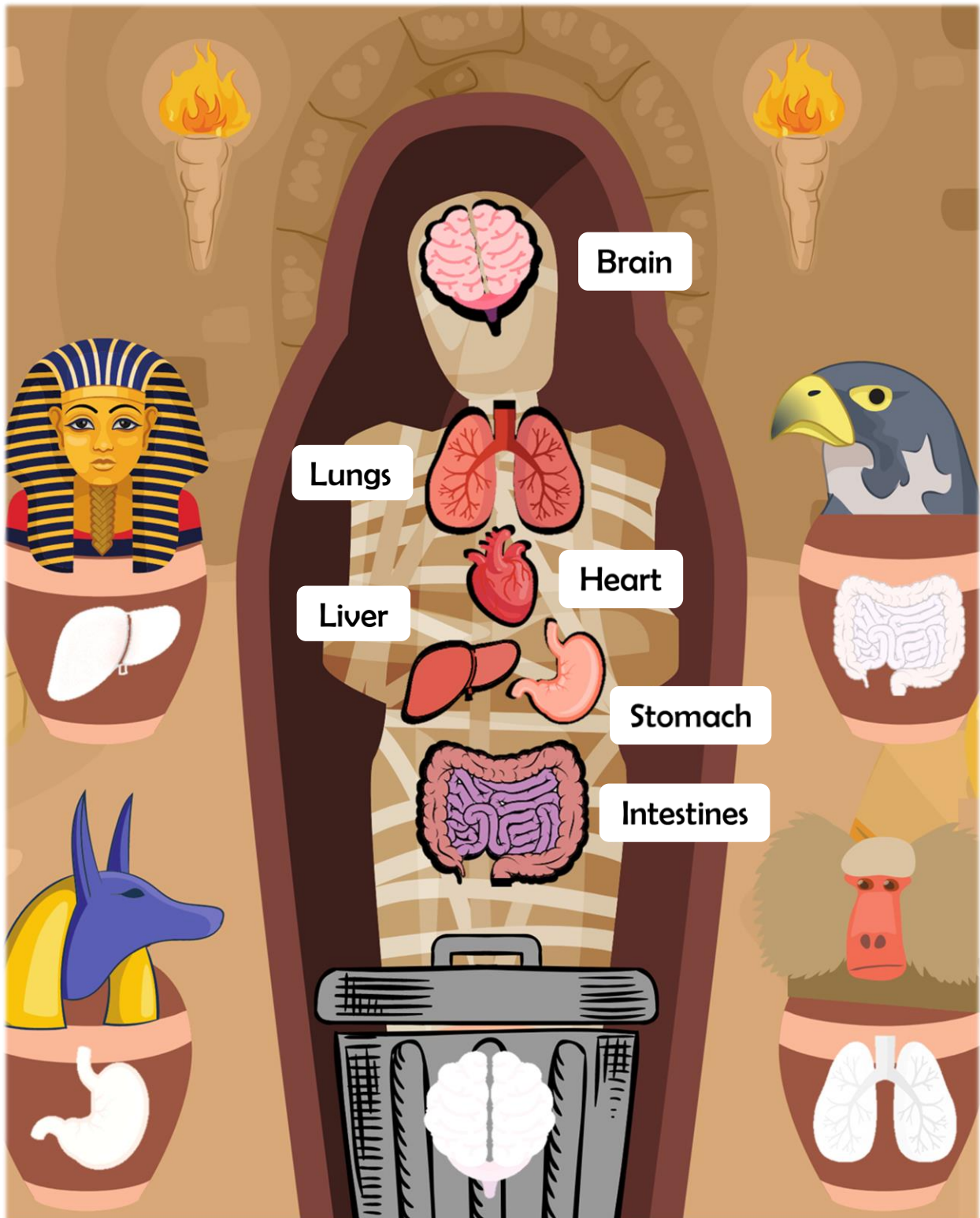


Name:

Date:

Making a Mummy!

Our bodies have 'organs' in them, parts of the body that carry out a specific job, like the liver, heart or kidneys. In Ancient Egypt, the dead had their organs removed when they were turned into a 'mummy' to preserve them. Most of the organs were put in special jars called 'canopic jars', whilst some were removed and some left in the body. Can you work out which organ goes where? Which body part stays in the body? Draw them in the gaps.



Name:

Date:

The four canopic jars have the heads of some Egyptian Gods: Imsety (human-headed), Duametef (jackal/wolf-headed), Qebehsenuf (falcon-headed/bird-headed) and Hapi (baboon-headed). The four Gods protected the organs so they could be reused in the afterlife. The jars were put in the burial chamber.

