



**STORIES FROM THE AFTERLIFE**  
**Religion and funerary cults**

**QUIZ**

**START**

**1.**

**Why did the ancient Egyptians seek (and found!) a way to preserve the bodies of the dead?**

**A)**

**Because they wanted to look beautiful even when dead.**

**B)**

**Because without the integrity of their body they would not have been able to face the journey to the afterlife.**

**C)**

**Because they didn't want that people of the future could see their skeletons.**



The Egyptians knew that, even if mummified, the body would be a little damaged and that it would not look as beautiful as in life!

**TRY AGAIN!**



They couldn't imagine  
that in the future  
their bodies would be  
found!

**TRY AGAIN!**

**CORRECT!**

It was very important  
to preserve the body  
in the best possible  
way, because it would  
have to function even  
after death!

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**2.**

**Why the oldest mummy of the Museum is placed in a crouched position?**

**A)**

Because the person died in that position.

**B)**

Because someone adapted the body to fit the size of the pit.

**C)**

Because his body had been carefully laid down, in a fetal position, ready to be reborn.



There are too many  
bodies found in this  
position: it cannot be  
the result of chance!

**TRY AGAIN!**



It's hard to believe:  
they could have dug  
a bigger pit and made  
it comfortable!

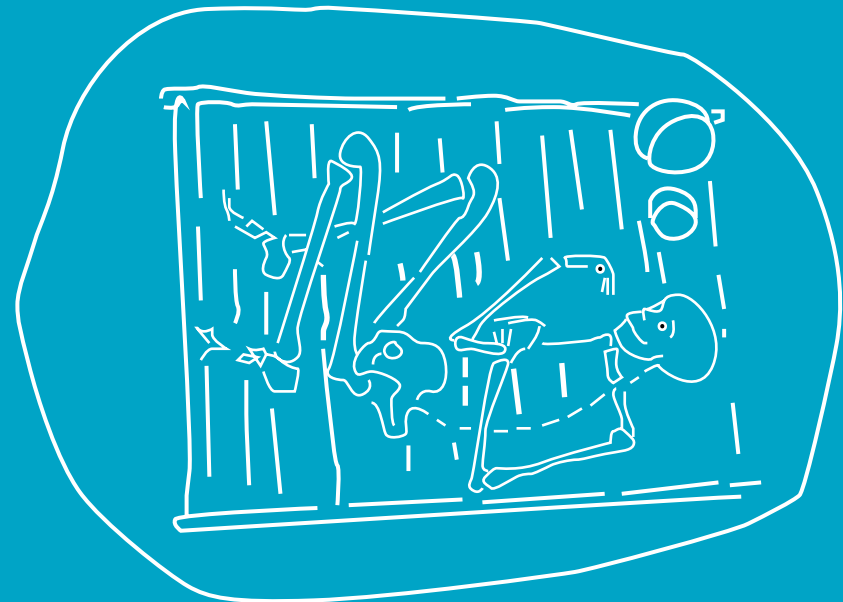
**TRY AGAIN!**



**CORRECT!**

For the Egyptians, death was considered a second birth: for this reason they laid the bodies of the dead like foetuses in their mother's womb, so that they were ready to be reborn!

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**3.**

**What is essential for a body to mummify?**

**A)**

Humidity and coolness.

**B)**

Dry heat and salt.

**C)**

Perfumed oils and ointments.



To be naturally mummified, the body must dehydrate. Moisture does not help this process. Remember: what's damp and wet is likely to rot quickly.

**TRY AGAIN!**



Oils and ointments were applied at the end of the embalming ritual. They were used to protect the skin from any bacteria or parasites that could have ruined the body...

**TRY AGAIN!**

**CORRECT!**

A hot and dry climate helps the body to swiftly lose all its fluids, so that its natural mummification is assured!

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**4.**

**In the most ancient sarcophagi, the bodies were often placed:**

**A)**

Face down.

**B)**

On one side.

**C)**

Face up.



