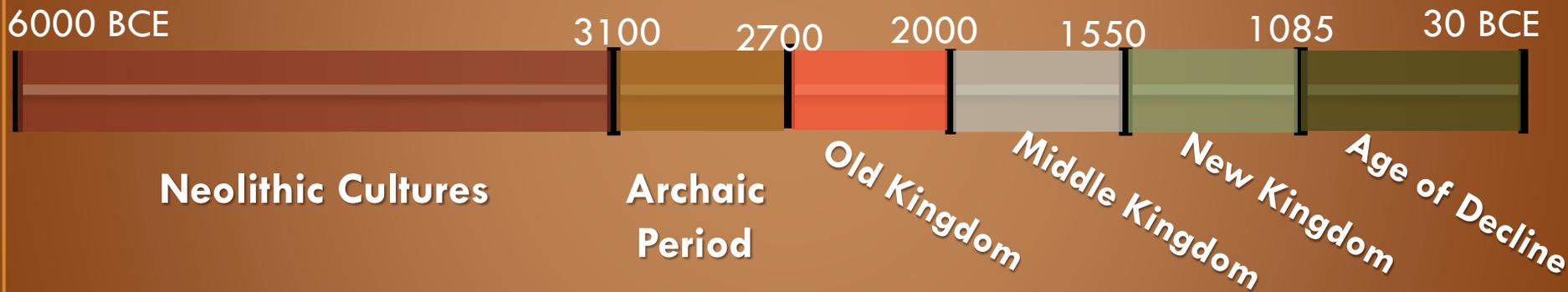
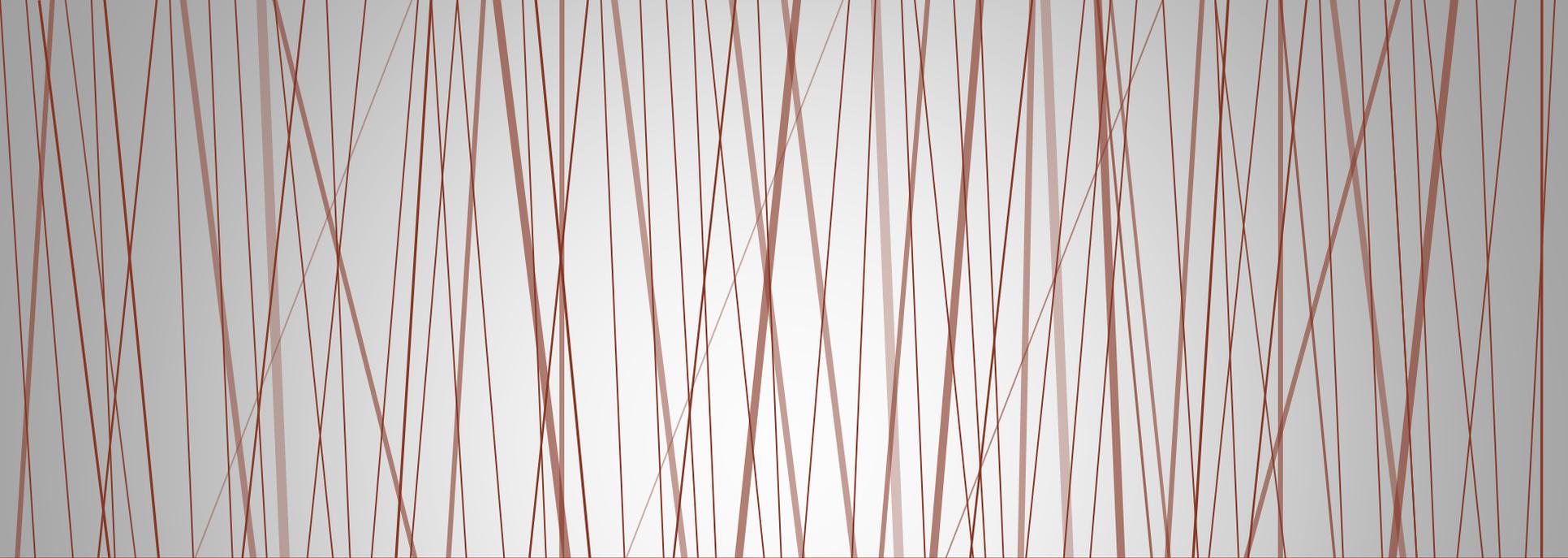


Ancient Egypt

Mummies, Pharaohs, and Floods.

