

You
**Wouldn't
Want to...**

BE AN

**EGYPTIAN
MUMMY**

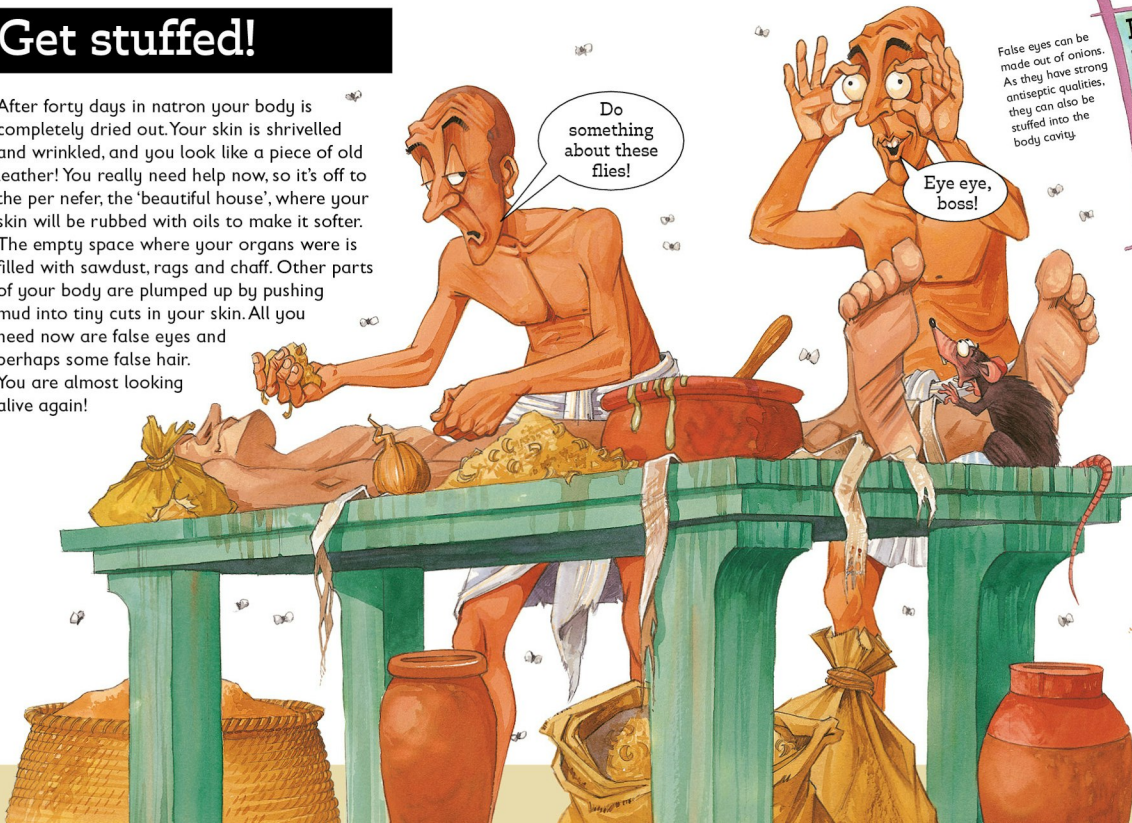


A mummy
mystery you
won't want
to miss!

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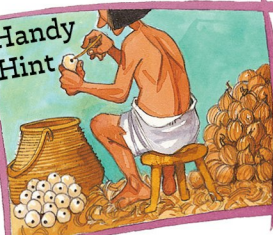
Get stuffed!

After forty days in natron your body is completely dried out. Your skin is shrivelled and wrinkled, and you look like a piece of old leather! You really need help now, so it's off to the per nefer, the 'beautiful house', where your skin will be rubbed with oils to make it softer. The empty space where your organs were is filled with sawdust, rags and chaff. Other parts of your body are plumped up by pushing mud into tiny cuts in your skin. All you need now are false eyes and perhaps some false hair. You are almost looking alive again!