Which organ goes into the human-headed canopic jar? _____

Which organ goes into the jackal-headed canopic jar? _____

Which organ goes into the falcon/bird-headed canopic jar? _____

Which organ goes into the baboon-headed canopic jar? _____

Which organ 'goes into the bin'/is thrown away? _____

Which organ stays in the body? _____

Egyptian 'embalmers' (those who prepared the dead for the afterlife) removed the organs. Egyptians were very good medics but they had not worked out everything. They believed the heart did the thinking for the body and was where the soul was kept, so they left this in. The kidneys were also left in, but it's thought that might just be because they were too hard to remove!

The organs were removed/left in based on what the Egyptians thought their job was in the body. Can you match the organs to their real job in the body?

One has been done for you.

Lungs	Liver	Heart	Brain	Stomach	Intestines
Breaks down food and digests it	Breathing	Pumps blood around the body	Takes digested food into the blood	Thinking and controlling the body	Cleans blood, makes bile and stores energy

Which of these mummification facts is too gross to be true?

- 1) The space in the organs was replaced with stinky animal poo!
- 2) The body was completely dried out into a grey, stringy husk!
- 3) They removed the brain by pushing a hook up through the nose and pulling it out bit by bit!

Fact number _____ is false.

Name:

Date:

Ancient Egyptians introduced many medical ideas that the rest of the world had not yet discovered; in some cases it took thousands of years for the rest of the world to catch up! Which of these did the Egyptians come up with first?

- A) There are channels or tubes in the body that blood travels through.
- B) Tooth decay is caused by sugary foods.
- C) Disease is caused by tiny organisms too small for humans to see.

The Ancient Egyptians came up with idea letter ____.

Extension: After a person's death, the heart was used by the Gods to decide whether a person had been good or not. Imagine you are an archaeologist and have discovered a tomb! In the burial chamber is the sarcophagus (the coffin), canopic jars and on the wall is this painting!

Real archaeologists and historians don't have the answers in a text book or online, they have to work out what the past was like from the evidence!

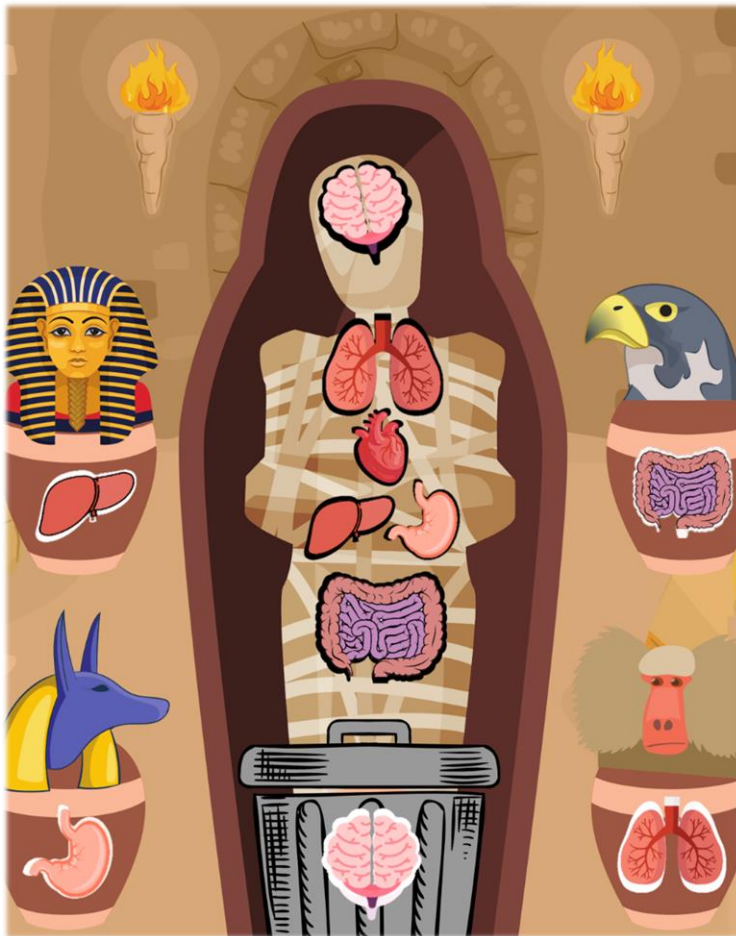
Suggest what you think is going on in this painting/mural. Who are the figures? What are they doing? What is the creature in the corner? Where is the heart? What else can you see? What might happen next? How does this relate to Egyptian ideas of the afterlife?



