

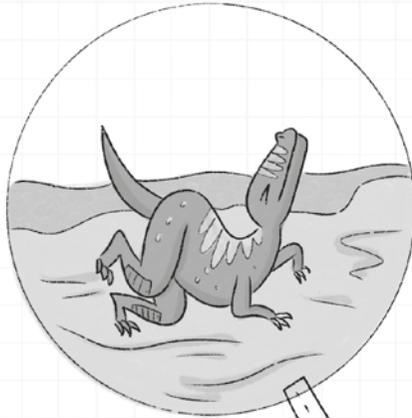
Join The Secret Explorers

on a STEAM adventure!

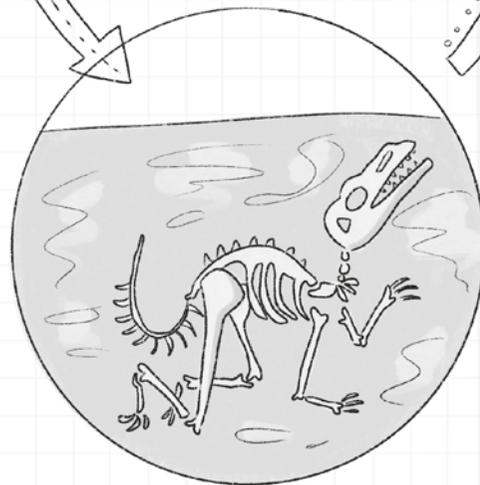


HOW A FOSSIL IS MADE

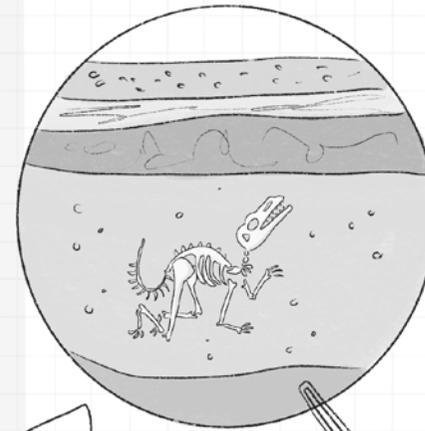
Fossils are the remains of things that have been dead for millions of years. All sorts of life forms have fossilised, from spectacular Stegosaurus skeletons to tiny ammonite shells. Fossils help us understand how life on our planet has changed over millions of years. Scientists called palaeontologists dig up and study fossils.



STEP 1 A creature dies and its body sinks into the mud by a river.

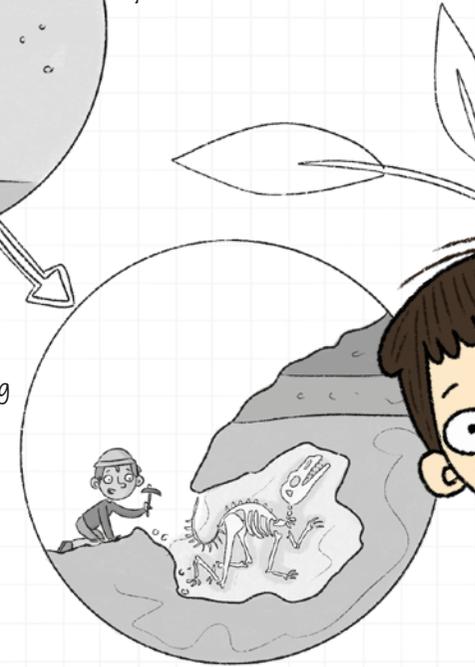


STEP 2 The creature is buried in layers of mud, sand, and ash over a period of millions of years.



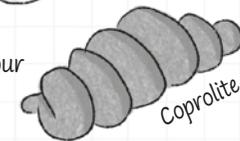
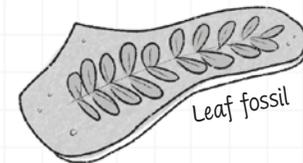
STEP 3 The skeleton of the creature turns from bone to stone.

STEP 4 The fossilised creature is uncovered by palaeontologists. They dig out the fossil and coat it in plaster to protect it. The fossil is then sent to a laboratory to be studied or to a museum to be displayed.