Just a joke!

**TRY AGAIN!**



The Egyptians began to put the bodies lying on their backs only in more recent times.

**TRY AGAIN!**



**CORRECT!**

A sarcophagus was very expensive. To save on material, long and narrow boxes were made and the body could be adapted into them!

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**5.**

**What was the false door used for?**

**A)**

To mislead the thieves.

**B)**

To embellish the tomb.

**C)**

To allow the soul of the deceased to come out of the tomb and stay in touch with the world of the living!



Even the thieves  
of the time were  
very motivated: this  
strategy would not  
have stopped them...

**TRY AGAIN!**



This is not a completely wrong answer! However, the false door performs an even more important task...

**TRY AGAIN!**

**CORRECT!**

Only the soul of the deceased could pass through a “sealed” door and go “for a walk”.

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**6.**

**How was the part of the soul called Ba represented?**

**A)** With the body of a monkey and the head of a snake.

**B)** With the body of a bird and a human head.

**C)** With the body of a hippo and the head of a fish.



It would have been too  
“monstrous” even  
for the Egyptians!

**TRY AGAIN!**



It would have been too  
“monstrous” even  
for the Egyptians!

**TRY AGAIN!**



**CORRECT!**

The Ba was the part of the soul that could move away from the body... and the wings were very useful indeed!

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**7.**

**What is the name of the part of the soul that feeds on the food offerings left by relatives?**

**A)**

Ka.

**B)**

Mbah.

**C)**

Wha.



Just a joke!

**TRY AGAIN!**



Made-up word!

**TRY AGAIN!**

**CORRECT!**

The Ka, depicted in the form of two arms facing upwards, was the part of the soul that was always hungry; that is why it was so important to bring fresh food and drinks to the tomb!

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**8.**

**Why did the Egyptians always depict offering bearers?**

**A)**

To keep the deceased company.

**B)**

To magically give them life and guarantee offerings to the deceased.