False eyes can be made out of onions. As they have strong antiseptic qualities, they can also be stuffed into the body cavity.

Handy Hint



You will need:



PALM WINE

Sterilise the body with juniper oil and palm wine.



FRANKINCENSE

This highly valued fragrant gum resin will make the body smell sweet.



SAWDUST

Stuff the body cavity with sawdust, chaff, sand and rags.



MOLTEN RESIN

Once stuffed, cover the whole body in molten resin.

Tomb robbers

You will need:



LINEN

Linen is very valuable because of the time it can take to weave even the smallest amount.

GLASS

Glass is scarce in ancient Egypt. Since it can be melted down and made into new objects, stolen glass cannot be traced.



GOLD JEWELLERY

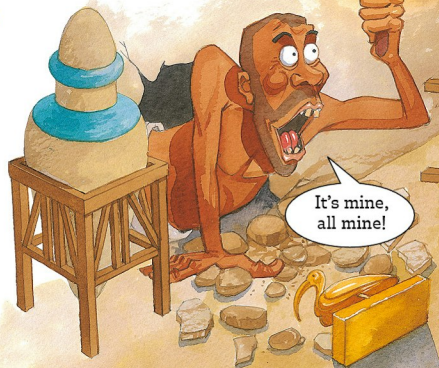
The jewels can be prised out and the gold melted down and reused.



FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH

These are highly prized because of their fragrance and their use in the art of mummification.

Once your tomb doors are firmly closed and sealed, you may think you are ready for eternal rest. No such luck! Even before the mourners at your funeral have had time to go home, unwanted visitors are on their way – tomb robbers have started tunnelling towards you. If they steal even one small piece of jewellery from you, it could make them very rich, so they feel it's worth taking the risk of torture and death if they are caught. Robbers rip mummies open looking for treasure, so that they often have to be re-wrapped, sometimes gaining extra heads or legs in the process!



Handy Hint

Remember – the penalty for tomb robbing is torture and then slow death by impalement.



Animal mummies

Four varieties of animal mummies:

FOOD

A cut of meat can be embalmed and put in a special box for you to enjoy in the afterlife.



PETS

Your pet can be mummified at the same time as you, whether it is ready to join the afterlife or not.



