

## Mummy's the Word

*An activity of "Ancient Egyptian mummies are moving home"*

**"Ancient Egyptian mummies are moving home"** (Story 13A, *What's Up* April 2020) tells how mummies stolen from tombs are being returned to Egypt by museums across the world. Read it to understand the fascination the world holds for these ancient relics.

Complete the following statements about mummies by circling "a" or "b" in each case.

1. The ancient Egyptians mummified their dead because they believed that
  - a. the souls of the dead would look after and protect the living if the bodies were kept.
  - b. after their journey in the underworld their souls would need the physical body they had in this life to be admitted to the afterlife.
2. The mummification process was so elaborate because
  - a. the better preserved the body was the easier it was for the soul to recognise it and return.
  - b. the bodies had to last till the 22<sup>nd</sup> century when the souls would return to inhabit them.
3. During mummification, the brain was thrown away and the other major organs were preserved and kept in jars next to the body. Only the heart was left in the body because
  - a. it was difficult to remove without damaging all the attached arteries and veins.
  - b. it was the centre of being and the seat of thought and intelligence.
4. Along with the mummies were buried several things like food, wine, jewellery, vehicles, tools, perfume and even pets
  - a. to provide comfort and sustenance for the soul in its journey through the underworld.
  - b. to show the gods the wealth of the person so that they will be treated with more respect.
5. Statuettes called *Shabtis* were also buried in the tomb. They had spells inscribed on them that would magically cause them to come alive
  - a. to keep the soul company as friends in the lonely underworld.
  - b. to work as servants to do the hard, manual work which the soul would otherwise have to do by itself in the afterlife, thus helping it to relax.
6. Also buried were several amulets inscribed with spells, found in the tomb and on the sarcophagus
  - a. to guide and protect the soul in its journey through the underworld.
  - b. to scare off tomb raiders.
7. The huge and elaborate pyramids were built to serve as tombs for the pharaohs
  - a. so that they would be noticed and blessed by Ra, the sun god, as he sailed across the sky during the day.
  - b. to protect the mummies from the elements and theft because tombs were the gateway between time and eternity.