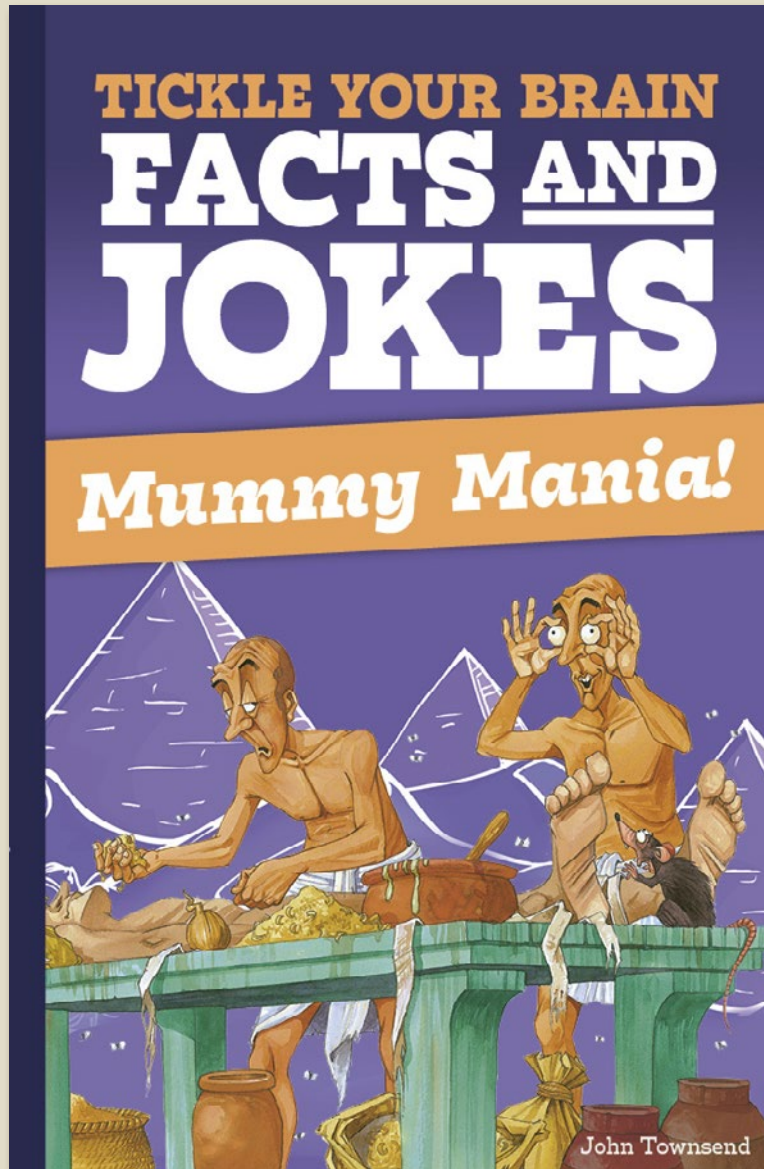


# Tickle Your Brain: Mummy Mania!



## Delve into the unruly world of Ancient Egypt!

- Jam-packed with foul facts, riddles, limericks and jokes, this book is a perfect way for children to discover more about the Ancient Egyptians.
- A hilarious resource to engage reluctant readers with the topic of Key Stage 2 history in an exciting, non-intimidating way.
- A deep dive into the rotten side of history - perfect for *Horrible Histories* fans!
- Tickle Your Brain: another 16 titles available.

# Tickle Your Brain: Mummy Mania!

## CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

When mummy mania spread across Europe, people were desperate to get their hands on them. Fakes flooded the market – the sellers were in de-NILE about the authenticity of their mummies! Even the very first ones to enter the British Museum were found out to be fakes. The first genuine mummies were acquired by the museum in 1756.

I might call on sick today I'm feeling a bit wrapped up!



## CREEPY TALES FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM...

Most of the mummies in the British Museum still have their wrappings in place, and no mummy has been unwrapped there since the 1790s. One of the British Museum's most famous mummies is nicknamed 'Ginger' because of his unusual hair colour. It actually predates the time Egyptians began mummifying their dead regularly. Ginger was an adult male who died more than 5,000 years ago and was buried in direct contact with the dry desert sand, which is why his body didn't decay. Like many other early Egyptian mummies, he's an example of a natural mummy, created through specific environmental conditions. He's also thought to be the oldest.

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## THE MYTH OF 'THE UNLUCKY MUMMY'



After the luxury liner, the Titanic sank in 1912, an unlucky mummy's curse was whispered to be responsible for the disaster. The myth goes something like this:



The mummy-board was said to have been purchased by a young English traveller who visited the archaeological digs in Egypt. He arranged for the coffin to be shipped back to his home, but was not there to receive it. Instead, he and his friends on the same trip all found unfortunate ends: two died or were seriously injured in shooting accidents, and two died after losing their fortune and descending into poverty.

Upon the coffin's arrival in England, it was passed along to one of the traveller's sisters. As soon as it entered her house however, the occupants reported experiencing a series of unfortunate events. Hiring a clairvoyant, an 'evil influence' was reportedly traced back to the mummy-board (decorated wooden cover), and the sister was urged to dispose of The Unlucky Mummy to prevent anymore misfortune. It was therefore presented to the British Museum.

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## MUMMIFIED AND RATIFIED

Rat 1: The Egyptians mummified a lot of rats, you know.

Rat 2: Are you sure?

Rat 1: Yes - many rat mummies had little coffins, too.

Rat 2: Whatever for?



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Rat 1: To keep them safe for the afterlife, it was believed that rats ate the hearts of sinners on judgment day.

Rat 2: Yuck!

Rat 1: And did you know that the pharaohs were mummified with their hands crossed over their chests?

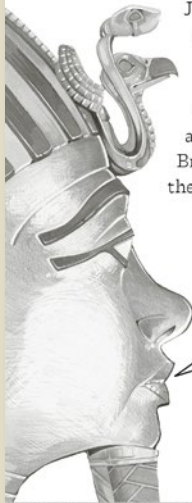
Rat 2: I wonder why?

Rat 1: Maybe they thought there would be lots of water slides in the afterlife. Tee hee!



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## BACK AT THE MUSEUMS...



Just imagine coming face to face with somebody (yes, some body) who is thousands of years old. You can do just that, as well as admire some of their amazing possessions, in lots of British museums, up and down the country.

Archeologists say that mummies are hard to find - they're always kept under wraps!

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The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh has a very impressive collection, discovered in Egyptian tombs long ago. The museum houses two particularly interesting mummies: a young woman and child, buried with magnificent gold and luxurious finery around 1550 BC. Her stunning gold painted coffin suggests that the woman may have been a queen. Now known as 'The Qurna Queen', she wore a magnificent collar of gold rings, a pair of gold earrings, two pairs of gold bracelets and a girdle of rings (over 90% pure gold). To stop her getting hungry in the afterlife, she was buried with bread, grapes, dates and a pomegranate. Alas, these are now a tad past their sell-by date!

You can even see what this tall, elegant woman would have looked like. Experts have scanned her skull to help create a realistic model of her face. Why don't you visit, take a peek and say hi!

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Pub Date	15/08/2024
Pub Price	£5.99
ISBN	9781800788503
H x W	198 x 129mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	John Townsend
Illustrator	David Antram
Extent	112pp
Word Count	9147 words
Freight On Board	17/07/2024
Rights Available	World