Ancient Egypt (6000 BCE to 30 CE)





Geography and Environment

It's all about the Nile.

Major Geographic Features

Lower Egypt

Arabian Desert

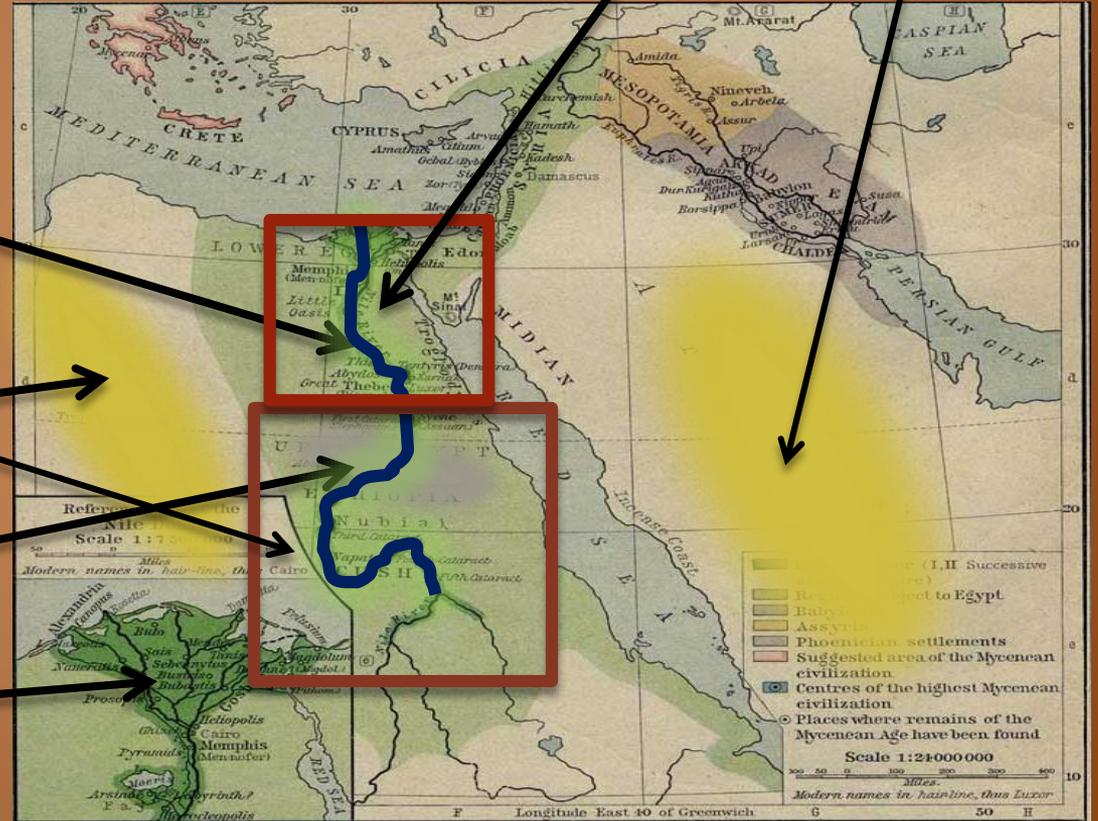