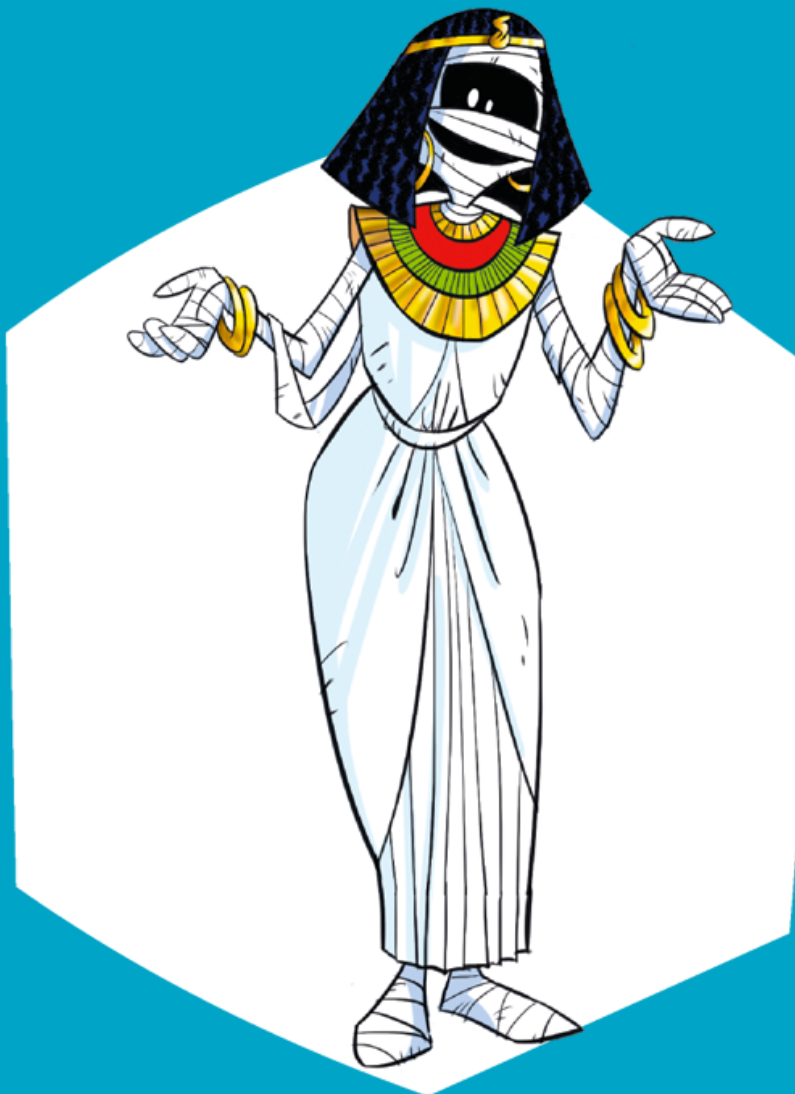
**C)**

Because they weren't very imaginative and didn't really know what else to paint.



Nice thought, but...

**TRY AGAIN!**



Just a joke!  
The Egyptians were  
extremely creative  
and imaginative!

**TRY AGAIN!**



**CORRECT!**

Remember: everything that  
was represented came  
to life for the Egyptians.

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**9.**

**What are the grave goods?**

**A)**

The objects, clothes, food, tools and furniture that can be useful in the afterlife.

**B)**

The people attending the funeral.

**C)**

Boxes full of jewels.



Remember: the group  
of people attending  
the funeral is called the  
“funerary procession”!

**TRY AGAIN!**



Often the jewels were worn by the deceased under the bandages, but the jewels are only a part of the grave goods.

**TRY AGAIN!**

**CORRECT!**

The grave goods were their “suitcase for the afterlife”, the things needed so as not to be caught unprepared!

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**10.**

## **What is the Book of the Dead?**

**A)**

A collection of testimonies from those who claimed to have seen the afterlife.

**B)**

A survival handbook for the afterlife, with prayers and magic spells.

**C)**

A collection of horror stories.



We never found a  
papyrus of this kind!

**TRY AGAIN!**



Just a joke!

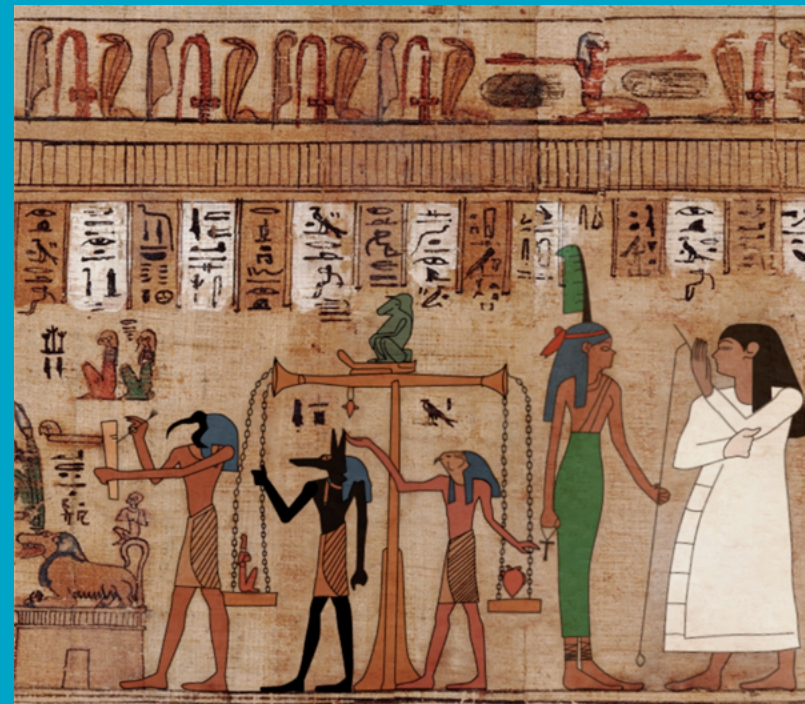
**TRY AGAIN!**



**CORRECT!**

The longest and most detailed Book of the Dead is written on a papyrus 19 meters long preserved in Torino!