Types of fossil

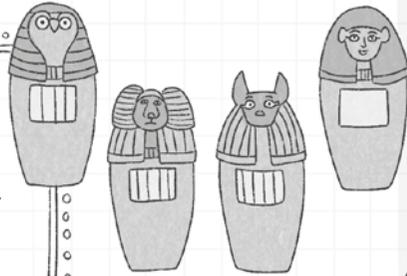
- * Body fossils, such as bones, teeth, and shells
- * Petrified fossils, which are soft tissues, such as muscle and leaves
- * Trace fossils, such as fossilised footprints, which tell scientists about a creature's behaviour
- * Coprolites – fossilised poos!



HOW TO MAKE A MUMMY

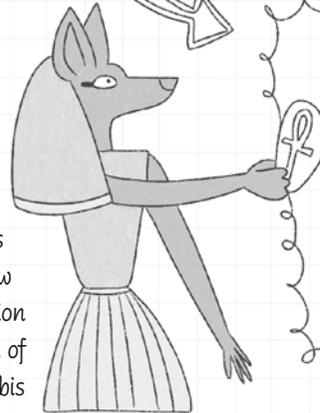
The Egyptians believed in an afterlife where they would be reborn as spirits, but only if their bodies were preserved as mummies. Only very rich people could afford this, and it took at least 70 days to mummify a pharaoh. Before reaching the afterlife, the spirits of the dead were thought to travel through an underworld called Duat.

STEP 1 The body was cleaned using water and salt. The internal organs were taken out and placed in special jars.



Canopic jars with the heads of Egyptian gods

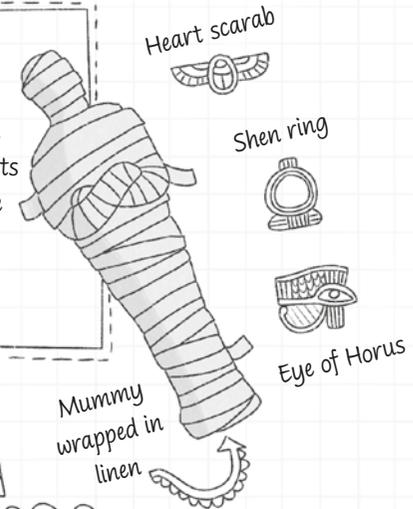
STEP 2 The body was filled with bags of salt and left for 40 days to dry out. After, it was stuffed with bandages and spices.



The priests who oversaw mummification wore a mask of the god Anubis

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STEP 3 The body was then coated with gum and wrapped in linen strips. Tucked among them were special objects that were meant to protect the dead person in the afterlife.



Heart scarab

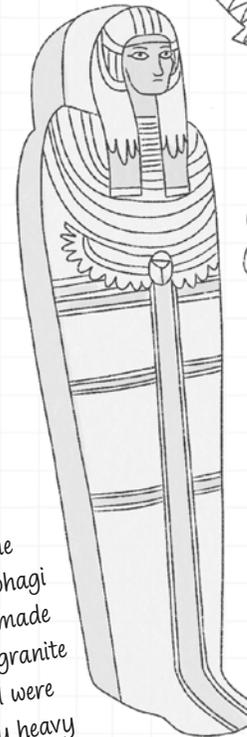
Shen ring

Eye of Horus

Mummy wrapped in linen

STEP 4 The mummified body was placed in a decorated stone coffin called a sarcophagus. The sarcophagus was placed inside a tomb.

Some sarcophagi were made from granite and were really heavy



ANIMAL MUMMIES!

The Egyptians mummified animals too, including cats, crocodiles, fish, baboons, and birds. These animal mummies were offerings to the gods, but were also to make sure beloved pets would journey to the afterlife.

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Go up against thieves in Ancient Egypt with Gustavo and Kiki and learn all about mummification.

1. How long did it take to mummify a pharaoh?
3. How was the stone coffin where the pharaohs were placed called?

Suitable for 7-9 years

Content taken from *The Secret Explorers and the Tomb Robbers*

Also available: Audiobook narrated by actor Alfred Enoch

Answers: 1.) At least 70 days 2.) Sarcophagus