Nile River

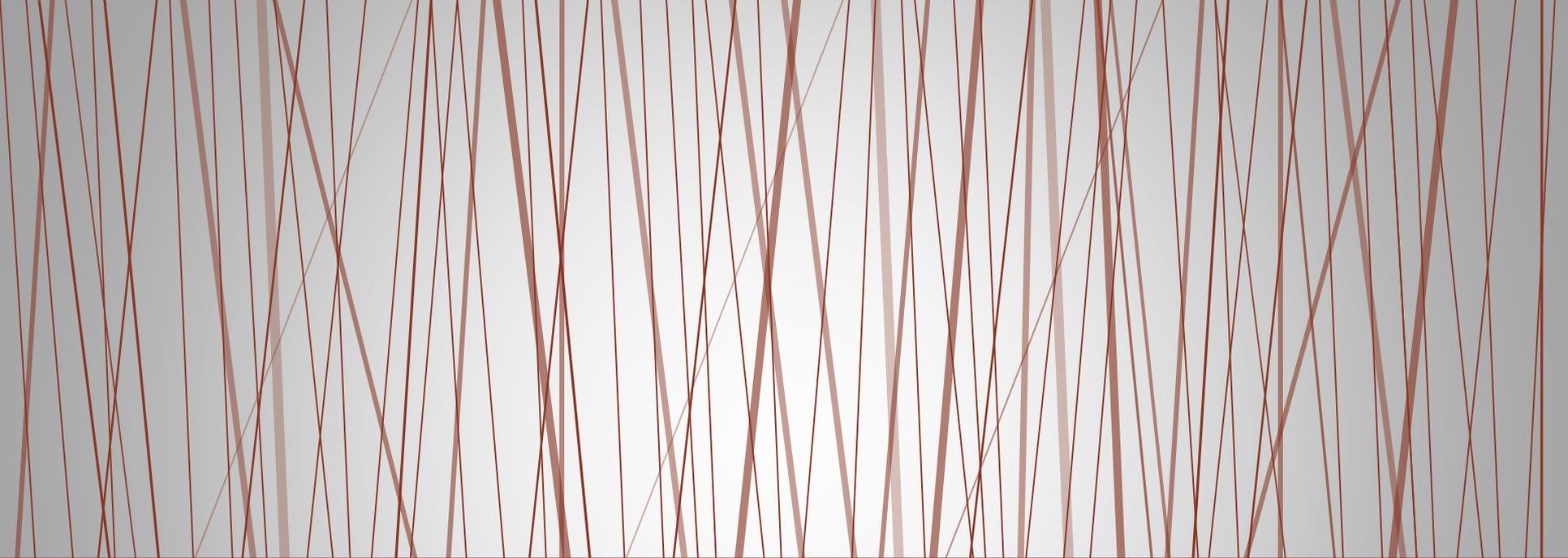
Upper Egypt

Sahara Desert

First Cataract

Nile Delta



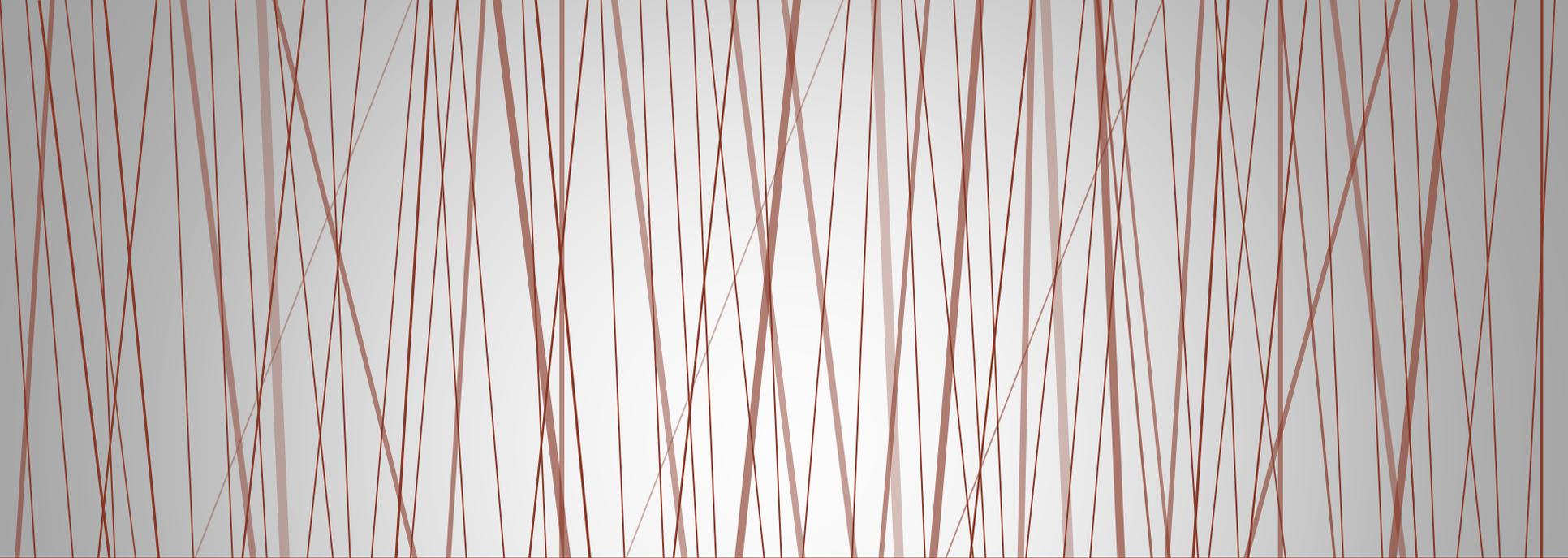


Government and Society

Religion and Power.

