron Salt was again used to dry out the body, this salt would absorb the liquid from the body, this 'body liquid', would drain off the table and be collected.



- After the body was cleaned again and drained, it was taken to *per Nefer*, or the house of beauty.
- The body was stuffed with sawdust and resin



- These were used to “reshape” the body, filling the empty spaces where the organs had been.



- The bodies were next **perfumed** (because dead people stink...)



- They were also stuffed with protective symbols called **amulets** to protect them in the afterlife.



Wrapping the mummy

- About 13 to 15 days were spent wrapping the mummy.
- It was wrapped with a material called linen, it was wrapped several different times



An illustration on a parchment-like background. On the left is a mummy wrapped in white bandages, with only its eyes visible. On the right is a woman with long, dark blue hair, wearing a blue and white striped tunic and a yellow sash. The background features faint, vertical columns of hieroglyphs. The word 'MUMMIFICATION' is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the bottom of the illustration.

MUMMIFICATION

[Making a mummy 2 min](#)



What was the
Per Nefer?

What was the burial process?

- When the mummification process was finished, a replica of the deceased's face was made of plaster (gold if you were rich), and placed on the mummies face.
- The Death Mask was to help the spirit (or Ba) of the dead person find his body in the next life.

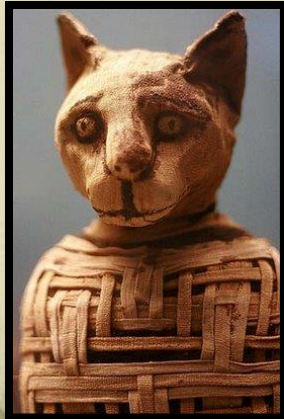


Burial

- Once the body was prepared for burial, it was placed in a large container called a **sarcophagus** (an ancient coffin).
- The wealthiest had large tombs of solid **gold** built for them, some even had the pyramids as their final resting places.



Afterlife



- Egyptians believed in life after death. They called this the **afterlife**.
- When a person was buried, they took many of their **possessions** with them, believing that life would continue after death, they would even sometimes mummify their pets (they were especially fond of cats).



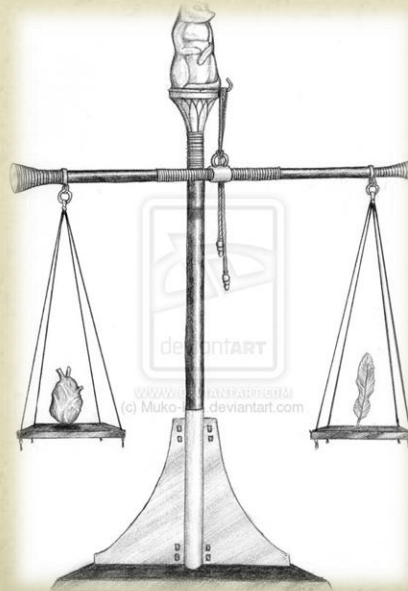
(----)

- When the person reached the afterlife, the Egyptians believed that the person would be judged based on their deeds during this life.
- This 'judgment' was known as the *weighing of the heart* ceremony.

Judgment



- The dead person's heart would be weighed against a **feather** (the symbol of truth) and be judged by the god **Osiris**.
- If they balanced, their deeds had been good, and they were escorted into the next life by the god **Anubis**.
- If their heart weighed more than the feather, his soul would be eaten by a monster that was part **hippopotamus**, part **crocodile**.





What was the
burial process?



Essential Question:

Why were the
Ancient
Egyptians
mummified?

The End



- Power Point created by James Reese, 2011