

Process of Mummification in Ancient Egypt

1. A deceased body was washed. Then, organs were removed from the body. Some organs were placed into jars, called canopic jars. Each jar was believed to be guarded by a different god.
2. The body was stuffed with natron. Natron is a chemical salt that could be found in plant ash or in river beds. It was used to help preserve the bodies.
3. The body was rubbed with perfumed oils and wrapped with linen bandages. Then, the body was left to dry for up to 40 days.
4. The body was placed inside of a sarcophagus and then inside of a tomb. A sarcophagus is large container that was usually carved of stone.



Example of a Sarcophagus



Steps to Create a Tomb with Artifacts

Follow the steps below to create a replica of an Ancient Egyptian Tomb.

Step 1: Read about Ancient Egyptian Life

Read through the information below about how Ancient Egyptians lived.

Source 1



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merneith#/media/File:Merneith_stele.jpg

This is a stela, which is a stone or wooden slab that is used to remember the dead. This stela belonged to the Egyptian queen who lived around the third century BCE. It was inscribed with her name and title. The symbol on the left reads “Mer,” which means “beloved.” The crossed arrows over the shield are symbols of the goddess Neith, who was the goddess of wisdom. The symbols together mean “beloved of Neith.” The stela was another way to express the close relationship between Egyptian royalty and the gods. The stela identified who the deceased person was and also their social status. Future generations would know information about that person with the help of a stela.

Source 2



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mummy_Ahmose-Nefertari_Smith.JPG



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Ahmose-Nefertari#/media/File:Scarab_of_Queen_Ahmose_MET_32.4_EGDP013416.jpg

This is the mummy of Queen Ahmose-Nefertari. She was the first queen of the 18th Dynasty in Egypt. The image next to her shows an Egyptian scarab, which was a type of charm used for protection. Scarabs were made in the shape of a beetle and carved out of a type of quartz. You can see how there are wings and a head carved onto the charm. Then, the charm was threaded on a cord and people wore it around the neck or carried it in a pocket or pouch. Scarabs were a sacred symbol because they represented rebirth or renewal. Rebirth refers to the idea of being reborn again after death. The scarab was placed in the queen’s tomb for her to wear in the afterlife.

Source 3



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_of_Punt#/media/File:Relief_of_Hatshepsut's_expedition_to_the_Land_of_Punt_by_%CE%A3%CF%84%CE%B1%CF%8D%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%82.jpg

This is a section of a sculpture that was discovered in the tomb of Hatshepsut. Hatshepsut was one of two female Pharaohs to rule Egypt. The sculpture shows Egyptian soldiers that traveled with Hatshepsut to a city called Punt. Punt was an important city that Egypt traded with. Her trip was considered to be among the most famous of all because she had a special fleet of ships built and traveled with many people. Significant events in the lives of the Egyptian rulers were often re-created on the wall of their tombs.

Source 4



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2009/04/hatshepsut/#/17.jpg>

This is a wood canopic box found in the tomb of Hatshepsut. A canopic container was used to store organs. That way, a person's body would be made whole in the afterlife. Archaeologists determined that the box was Hatshepsut's because there was a special seal in the box that belonged to her. Archaeologists also found a liver and a tooth inside of the box. Based on the condition of the tooth and body, scientists believe that Hatshepsut suffered from bad teeth and might have been in pain during her lifetime.

Source 5



<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2015/aug/15/queen-nefertiti-tomb-michelle-moran-interview>

This is a sculpture found in the tomb of King Amenhotep IV. Amenhotep IV was married to Queen Nefertiti. Archaeologists have not discovered Nefertiti's tomb yet. However, they have learned about her life by looking in her husband's tomb. For example, this sculpture shows Nefertiti and her husband Amenhotep IV's worshipping a god of the Sun. The Egyptians believed that their rulers came from the sun god and were thought to be half-human and half-god. When Nefertiti died, she would be united again with the sun god. This sculpture reminded people of her close connection to the gods.