Egyptian Government

- Egyptian government, society, and religion was dominated by a king who was called **pharaoh**.
- The pharaoh was **considered to be a god**. He headed an elaborate civil and religious bureaucracy.
- Therefore, the government of Egypt was both a **monarchy** and a **theocracy**.



Archaic Period and the Old Kingdom

Unification and Dynastic Rule

Archaic Period (6000 BCE to 2700 BCE)

- Egypt was originally two kingdoms: **Upper Egypt** in the South, and **Lower Egypt** in the North.
- The two kingdoms were united under the ruler **Menes** in 3100 BCE, and the city of **Memphis** became the capital.
- During this period, the existing **polytheistic beliefs** of various Egyptian regions became **more complex and formal**.
- **Trade with other civilizations increased** following the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt.

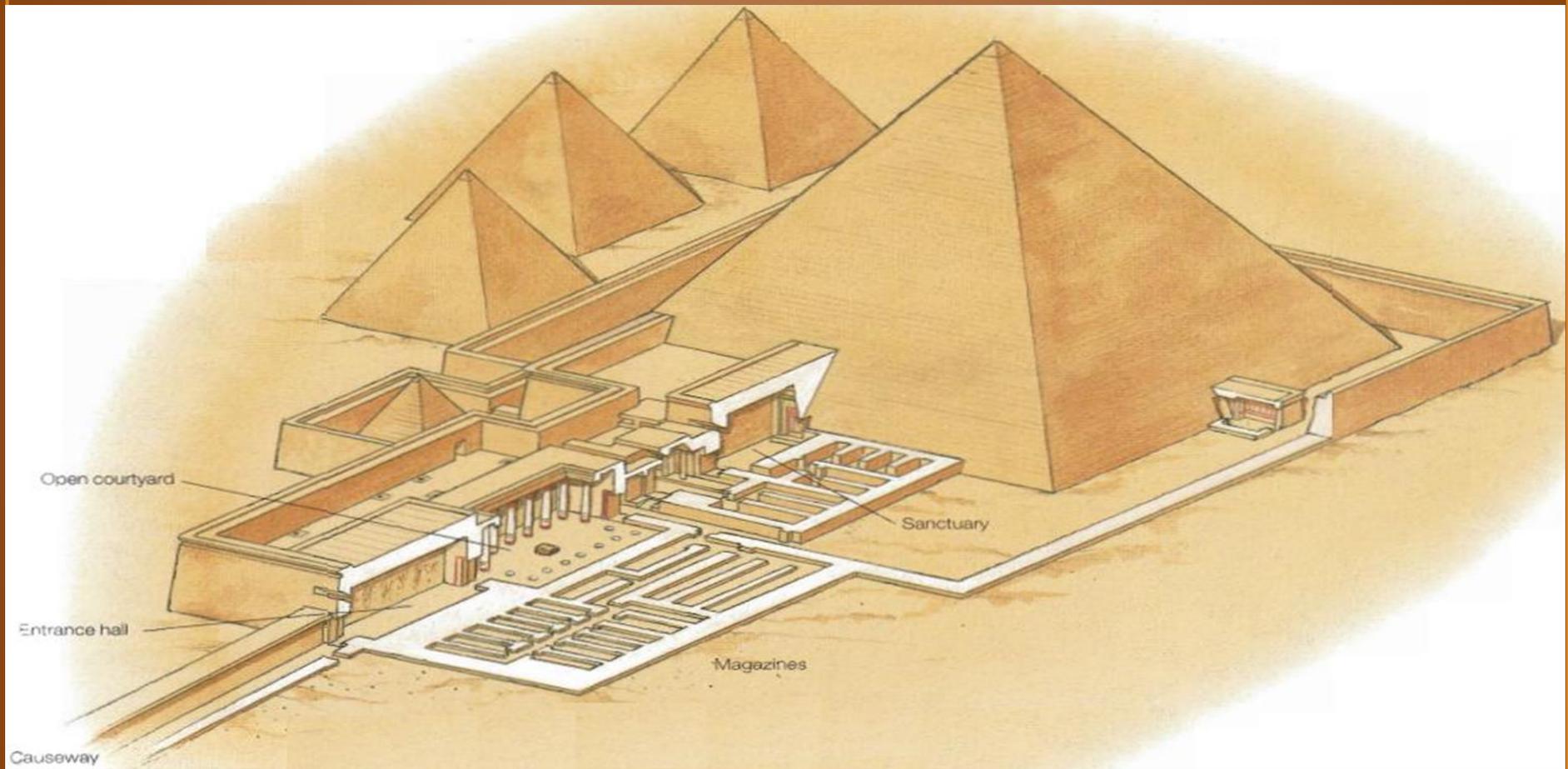


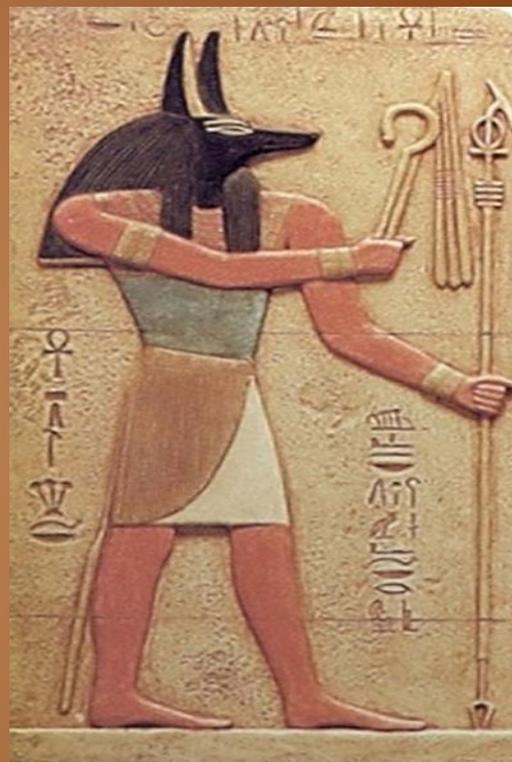
Old Kingdom (2700 BCE to 2181 BCE)

- During the Old Kingdom, **Egyptian society became more stratified**, with a strong class of **nobility** developing.
- The first **step pyramids** were built as royal tombs during the reign of **Djoser**, the first Egyptian king to be considered a god.
- Over time, the process of **mummification** developed along with a complex belief system regarding death and the afterlife.
- Subsequent kings and pharaohs built larger and larger pyramids in order to demonstrate political and religious power.







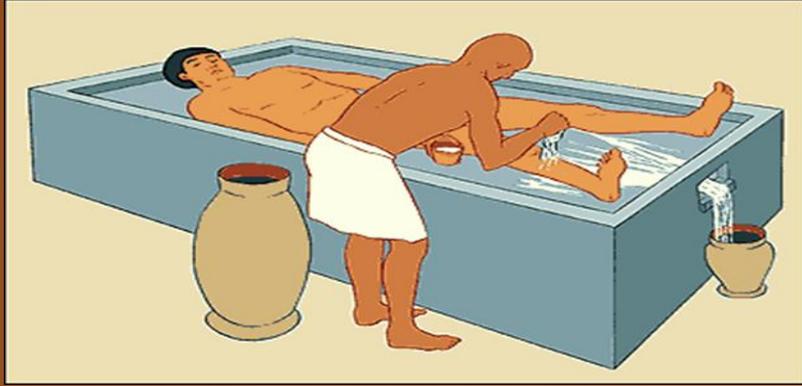








How Mummification Works



Step One: Embalming the body

First, his body is taken to the tent known as 'ibu' or the 'place of purification.' There the embalmers wash his body with good-smelling palm wine and rinse it with water from the Nile.

Step Two: Removal of Organs.

