

Play:

# Mummification





# Loan Box



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# Introduction

This Teacher's Resource accompanies the schools Loan Box, Mummification – available to hire from The Box, Plymouth.

Go to [theboxplymouth.com](http://theboxplymouth.com) to book your visit.

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# Risk assessment

Please conduct a risk assessment of these objects before using them with your class. Some of the objects included within this box have sharp edges, which you might need to treat with care with your students.

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# Lost/damaged items

If you have lost or damaged any items, please inform us as soon as possible, using this email address: [TheBoxLearning@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:TheBoxLearning@plymouth.gov.uk)

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## Loan Box contents

This Loan Box is full of amazing replica objects from Ancient Egypt that look and feel like the real thing!

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## What's in the box?

- 1 x Miniature Mummy
- 4 x Canopic jars and lids
- 1 x Replica Silicone internal organs





**Ideas for**  
**activities**



There are lots of different ways to use these objects with your class. Here are three ideas to start you off:

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## 1. Topic Starter: Introduction

Take a look at a raisin and a grape. The raisin was once a grape, but it has been dehydrated – which means all of the water has been removed. It's a dried grape.

Dehydration was also the first step of mummification. Around five and a half thousand years ago, in 3400BC, when important people in Egypt died they were buried in hot desert sands, and these environmental conditions of being very hot and very dry led to the body dehydrating – just like a raisin. This was called natural mummification.

Over the next thousand years, the mummification process became much more elaborate. Instead of being placed in the desert, a new way to artificially mummify dead bodies was developed, and decorative coffins were introduced to hold the body – an example can be seen in The Box's 100 Journeys gallery.

Use this [Mummification in Ancient Egypt Loan Box](#) to introduce your class to the mummification process, then bring them along to The Box to see the real thing, or explore images of other mummies online.

## 2. Mummy magic

The Mummy, Canopic Jars, Book of the Dead and body parts in this box brings the marvel of mummification to your classroom. It's up to you to add as much theatrics as you like!

There's a specific order to an Ancient Egyptian mummification. Luckily, a Greek traveller called Herodotus saw a mummification happen, and wrote down the steps. So you can follow these!

### Step 1: The Brain

*“As much as possible of the brain is taken out through the nostrils with an iron hook. What the hook cannot reach is rinsed out with drugs.”*

**Psst:** There's a bit of a historical inaccuracy here. Steps 1-3 would have been done before the body was wrapped in linen (Step 4). So if you like, you could do steps 1-3 on a pretend body instead.

### Step 2: Get everything out!

...apart from the heart. That was needed for the journey to the afterlife.

*“The side is cut open with a flint knife and the whole contents of the abdomen removed. The space is then thoroughly cleansed and washed out, first with palm wine and again with liquid containing spices. After that, the space in the body is filled with pure myrrh, cassia, and other perfumes except frankincense and sewn up again”*

**Tip!** If you like, you can buy some of these spices for your students to smell. See later steps for other things you could use, to make this a multi-sensory experience for your students.

## 2. Mummy magic

### Step 3: Time for the Canopic jars

The organs were placed in Canopic jars – a different jar for each organ.

Qebehsenuef the falcon-headed god: intestines

Hapy the baboon-headed god: lungs.

Duamutef the jackal-headed god: stomach.

Imsety the human-headed god: liver.

### Step 4: Salt and wrapping

*“Then the body is placed in natrum, covered entirely over”.*

*“when this period is over, the body is washed then wrapped from head to foot in linen cut into strips and smeared with gum, which is often used by the Egyptians instead of glue.”*

Natron is a natural salt that dehydrated the body (remember our raisin on page 3?) to stop it rotting, which could take up to 40 days.

Amulets that acted as good luck charms for the journey to the afterlife were placed in the mummy’s wrappings.

The wrapped body was then placed in a wooden coffin, shaped like a human figure, which could be painted both inside and out and was often decorated in gold.



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