

Mummy Who?

In her poem "Mummy," Myra Cohn Livingston talks about "the riddle" of a mummy's history. In this activity, you will do some research on life in ancient Egypt to help you answer the "riddle" of a mummy's life.

Directions: Go to www.Nationalgeographic.com/ngkids/9906/mummies/ and use the information found there to answer the questions below. You may also use other Web resources, nonfiction books, and articles of your choice to gather information.

STEP 1: Think of the questions you want to ask.

Before you start your research on mummies, it's always smart to write a list of questions that you want to answer. That way, you have all the information you need to write a well-organized paragraph.

Here are a list of possible questions:

1. What kind of people were mummified? (Hint: Were they poor? Rich?)
2. When did ancient Egyptians start preserving their dead by mummifying them?
3. What kind of material did they use?
4. Why did ancient Egyptians believe burying their dead in this way was important?
5. What happened after the dead were mummified? (Hint: Were they buried in a box? Thrown in the water?)
6. What other important information did you "dig up" in your research?

Other important questions you might have:

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Continued ►►

STEP 2: Using your resources, answer your questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

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10. _____

Write Now!

Using the information you found in your research, write a letter to poet Myra Cohn Livingston in which you pretend you are the person living in ancient Egypt who eventually becomes the mummy in her poem. What was your life like? Where did you live? What objects were you buried with? Use lots of details, as well as your imagination, to bring your mummy to life!