One of the embalmer's men makes a cut in the left side of the body and removes many of the internal organs. It is important to remove these because they are



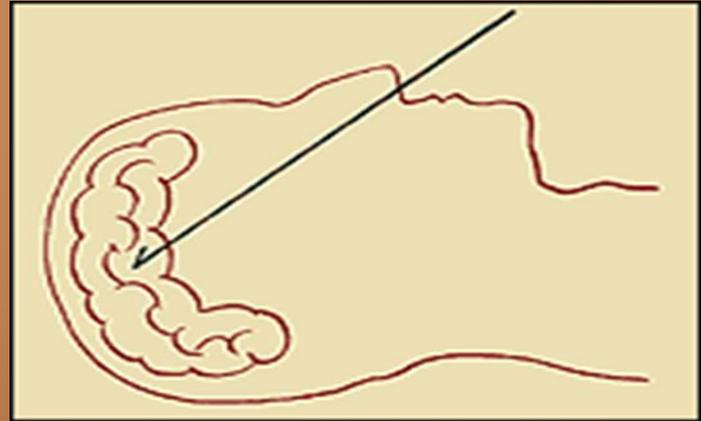


Step Three: Drying the Organs.

The liver, lungs, stomach and intestines are washed and packed in natron which will dry them out. The heart is not taken out of the body because it is the center of intelligence and feeling and the man will need it in the afterlife.

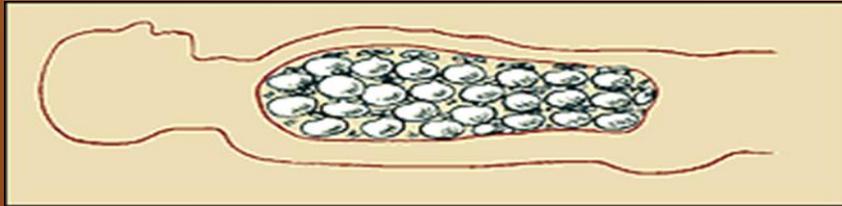
Step Four: Removing the Brain.

A long hook is used to smash the brain and pull it out through the nose.



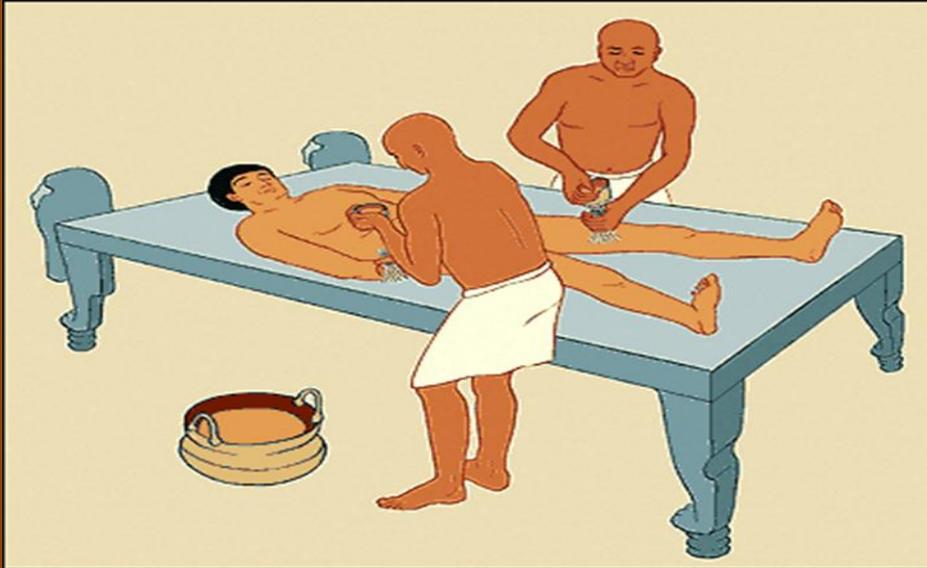


Step Five: Drying the Body.
The body is now covered and stuffed with natron which will dry it out. All of the fluids, and rags from the embalming process will be saved and buried along with the body.