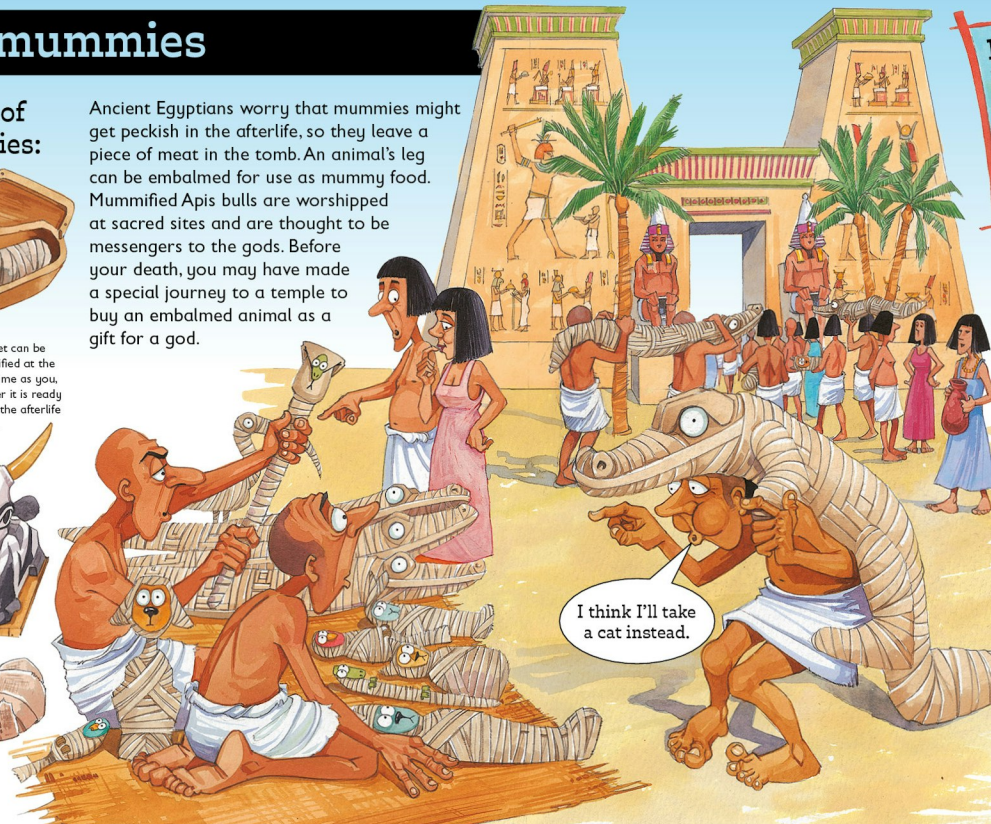
CULT ANIMALS

Some animals, like this Apis bull, are mummified as they are believed to have special powers and are treated like gods.

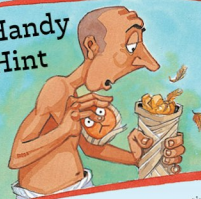
VOTIVE OFFERING

A gift of a specially embalmed animal can be given to please a god.

Ancient Egyptians worry that mummies might get peckish in the afterlife, so they leave a piece of meat in the tomb. An animal's leg can be embalmed for use as mummy food. Mummified Apis bulls are worshipped at sacred sites and are thought to be messengers to the gods. Before your death, you may have made a special journey to a temple to buy an embalmed animal as a gift for a god.



Handy Hint



Beware of forgeries! Traders sometimes make animal mummies out of sticks and feathers.

HAVE A PET PAL



Ancient Egyptians fear that the afterlife might get lonely. Unfortunate pets, like this dog and cat, might be killed and embalmed to keep you company.

Eternal rest?

Some odd uses for mummies:



PAINT

A horrified artist, who found that the paint he was using was made from ground down human mummy remains, gave the tubes of paint a decent burial.



PAPER

An outbreak of cholera was allegedly caused when butchers used brown paper made from linen mummy wrappings to wrap their meat.



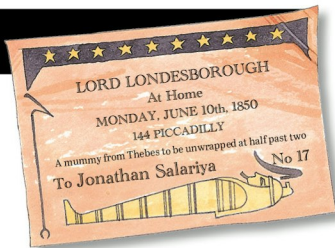
FERTILISER

Mummified cats shipped from Egypt to Europe were used as fertiliser until a public outcry stopped the practice.

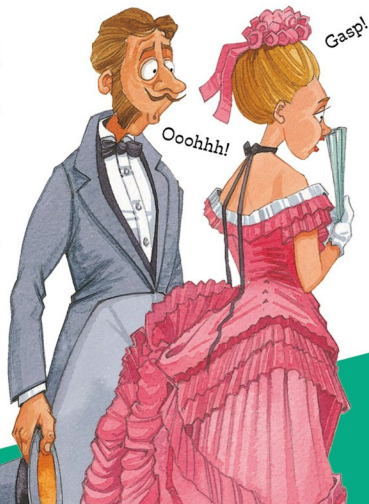


FIREWOOD

Mummies' arms and legs were sometimes used as torches for exploring tombs.



An invitation to a mummy unwrapping



By the nineteenth century AD, 2,800 years after your death, you may think you have found eternal peace at last. Wrong! It becomes fashionable amongst the wealthy to travel to Egypt and tourists buy mummies as souvenirs. Unfortunately, it also becomes fashionable to publicly unwrap mummies. No one is interested in you, however – only the magic amulets tucked in your wrappings. If you're lucky, you may be re-wrapped and put in a museum.

