

TICKLE YOUR BRAIN
FACTS AND
JOKES

Mummy Mania!



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WHAT IS A MUMMY?

Any dead body, human or animal, that hasn't rotted is a mummy. To be mummified, a body is simply preserved, either intentionally or by accident. Artificial mummies are usually created to honour the dead, but natural mummies can occur through unusual conditions. In both cases, the dead body does not decay and become a skeleton, as the skin (or fur) and flesh are preserved.



Artificial mummies were made deliberately by people in different civilisations. They used various processes, such as drying the body out with natron and emptying their organs into special jars.

Natural mummies are created accidentally by nature – through drying, freezing, or other natural processes. Some accidental mummies can be very old.

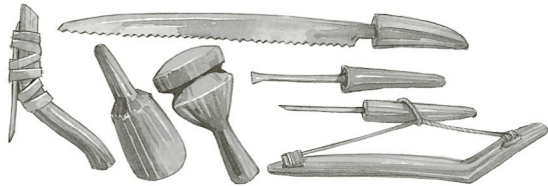


**What do you call an artificial mummy?
A phony pharaoh!**

**Why was an ancient mummy found at the
bottom of a well?
It was an accident waiting to happen.**

**Which Egyptian Pharaoh was the most judgemental?
King Tut Tut!**

WHERE DOES THE WORD 'MUMMY' COME FROM?



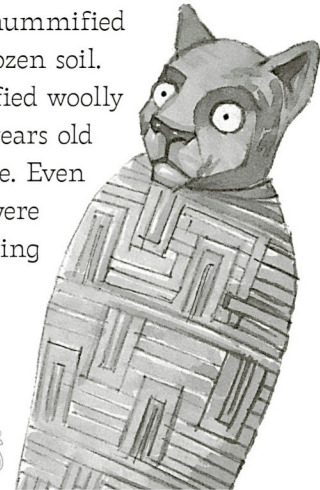
'Mummy' comes from the Arabic word *mummiya* which means pitch or wax (bitumen). Originally, people believed pitch or wax was the stuff responsible for the lasting mummification effects, based on the blackened state of the mummies' bodies. Most ancient Egyptians covered their dead in layers of dark resins, giving their skin a dark colour.

DID YOU KNOW?

All kinds of animals can become mummies. At the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, you can find mummies of bulls, cats, ibises (sacred Egyptian wading birds), hawks, crocodiles, dogs, and even baboons.



Other animals have been mummified naturally in bogs, pits or frozen soil. In August 2010, a mummified woolly mammoth nearly 40,000 years old was found in the Russian ice. Even its brain and blood vessels were perfectly mummified, allowing scientists to discover rare information from the past.



MUMMIES ON THE MOVE

For over 200 years people have flocked to see mummies in museums. Such eerie remains weren't just seen as spooky, but also fascinating and mysteriously exotic. The mummies in museums allow humans to catch a rare glimpse of our ancestors, who have been preserved for centuries, even millennia in some instances.



Q: How did the Pharaoh get to school?

A: In Anubis!

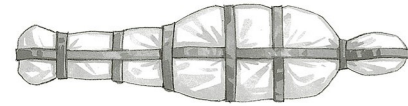
Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Hieroglyph.

Hieroglyph who?

You need to speak ancient Egyptian to get this joke!



It has only been in more recent years that we have begun asking ethical questions about the plundering of ancient tombs and displaying the long dead. Is it right to place 'gruesome relics' in museums for the public to gawp at? Today, some mummies have been hidden away and are now kept out of sight as a sign of respect. What do you think about that?

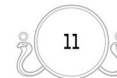


Patient: Doctor, Doctor, I think I'm turning into a mummy!

Doctor: Don't worry, you're just a little bit wrapped up in yourself!

Patient: Doctor, Doctor, I've been feeling really stiff and old!

Doctor: Maybe you need to see a Cairo-tractor!



TUTANKHAMUN

Probably the most famous pharaoh around was the Egyptian boy king, King Tut, better known as Tutankhamun. He's an ancient icon for a number of reasons: his stunning golden death mask is considered a masterpiece of Egyptian art; his tomb treasures have toured the globe, with millions getting a glimpse of the boy king's vast riches; and his chilling mummy's curse continues to captivate audiences old and new. Tutanmania has swept the world!



Q: Where does Tutankhamun like to buy his pizza from?

A: Pizza Tut!

