

Name _____

The Marvel of Mummification: Ancient Egyptian Preservation

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The step-by-step process of mummification involves cleaning and purifying the body, removing internal organs, dehydrating the body with natron, wrapping it in bandages, adorning it with decorations and masks, and placing it in a coffin or sarcophagus. Rituals and prayers were an integral part of each step, and specialized tools were used for cleaning, organ removal, and wrapping.
2. Mummification was deeply intertwined with Egyptian religious beliefs. It served as a means to preserve the body for the afterlife, as Egyptians believed the soul required a well-preserved body to inhabit. The process was not only religious but also cultural, reflecting the society's reverence for the deceased and the importance of a successful journey to the afterlife.
3. Clues indicating the social status of the deceased might include the quality and intricacy of the mummification process, the type and quantity of burial items, the presence of elaborate coffins or sarcophagi, and inscriptions or hieroglyphics on tomb walls or objects that reference the individual's status or achievements.
4. From a modern perspective, mummification may seem elaborate and ritualistic compared to contemporary burial practices. However, it reflects the deep cultural and religious significance ancient Egyptians placed on preserving the body for the afterlife. We can learn about their beliefs, values, and the importance they attributed to honoring the deceased.

