

Matters of Mummification

Mummies are preserved bodies from long ago. While many cultures preserved their dead, mummies were also created by accident during subzero temperatures or after burial in bogs. There were a number of different methods of mummification; all of them prevented bacteria and fungi from multiplying and decomposing soft tissue. In this activity, read an article about mummies to find clues about different ways in which they were mummified. Place a mark in the correct column to match the appropriate culture or location with which the mummy was associated.

	Aleut	Anasazi	Austrian-Italian Alps	Chinchorro	Egyptian	Greenland	Inca	New Guinean	NW European Bogs	Paloman
Mummy Description										
flat, brown, and leathery; lifelike appearance										
young with wood supports along the spine										
found under ceramic jar										
wrapped in leather; lots of grass inside										
buried under house floor; wrapped in reeds										
3,000 years old; found wrapped well in linen strips										
wrapped in fur, wore new sandals										
wore shoes stuffed with grass										
found hanging from cave ceiling										
feathers inside										
broken skull; thin bones										
found beside clothing made of seal skin										
mummy bundled with false head decorated with piercing eyes										
heart left inside										
found high on a mountain surrounded by gold and silver										
smoke-cured before covered in clay										