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



11.

Who is the supreme judge of the court of the afterlife?

A)

Anubis.

B)

Osiris.

C)

Horus.



Anubis, the god with the head of a jackal, was the deity protecting the necropolis and the first true master of the art of embalming!

**TRY AGAIN!**



One of the oldest Egyptian gods, with the head of a falcon. He was the son of Osiris and Isis. He is often represented as a child, in the arms of his mother, sucking his thumb!

**TRY AGAIN!**

**CORRECT!**

All the dead had to appear before the god Osiris, the king of the dead and lord of the afterlife. He sits on the throne, he is represented as a mummy and he has a “lovely” green skin: easy to recognize!

**NEXT  
QUESTION**





**12.**

**Who is Maat?**

**A)**

The goddess of revenge.

**B)**

The goddess of justice.

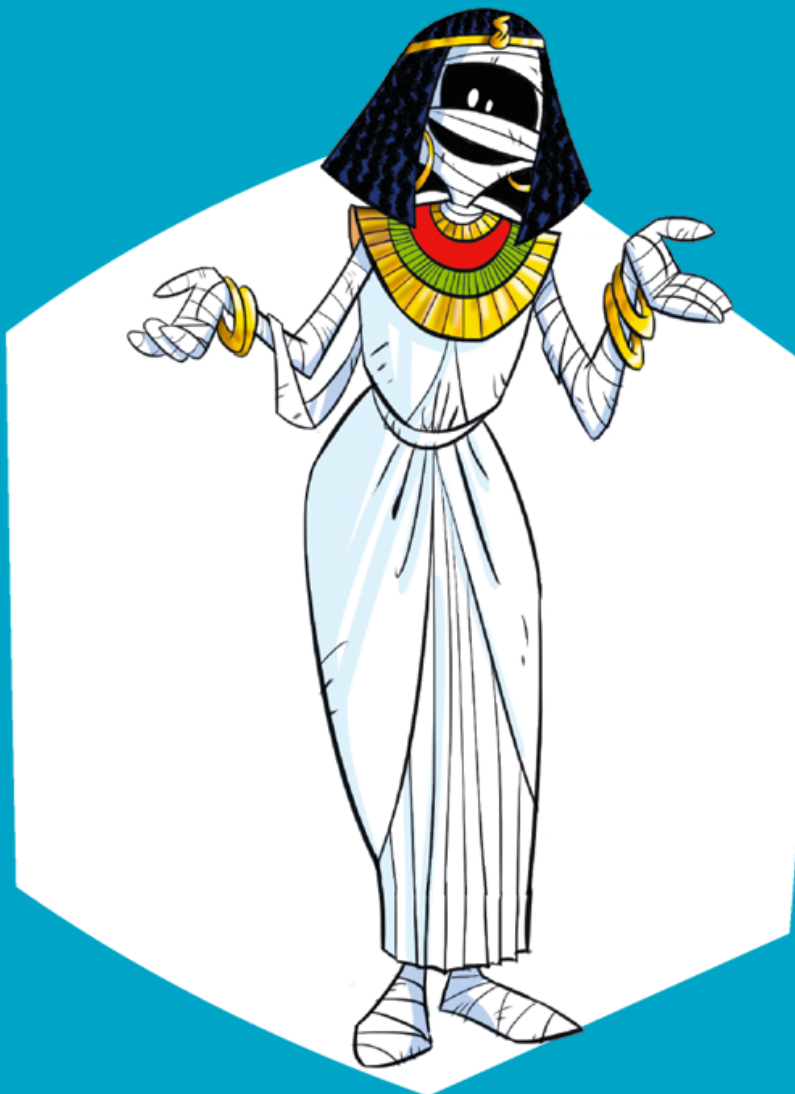
**C)**

The goddess of lightness.



