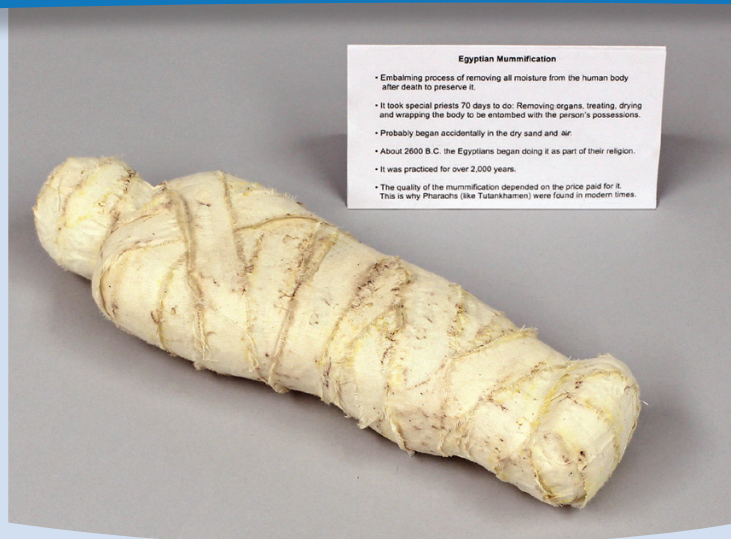


# Egyptian Mummification

## MATERIALS

**FOR STUDENT: (one per student unless otherwise noted)**

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Block, 1 15/16" x 3 7/8" x 11 7/8"
- Muslin fabric, 5" x 45" piece
- Chalk or chalk pastels, brown and gold (per several students)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Plastic knife
- Glue stick
- Paper plate
- Medium size cardboard box (one per two students)
- Plastic wastebasket bag (one per two students)



## FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Block, 1 15/16" x 3 7/8" x 11 7/8"
- Muslin fabric, 5" x 45" piece per student (can get seven 5" strips per yard)
- Cardstock, white, 12" x 12" sheet (one per four students)
- Copy paper, one sheet per student (for pattern)
- Sheet of white address labels
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Serrated knife
- Paper cutter
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Glue gun (for teacher only)
- Wet wipes
- Photocopier

## TEACHER PREPARATION

*Note: Read through all instructions first and check out the TIPS! Before the class session, have the students research the process of mummification, and summarize their findings in a bulleted list that they have typed and printed on copy paper to fit on the 3" x 6" display card they will make.*

*During the class, have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when you're in a hurry to help students. It is also recommended that you make one sample first, before preparing the materials for any others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare the rest of them. (Note: You can use a serrated knife, but we suggest that you have the students use a plastic knife that has a serrated edge.)*

**[1]** Open the foam block packages, one block per student.

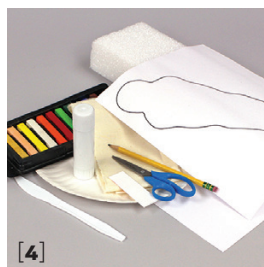
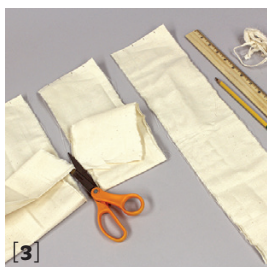
**[2]** Place the muslin fabric (two layers) on the table with the folded side at the top. Go in about 1/2" from the right cut edge and make about a 1" long snip. Grasp the fabric on either side of the snip and tear it all the way down until you reach the selvage ends. Cut those ends to remove the torn piece and discard it. (This gives you a straight edge on that side.)

Starting at the torn edge, use a ruler and pencil to accurately measure and carefully mark every 1" along the folded edge so that the students will know where to tear their strips. Because each student will be given one 5" piece, on every fifth mark, make the

mark longer. Then snip and tear the fabric on those longer marks, cutting when you get to the selvage. This will create a 5" x 45" piece per student. (Later, they can tear their fabric apart into five 1" strips.)

**[3]** Cut apart the address labels and photocopy one mummy pattern per student. On a paper plate, set: Foam block, pattern, 5" x 45" fabric, address label, pencil, scissors, glue stick and plastic knife. Put chalk with a few plates for students to share.

