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The secret of mummies

The Ancient Egyptians believed that death was not the end and that there was an afterlife. You would have to get past many dangers before reaching the god Anubis who would weigh your heart against the Feather of Truth. If the scales balanced, you would enter the heavenly kingdom. If your heart was heavier than the feather, it meant you had lived an evil life and your spirit would disappear.



This is a mummified... cat!
In ancient Egypt, cats were seen as sacred animals, connected to Bastet, the goddess of protection, pleasure and the bringer of good health. Bastet had a female body and the head of a cat.

The Egyptians believed that in the afterlife you would need your body. So they mummified their dead to make their bodies last as long as possible.

- The body was washed and prepared for mummification
- The internal organs were taken out and stored in special jars
- The body was left to dry out in natron salt for 40 days
- The salt was removed and the body stuffed with cloth
- The body was tightly wrapped in linen bandages and then the mummy was ready to go in its coffin
- A special ritual was performed so the body would be able to eat, drink and speak in the afterlife.



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The mummy would then be put inside a sarcophagus, a wooden and decorated coffin like this one.



Your
turn!

Colour or design your own sarcophagus:

