MUMMY WORKBOOK

E10797: Coffin and Mummy of Meresamun; Third Intermediate Period, Dynasty 22, ca. 945-715 BC; Purchased in Egypt, 1920
Who was Meresamun?

This is the coffin of Meresamun, a Singer in the Interior Temple of Amun! Women who worked as a Temple Singer are known to have been the sisters or daughters of kings, governors, mayors, and high priests. We can also learn from her job, that Meresamun lived and worked in Thebes, the main center for the god Amun - her name can even be translated to “Amun-Loves-Her,” which can also be traced to Thebes because Amun is a Theban god!

E10797
Coffin and Mummy of Meresamun
Third Intermediate Period, Dynasty 22, ca. 945-715 BC
Purchased in Egypt, 1920
Watch this video about the Egyptian Book of the Dead [here](#), then use this scavenger hunt to explore related artifacts from the OI Museum.

How to search for objects:
1. Go to [oi-idb.uchicago.edu](https://oi-idb.uchicago.edu).
2. Type or copy and paste the registration number for the object (Example: E10486O).
3. Check the box “Images Only.”
4. Press Submit.

Ani is the owner of the Book of the Dead shown in the video. Who was the owner of the OI’s famous Milbank Papyrus? (Hint: who is the scroll “for the benefit of?”) **E10486O**

Spells from the Book of the Dead weren’t just written on papyrus. What material are these spells written on? **E19436**

This heart scarab was made to protect someone’s heart, just like Ani had a heart scarab in the video. What is written on this scarab? **E14979**
Ani faces a similar "judgment scene" in the video, where his heart is weighed against a feather. Who is the large god watching over this scene in this papyrus? E10486J

Can't get enough about the Book of the Dead? Check out our online exhibit to learn more and find out more about this artifact! E357
How To Make Your Own Apple Mummy!

Ever wondered how mummies can last for hundreds of years and look like they were just buried yesterday? Do the following experiment to discover the secret to their immortality.

Materials
1 red, green, or yellow apple
1 knife
1/2 cup baking soda
1 cup salt
2 plastic cups
1 bowl
1 permanent marker

Instructions
1. First, take your apple and cut it in half. Ask an adult for help with this part.

2. Take a marker and draw a little face on the skin of one of the apples. This will be your apple mummy! The other will be your control apple.

3. On the next page, draw your apple mummy and your control apple and make a guess as to what will happen to the two apples.

4. Place your apple mummy in one of the plastic cups. In the bowl, mix together your baking soda and salt and pour this mixture into the cup with your apple mummy. Place your control apple in the second cup. Place both cups somewhere dark and dry.

5. Now wait one week! Once a week has passed, come back and pour out the baking soda and salt mixture. What has happened to the two apples? Draw them on the next page in the boxes “Mummy Apple after one week” and “Control Apple after one week.” Was your guess correct about what might happen?
You might notice that the apple mummy is really dry like it’s been out in the sun. This experiment is similar to how an ancient Egyptian would have been mummified! Salt and baking soda are known as “dessicants.” Ancient Egyptians would use dessicants such as Natron (a type of salt used in ancient soap) to dry out bodies before they wrapped them. If you don’t dry the bodies first, they start rotting and aging like your control apple. This drying process is why the mummies in the museum look like they could wake up at any moment!

Draw your apple mummy and control apple in the space below.

What do you think will happen to your apple mummy? What about the control apple?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mummy Apple</th>
<th>Mummy Apple after one week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control Apple</th>
<th>Control Apple after one week</th>
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What happened to the two apples after one week? Why do you think they look so different?
Create Your Own Mummy Mask

Mummy masks were an important part of ancient Egyptian mummies. Ancient Egyptians believed that a part of a deceased person’s soul, called the \( Ba \), would fly out of the tomb during the day to enjoy the sun and needed to be able to recognize its mummy when it returned to the tomb at the end of the day. The mummy mask ensured the \( Ba \) bird would find the right mummy.

Decorate both pieces of this mummy mask, then cut them out and glue them together to create your mask.