To catch the pieces from carving the foam, line a box with a plastic wastebasket bag, one per two students. Use the paper cutter to cut 6" squares from white cardstock but wait to give those to the students until after the mummies are finished.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

GRADE LEVEL

FOURTH – FIFTH

## COMPLETION TIME

- 60 minutes



## OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- What mummification was and how it was performed
- Why mummification was done
- How the belief in mummification reinforced the societal hierarchy

## STANDARDS

Students understand:

- The cause and effect relationships and other historical thinking skills in order to interpret events and issues
- How to view the past in terms of the norms and values of the time
- That belief systems affect government policies and laws
- The role of culture and cultural diffusion on the development and maintenance of societies

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

- During the study of Egyptian civilization, discuss the influence that religious and cultural beliefs have on people, including the concept of the nobility being more entitled in both life and afterlife than the common citizen. Explain that the process of mummification was as much a religious rite as it was a burial process for the wealthy.



makeitfuncrafts.com

FloraCraft-SS-4019

# INSTRUCTIONS


[makeitfuncrafts.com](http://makeitfuncrafts.com)

**[1]** Have the students cut out their mummy pattern. Then, have them center it on their foam block, and trace around it. Explain that they will be carving the edges off the foam to round it to look like a person's body inside the strips of fabric. Distribute plastic-lined boxes and explain that you want them to catch as many of the foam pieces in the box as possible, so that there is less clean up to do.



**[2]** Demonstrate and have the students cut out their foam mummy, first along one side and then the other and the bottom. Remind them not to angle the knife in or out – to keep it going straight down into the foam so that the sides will be straight. Have them save their larger pieces for sanding, later.



**[3]** Now, demonstrate and have the students angle their knives to trim off the corners on both sides of the mummy. Then, turn it over and do both sides there, too. Have them check it all over to remove any angles.



**[4]** Show them how to use the scraps of foam to sand the mummy to smooth it, while holding it over the box to capture the foam dust. Have them clean up their work areas and then distribute wet wipes to remove the last of the foam dust.



**[5]** For the fabric strips, demonstrate and have the students cut approx. 1" long (very straight) snips on each of the pencil marks on their fabric. Then show them how to grasp the fabric, tear it to the selvage and then cut the selvage edges.

Demonstrate how to cover the feet and head with approx. 3" long strips that they can cut from one strip. They should glue two strips, side-by-side, with one slightly overlapping the other on the top of the head, two or three on the bottom of the feet and one or two on each shoulder. Explain that this way, those areas will already be covered when they are wrapping strips around the mummy.



**[6]** Demonstrate and have the students glue the end of a new strip to the top back of the head and wrap around the head, then go down the body at an angle like a candy cane. When they get to the bottom, they can wrap back up, slightly overlapping their first wrap. Have them wait to use glue until they're at the end of the strip and starting another. (Ideally, doing that at the back so it doesn't show.) Continue wrapping diagonally up and down until all is covered. Then glue any pieces that stick out, but leave the ragged edges to look worn.



**[7]** To give an aged look, demonstrate how to antique the fabric by lightly covering it with brown and gold and rubbing with a scrap of fabric. Have students try it on the back first in case they get it too dark.



**[8]** Distribute wet wipes to remove the chalk from their fingers. Distribute and have the students fold their cardstock squares in half and attach their mummification information using glue stick.



## MODIFICATIONS

### To simplify project:

- Use a band saw to cut out the foam mummies and then have the students trim them with a plastic knife to shape them.
- Pre-tear the 1" wide fabric strips.

### To expand project:

- In addition to the bulleted list displayed beside the mummy, have the students write a more complete report from the research they've done.
- Use paper mache to make a sarcophagus to hold the mummy.

### For multiple ages:

- You may want to consider whether or not the discussion of mummification is suitable for younger students. Fourth and fifth graders have an awareness of this topic, but the research might be too graphic for younger students. Please use your own judgment.

## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Have the students research the types of items that were entombed with the mummies and they can make replicas of those, too.
- The real value to this lesson, is the students' awareness of how values, customs and religious beliefs of groups of people influence their practices and laws. Also, that those beliefs and practices change over time.
- Depending on the maturity of your students, you can consider discussing the current ways people throughout the world handle human remains following death – from burial and cremation to other ceremonial processes.

## TIPS

- When cutting foam, keep the blade perpendicular to the table so that the foam edges are straight. Score lightly first and then press more firmly to cut deeper with several passes of the knife.
- The reason for having the students only glue the beginning and end of the strips, is so that they can adjust them as needed. Encourage them to slightly overlap each wrap for the nicest layering. At the end, if they create an X over the chest with the strips, it will look more realistic.
- If they have difficulty applying the chalk lightly enough, have them apply it to their fabric scrap and then rub the fabric scrap on their mummy. However, do shade the edges of the fabric strips a little more heavily so that they really show.
- Have extras of everything, including wet wipes and paper towels.



[makeitfuncrafts.com](http://makeitfuncrafts.com)

Pattern  
Print at 100%