Just a joke!  
Maat loved peace  
and harmony.

**TRY AGAIN!**



Just a joke!  
She has a very light  
feather on her head,  
but...

**TRY AGAIN!**



**CORRECT!**

She welcomes the deceased and leads him to the “weighing of the heart” to verify his purity. Only the righteous could continue the journey.

**NEXT  
QUESTION**



**13.**

**What is the name of the beautiful place where the deceased will spend his second life?**

**A)**

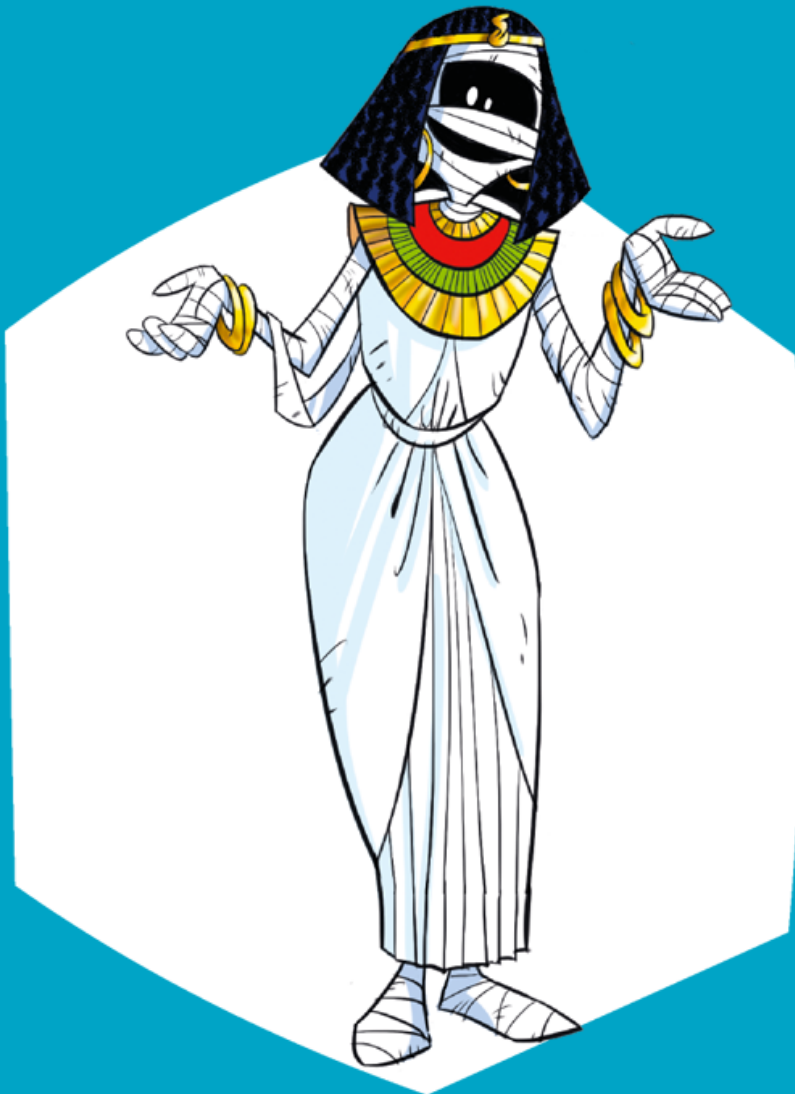
Flax fields.

**B)**

Fields of reeds.

**C)**

Poppy fields.



The ancient Egyptians  
were expert flax  
farmers, a plant with  
beautiful blue flowers.  
However, this is not  
correct.

**TRY AGAIN!**



Just a joke!

**TRY AGAIN!**

**CORRECT!**

Called Field of Iaru, an Egyptian word for “reeds”, it recalls the most fertile part of Egypt... but it was cooler and breezy!

**THE END!**



