

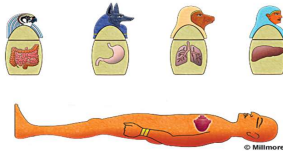
Making a mummy

It took 70 days to make a mummy. Several people were involved. The place where the mummy was prepared was called the **per nefer**. The chief embalmer wore a jackal mask to look like Anubis. His assistants were called **wetwy**.



When the body arrived, one of the assistants made a cut on the left side of the abdomen so that the internal organs could be removed. It was thought to be bad to 'hurt' a body like this so the other assistants would throw stones at the one who made the cut. This was not supposed to hurt him, it was just part of the ceremony.

The brain was then removed by inserting a large hook up the nose and giving it a shake. The brain then poured out of the ear! The brain was not thought to be important enough to be preserved.



After the organs had been removed, the body was washed with water from the Nile, wine and rubbed with spiced. This killed the bacteria which cause decay. The body was then covered with natron salt for 40 days and left to dry out. At the end of this time, the body was shrunken, wrinkled and leathery. It was cleaned again and rubbed with oils to soften the skin.

When the body was fully dried and cleaned it was decorated with jewellery. The body was with linen coated in scented oil so that it had the proper shape. It was then bandaged in lots of layers of linen. Small charms, or **amulets**, were put into the bandages to protect the spirit on its journey. Each layer was coated with resin which made a waterproof seal. This part of the process could take as long as a week.



After wrapping, the head was covered with a painted mask so that the spirit would recognise its body when they were reunited in the afterlife. The mummy was then put into several gold coated coffins and finally into a sarcophagus.

Now answer these questions.

1. How long did it take to make a mummy?
2. What was the per nefer?
3. What were the embalmer's assistants called?
4. Explain how the brain was removed from the body.
5. What did the body look like after it had been covered in natron for 40 days?
6. Why did they put amulet inside the bandages?
7. Why did the body need a mask?
8. Would you want to be the assistant who cut open the body?
Why or why not?