Name:

Date:

Answers



Which organ goes into the human-headed canopic jar?

___ Liver ___

Which organ goes into the jackal-headed canopic jar?

___ Stomach ___

Which organ goes into the falcon/bird-headed canopic jar?

___ Intestines ___

Which organ goes into the baboon-headed canopic jar?

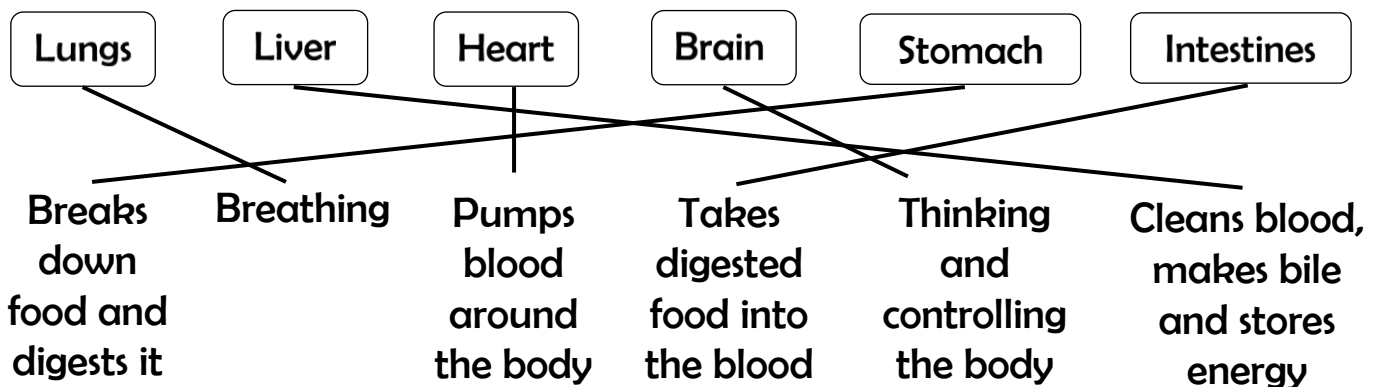
___ Lungs ___

Which organ 'goes into the bin'/is thrown away?

___ Brain ___

Which organ stays in the body?

___ Heart ___



1) False! Bodies were wrapped with herbs and spices, not animal poo, so they would have been nice and clean during mummification.

2/3) These are both true! A special salt called 'natron' was packed into the body to dry it out and the brain really was hooked out through the nose! How gruesome!

Name:

Date:

- A) True! Ancient Egyptians introduced the idea that the heart was where blood came from and then this was sent round the body in tubes. While the heart does not make blood, they were right that it is sent around the body in vessels: arteries, veins and capillaries!
- B) False. Tooth decay was a big problem in Ancient Egypt: it was so bad that infections often killed people, including the pharaoh Hatshepsut! Like many other cultures before them, they believed that tooth decay was caused by a tiny worm. There were lots of spells designed to try and destroy the worm.
- C) False. While they were ahead of their time in many ways, evil spirits were blamed for disease as micro-organisms had not been discovered yet and they did not have tools like microscopes to see them.

Did you work out what was going on in the painting? Don't worry if you weren't sure, it would be impossible to guess the answer! Working out what ancient cultures believed and did each day is very tricky and historians study for years to be able to understand and interpret ancient pictures, writing, art and objects! It's not about getting it right, the key is to practise making *observations*, based on the evidence. Observing unfamiliar images and trying to work out what they might show is an important skill for budding historians!

Historians who study Ancient Egypt, Egyptologists, believe that this is what the painting/mural shows:

After a person's death, the heart was said to be weighed by the God of death Anubis (another jackal/wolf-headed God). He is the large figure below the large set of scales. You can see the heart on the left hand side. It was compared to the 'feather of Ma'at' – a symbol of truth (on the right hand side of the scales). If the heart was as light as the feather and balanced with it, the person had been good in life and could pass to the afterlife. If it was heavier than the feather, they had been bad and as punishment, their heart was fed to the monster in the corner. She was called Ammut or Ammit. She was part crocodile, part 'lion' (despite the spots) and part hippopotamus, three animals the Ancient Egyptians knew and feared. Next to her is Thoth, the God of wisdom and writing. He is recording the result of the weighing.

Have you enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt and their ideas about the body? Why not try mummifying a soft toy, making some Egyptian art or writing your name in hieroglyphics!? Let us see what you come up with!