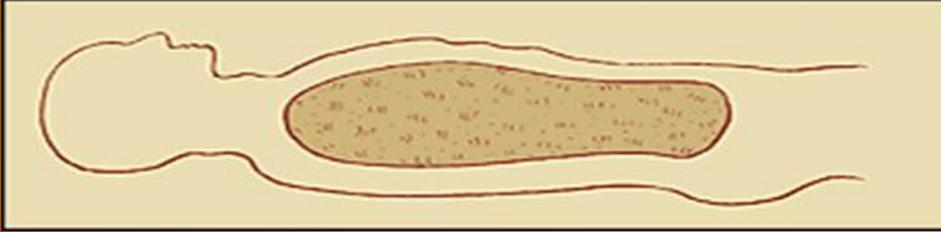
Step Six: Rinsing the Body.

After forty days the body is washed again with water from the Nile. Then it is covered with oils to help the skin stay elastic.



Step Seven: Returning the Organs.

The dehydrated internal organs are wrapped in linen and returned to the body. The body is stuffed with dry materials such as sawdust, leaves and linen so that it looks lifelike.

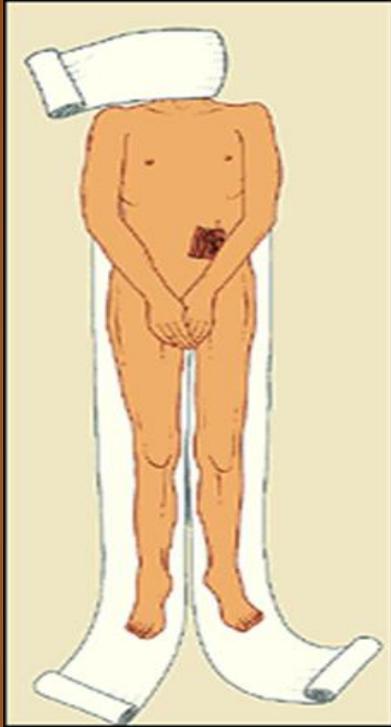


Step Eight: Anointing with Oils. Finally the body is covered again with good-smelling oils. It is now ready to be wrapped in linen.

In the past, when the internal organs were removed from a body they were placed in hollow canopic jars. Over many years the embalming practices changed and embalmers began returning internal organs to bodies after the organs had been dried in natron. However, solid wood or stone canopic jars were still buried with the mummy to symbolically protect the internal organs.







Step Nine: Wrapping the Mummy.

First the head and neck are wrapped with strips of fine linen. Then the fingers and the toes are individually wrapped to prevent damage.

Step Ten: Amulets.

The arms and legs are wrapped separately. Between the layers of wrapping, the embalmers place amulets to protect the body in its journey through the underworld.



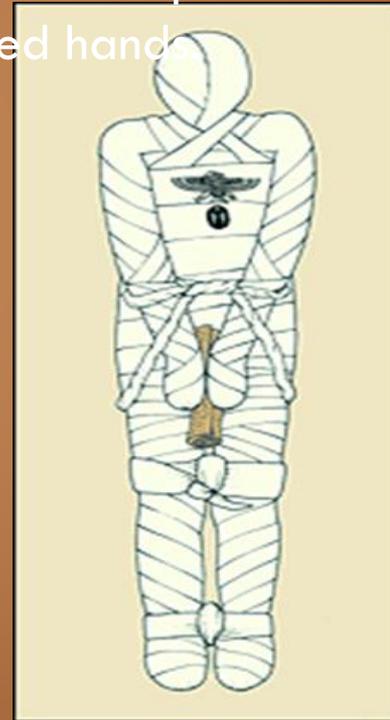


Step Ten: Protective Spells.

A priest reads spells out loud while the mummy is being wrapped. These spells will help ward off evil spirits and help the deceased make the journey to the afterlife.

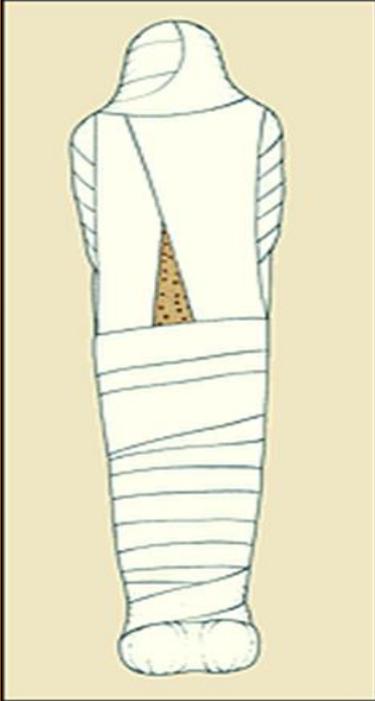
Step Eleven: Book of the Dead.

