

## Ancient Egypt: PBL #2

### The Mummification Activity: Mummify a Stuffed Animal

Through this PBL you will reveal the cultural importance of Egyptian Ideology and the Social fabric that made Ancient Egyptians value and preserve their dead in preparation for the afterlife. You will demonstrate an understanding of Egyptian Culture in terms of the process of Mummification as well as the special practices and care that was provided while insuring that their loved ones were at peace after death... Good Luck

This Project requires multiple parts to be completed in order to receive full credit so it is very important to choose your group wisely and utilize all of your time in class effectively. Someone in the group should assume a leadership role to ensure that all tasks are carried out. Be sure to use the STEM-Design Process which can be found on the STEM website under documents for all aspects of planning, designing and constructing your product.

**Materials your group will need:** (Take time to divvy up the materials list and remember you if you are assigned a particular material it is responsibility to your team to make sure you have it on time. You may use approved substitutes if necessary.) Make sure your group is on the same page about materials and who needs to bring what.

- Stuffed Animal of reasonable size. (not one that will be missed!!!) remember it will be placed in a Sarcophagus (Box or similar creation) that you design, create and decorate.
- 3-5 empty & clean baby food jars or mason jars or something similar: these will act as canopic jars for the organs ( stuffing you remove from the stuffed animal) that you decorate with scenes that might have occurred in the stuffed animal's life or hieroglyphic writings
- Salt or Sand ( you won't need more than 3 or 4 table spoons)
- Items the Stuffed Animal will cherish and need in the afterlife... fake jewelry, food, statues of friends, photos, etc.
- Saran Wrap
- Strips of linen, toilet paper or ace bandages
- Small, flat stones to decorate as Scarabs or write good luck messages in hieroglyphics on
- Construction Paper: To decorate your Sarcophagus
- A Box big enough to place the stuffed animal in as a Sarcophagus
- Packaging tape
- Any other material your group may want to use to decorate your Sarcophagus... glitter, beads, newspapers, paint, yarn etc.

### **Preparing to Mummify:**

After you have collected all your items, you will need to accomplish the following in order to be ready to mummify your stuffed animal: **Your group should do the appropriate amount of research for each of the following steps. Example: what is a Scarab or Sarcophagus?**

- ✓ **Your group will be responsible for creating a digital journal for each day that details what you accomplished that day. What was successful and what your group struggled with or found hard. What great or not so great ideas were brought to the group and by who. How the project is going over all and what you are discovering or learning about Ancient Egypt. This daily journal will be compiled into a single word document and hand in either digitally or as a hard copy with the final product your group creates.**
1. Decorate your canopic jars on the outside with scenes that might have occurred in the stuffed animal's life, or by writing sayings in hieroglyphics.
  2. On your small, flat stones design scarabs or write good luck messages in hieroglyphics.
  3. Create a ceremonial mask in the image of your stuffed animal. The image should show the animal in its best condition, just as the ancient Egyptian masks did.
  4. Decorate your box (Sarcophagus) with scenes from the stuffed animal's life. You may also draw pictures of people who loved the animal.

### **Egyptian Burial Ceremony:**

The Egyptian Burial Ceremony is very different from how we honor the dead today. The Ancient Egyptians believed they were preparing the body for a long journey to the afterlife. We will be conducting the following steps one by one as a group. **We will only begin these steps once every one has covered all requirements that are listed above, under Preparing to Mummify.**

**1. *What the Egyptians did:*** The Egyptians removed all the internal organs from the body except for the heart because they believed a person's soul was kept in the heart. The Egyptians would also use a hook instrument to remove the brain through the nostrils.

***What you will do:*** Remove the stuffing from the torso of the stuffed animal, leaving a little bit where the heart would be. Cut the nose and remove the brain.

**2. *What the Egyptians did:*** The Egyptians put the organs in ceremonial vases called canopic jars, which were decorated with pictures of the person.

***What you will do:*** Place the stuffing you removed into your decorated canopic jars.

**3. *What the Egyptians did:*** To help preserve the body, the Egyptians spread a special kind of salt called Natron all over the body. They would let the Natron dry out the body for 40 days.

***What you will do:*** Sprinkle some table salt on the stuffed animal. Wait for 40 seconds (symbolizing 40 days).

**4. *What the Egyptians did:*** The Egyptians put items the person valued, 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 whatever 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 from friends 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 up with strips of sheets, ace bandages or toilet paper. Place some stones in the wrapping with good luck messages and advice written on them. Place a stone over the mouth with words the stuffed animal might have said if he were ever alive.

**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 your ceremonial mask with a string or rubber band to your stuffed animal mummy.

**8. *What the Egyptians did:*** The sarcophagus, or coffin, was brightly decorated with more scenes from the person's life or with pictures of relatives and loved one. The mummy, along with the vases containing the organs, was placed in the sarcophagus. The sarcophagus was sealed for the long journey to the Land of the Dead.

***What you will do:*** Place the mummified animal, and the jars with the stuffing, in the box. The jars should be placed near the hands so the mummy can get them easily in the afterlife.