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Mummies in Ancient Egypt

Step 1 Excite

Ancient Egyptian funeral rituals and materials are the most elaborate the world has ever known. Brainstorm and discuss, then make a list of why the ancient Egyptians used such elaborate methods to preserve the dead.

Step 2 Examine

The ancient Egyptians believed that the life force was composed of several psychic parts, of which the most important was the “ka.” They believed that the ka, a copy of the body, accompanied the body throughout life and, after death, departed from the body to take its place in the kingdom of the dead. They believed the ka could not exist without the body; therefore, they tried to preserve the corpse. Bodies were embalmed and mummified according to a traditional method supposedly begun by Isis, who mummified her husband Osiris. Wood or stone replicas of the body were put into the tomb in the event that the mummy was destroyed. As a final protection, exceptionally elaborate tombs were erected to protect the corpse and its supplies.

The deceased was furnished with a copy of The Book of the Dead. Part of this book, a guide to the world of the dead, consists of charms designed to overcome the dangers that the deceased would face.

Underlined text refers to Internet link at http://Homeschool-Books.com
Research mummies. Use any resource (an encyclopedia, nonfiction book, historical novel, or the Internet). We recommend the following:

Books

- **Ancient Egypt (Eyewitness)**

- **The Usborne Book of the Ancient World**
  Read: Use the Egypt Contents to find “Mummies.”

- **Kingfisher History Encyclopedia**
  Read: Look for “Mummies” in the index under “Egypt.”

Internet Sources

- **Clickable Mummy**
  Click on different parts of the Mummy to view interesting facts and information about the mummification process.

- **Mummification**
  A short description of the process of mummification by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

- **The Virtual Mummy**
  Unwrap a mummy by a mouse click. Learn about mummification using Quicktime VR! From the Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science in Medicine (IMCM).

- **Make a Mummy**
  This site includes directions to make a miniature modern mummy.

- **How to Make A Mummy**
  *National Geographic* presents this feature on mummies. Click to follow this interesting photographic tour.

- **CyberMummy Project**
  Unlock the secrets of a mummy with the help of modern medical imagery, a supercomputer, and an archaeologist. Includes a QuickTime Mummy Movie.

- **Mummified - The Match Game**
  A Discovery Online feature story includes a mummy game.
Step 3 Expand

Choose and complete one of the following activities:

Activity 1: Answer Questions
Answer these questions from your research: What methods were used for embalming? Who was mummified? How many mummies do you think were made over the years? Why did the ancient Egyptians mummify animals? Make a list of the animals that have been found mummified.

Activity 2: Write a Summary
Read what the Bible says about our bodies: 2 Cor. 5:1; Job 4:19; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:15; 19:1. Write a summary comparing and contrasting ancient Egyptian beliefs with what the Bible says about receiving eternal life. Cite scripture references. Younger students can narrate (orally tell) what they have learned.

Activity 3: Mummify Fruit
Mummify fruit by following the directions from Newton’s Apple. Click Mummies and look for the activity “Salt of the Earth.”

Activity 4: Create a Mummy
Make a miniature mummy with aluminum foil, gauze strips, masking tape, newspaper, scrap cardboard, and white glue. Refer to the Internet site Make a Mummy or Make Your Own Mummy.

Step 4 Excel

Teach a younger student about mummies. Use your research above or the book, Tut’s Mummy Lost — And Found by Judy Donnelly (May 1988) Random House (Merchandising); ISBN: 0394891899, to help you.

Correct written work to demonstrate correct punctuation and spelling, and effective use of grammar. Add corrected written work or illustrations to your portfolio. Add new words you learned in this lesson into your Vocabulary Notebook (see page 22).
What Your Child Needs to Know When

Revised 2001. This is long-time homeschool best seller. Concerned homeschooling parents are always asking, “Am I doing enough?” This book is the answer. It includes the checklist for academic evaluation for grades K-8 and explains why children need to obtain not just academic knowledge but, more important, the Godly wisdom to know how to use the knowledge! Includes chapters on true Biblical education methods (compared to classical Greek) and the Heart of Wisdom teaching approach! ISBN 0-9701816-1-2. 312 p.

A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays

This giant, 585-page telephone-size book gives an extensive look at the nine annual holidays: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles, Hanukkah, Purim and the weekly holiday—the Sabbath! This book explains the historical, agricultural, spiritual, and prophetic purposes of each holiday, showing how each points to Christ and creative ways to teach them to your children! Also includes instructions for a weekly Bible study and instructions using the Special Home School Section to incorporate the teaching of the biblical holidays with the academic school subjects! Excellent, fascinating information about the true New Testament Church and our Hebrew roots also included! ISBN 0-9701816-0-4. Read Excerpts at BiblicalHolidays.com

The Heart of Wisdom Teaching Approach: A Guide to Biblical Education

This book provides you with the methods, program, and resources for a 12-year course of study where students spend half the school day studying God’s Word and the other half studying God’s world (academics). Students study history chronologically and science in the order of the days of creation. This book will instruct you, step by step, how to give your child an Bible focused, comprehensive education from preschool through high school; one that will train him or her to read, to study, to understand, to love to learn and most importantly to desire and seek true wisdom. The Heart of Wisdom teaching approach is a beautiful, exciting blending of Bible first philosophy, the Charlotte Mason approach, Hebraic education, Delight Directed learning, 4 Step Lessons, and more.

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