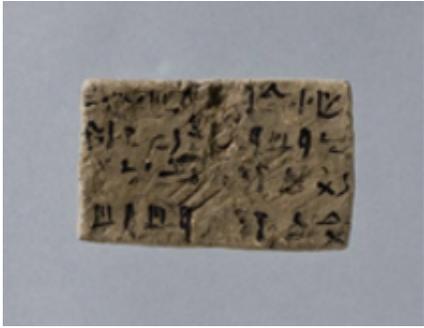
Source 6



<https://www.ancient-egypt-online.com/nefertari.html>

This is a painting that was found in the tomb of Nefertari. Nefertari was an Egyptian queen. The painting was of Nefertari and the goddess Hathor. Hathor was the goddess of women, the sky, and motherhood. Paintings, like these, were done to honor the gods and goddesses who the Egyptians worshiped on a daily basis. In this painting, Nefertari is being led by Hathor as she makes her way through the afterlife. The Egyptians believed that gods and people lived together. Gods would guide people in the afterlife.

Source 7



<https://oi.uchicago.edu/collections/highlights/highlights-collection-egypt>

This is a picture of a special brick, known as a Magic Brick. Magic Bricks were placed inside tombs to protect the dead from evil spirits entering the tomb. The writing on the brick comes from a special book, known as the Book of the Dead. Four bricks were placed in each corner of the tomb, along with four special charms. The Egyptians believed it was very important to keep evil away from the dead. This was because evil spirits could stop a deceased person from passing onto the afterlife.

Source 8



<https://oi.uchicago.edu/collections/highlights/highlights-collection-egypt>

This is a coffin with the remains of a lizard. Egyptian tombs did not contain just clothing or items that belonged to the deceased person. Egyptian tombs often contained animals! In Egyptian mythology, lizards represented good fortune and wellbeing. To have a lizard buried in the tomb ensure that the person would experience a happy afterlife.

Source 9



<https://oi.uchicago.edu/collections/highlights/highlights-collection-egypt>

This is a ritual rattle, a type of musical instrument. The rattle was played in Egyptian religious ceremonies, such as funerals. This rattle is decorated with different figures representing the goddess Hathor who was the god of music and dance. Other figures on the rattle help to tell a story about Hathor. In this way, the Egyptians were reminded of their connection to the gods.

Step 2: Choose Your Artifacts

- After you have read through all of the different artifacts that are commonly found in Egyptian Tombs, choose 3 to include in the tomb you are creating.
 - Be sure to think about why you are choosing each artifact.
 - Each artifact should tell anyone who views the tomb you've created something about the person that is buried there.
- Once you have chosen your artifacts, fill in the table below:

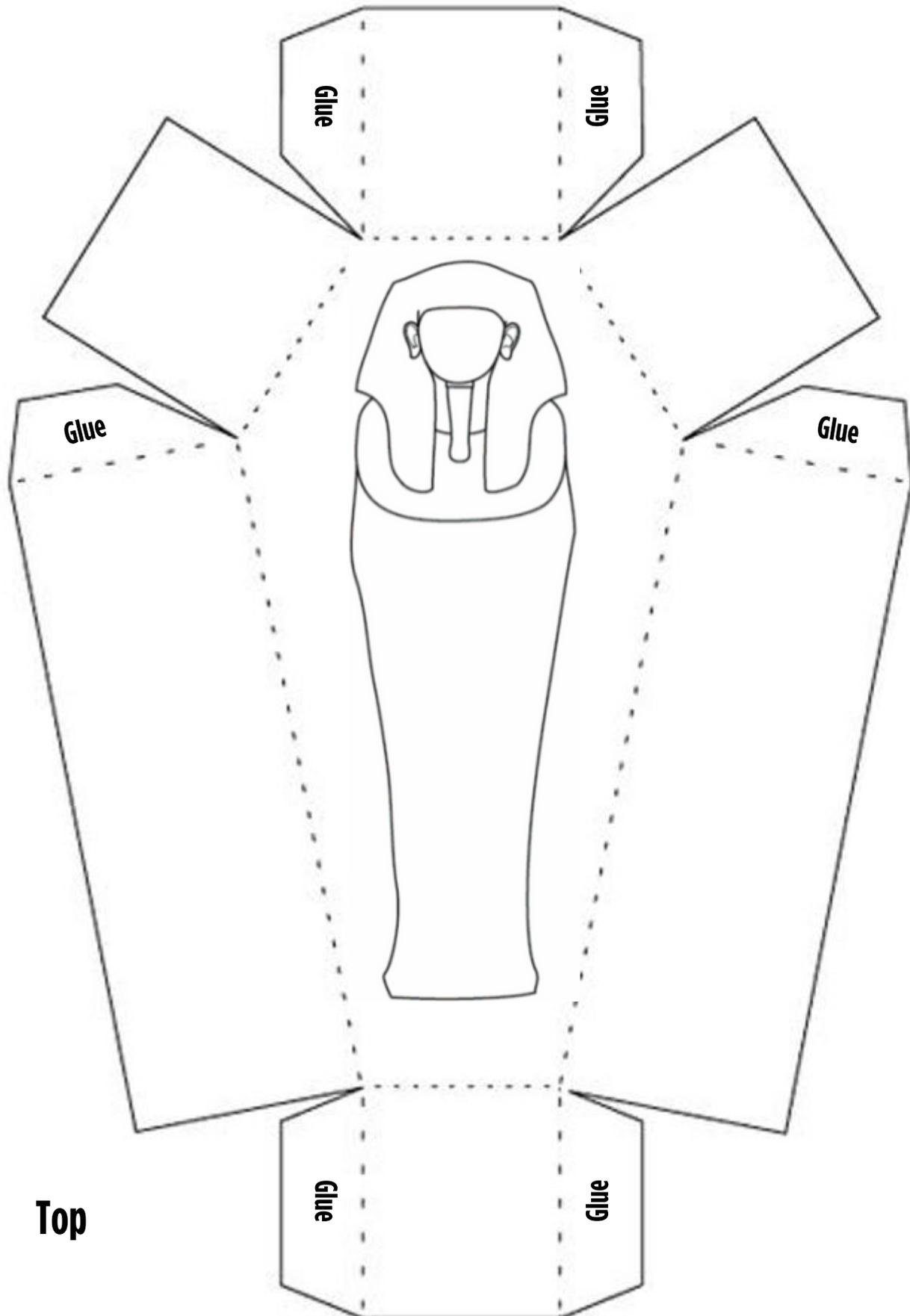
Artifact I'm Choosing	Why I Chose This Artifact