The arms and legs are tied together. A papyrus scroll with spells from the Book of the Dead is placed between the wrapped hands.



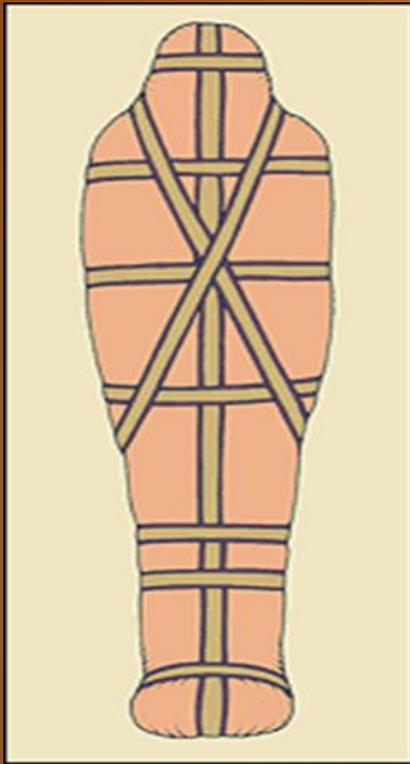
Step Twelve: Resin.

More linen strips are wrapped around the body. At every layer, the bandages are painted with liquid resin that helps to glue the bandages together.



Step Thirteen: Protective Images.

A cloth is wrapped around the body and a picture of the god Osiris is painted on its surface.



Step Fourteen: Sarcophagus and Burial.

Finally, a large cloth is wrapped around the entire mummy. It is attached with strips of linen that run from the top to the bottom of the mummy, and around its middle. A board of painted wood is placed on top of the mummy before the mummy is lowered into its coffin. The first coffin is then put inside a second coffin.

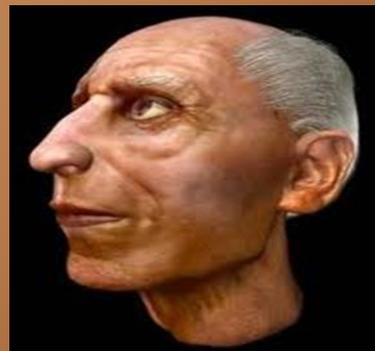


The lid of the coffin in which the mummy of Ramesses II was found, with a docket inscribed on the front detailing the king's reburial in the Deir el-Bahri Cache. The soft, full facial features suggest that this coffin originally belonged to one of Ramesses II's predecessors, perhaps Horemheb or Ramesses I.

Cairo Museum, JE 26214.



Fig. 1
Ramesses II.







Above: **Mummy of Ramesses I. Thebes, Deir el-Bahri Cache (DB 320).**

Early Dynasty 19, ca. 1292 BC. Human remains, linen. Charlotte Lichirie Collection of Ancient Egyptian Art, Photo ©2002, Robin Davis.

First Intermediate Period (2181 BCE – 2000 BCE)

- The Old Kingdom dissolves into a series of **civil wars between various noble families.**

Middle Kingdom (2000 BCE – 1780 BCE)

- **Amenemhet I** reunifies Egypt, and expands territory through conquest and trade.
- The capital city move to **Thebes.**
- No more pyramids. :(Instead, tombs are place in the sides of cliffs.

Second Intermediate Period (1780 BCE – 1550 BCE)

- A **nomadic invading group called the Hyksos** moved in from the south and took control.
- They brought with them **bronze weapons and new military techniques**— including the use of **war chariots**— which were quickly adopted by the Egyptians.



New Kingdom (1550 BCE -1085 BCE)

- The Egyptians eventually overthrew the Hyksos (**using their new war technology!**), and rebuilt their military. With their newfound strength, **the Egyptian empire expanded all the way to Mesopotamia.**
- Traditionally, the New Kingdom is recognized as the **pinnacle of Egyptian society.**
- Important leaders:
 - **Hatshepsut** (First powerful, independent female leader in history)
 - **Akhenaten** (Abandons polytheism for a monotheistic system)
 - **Ramesses II** (Strong military pharaoh of Biblical fame)

