

Old Kingdom – Mummies

OLD KINGDOM – a period of about 500 years in Egypt (2613-2181BCE)

during which many trends appeared:

1. Building Pyramids
2. mummifying the dead
3. Social Structure

MUMMIES!

WHO: Pharaohs, wealthy Egyptians

High priests were the embalmers.

WHAT: Dead bodies that have been preserved (embalmed).

WHEN: Oldest mummy = 3500 BCE

First intentional mummy = 3000 BCE

Mummies become widespread = 1500 BCE

It took about 70 days to embalm a person.

WHERE: Along the banks of the Nile.

WHY: Egyptians believed that they had to preserve bodies for the next life.

Egyptians mummified for the Ka (life force) and Ba (personality) to unite in the next world.

HOW: Bodies were preserved without moisture and oxygen.

1. Dry out the body for 40 days
2. Remove organs, extracting the brain through the nose.
3. Rinse the body in wine, pack it with salt.
4. Beautify the body.
5. Wrap the body in linen strips

SUMMARY: Why did the Egyptians mummify the dead? How did they do it?

Summary Word Bank: preserve, embalm, organs, afterlife, priests, remove