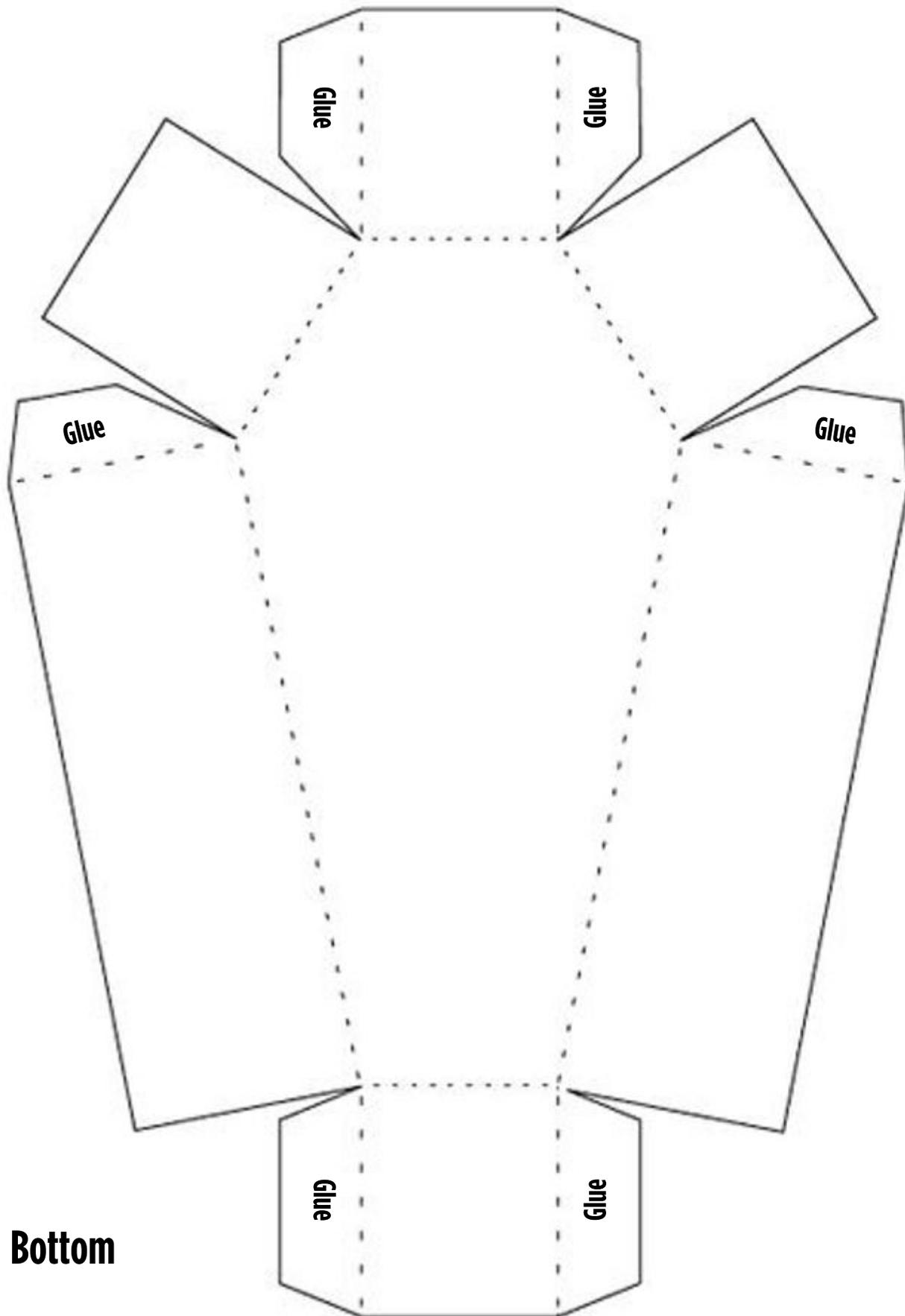
Ancient Burial Rituals

Step 3: Designing Your Sarcophagus

Use the information you have gathered to make a design plan for your sarcophagus. Draw and color your design on the outline below.

Then, cut out the sarcophagus shape on the solid lines. Next, fold on the dotted lines and glue on the glue flaps.





Once your design is finished, cut out and fold the sarcophagus. Set it in your tomb until your mummy is complete.

Step 4: Creating your Artifacts

Use art supplies and building materials to create a replica of each of the artifacts you want to include in your tomb with your mummy. When you are creating your artifacts, make sure they are sized so they will fit in your tomb with your mummy and sarcophagus.

Extra time? You can decorate the inner walls of your tomb!

Step 5: Assembling your Tomb

Follow the steps to assemble your Ancient Egyptian Tomb:

1. First, put on gloves.
2. Next, retrieve your mummified hot dog and brush off as much baking soda as possible.
3. Use strips of cotton or tissue paper to wrap your mummy, like ancient mummies were wrapped.
4. Place your wrapped mummy in your sarcophagus.
5. Place your sarcophagus inside your tomb.
6. Arrange your artifact replicas in the tomb around the sarcophagus.
7. Ask your teacher where to display your tomb.

Analyzing a Tomb

Walk around the classroom and observe the other tombs. Make notes below about what information the tomb tells you about the person who is buried there.

Tomb I'm Observing	Notable or Important Details