# Egyptian Religion:

# Overhead #1 Preparing for the Afterlife

* **Polytheism**- Belief in many gods
  + **Afterlife-** A life that would continue after death
* Only priests could enter temples
* Villages had own local gods
* Shrines built at home- **why?**
* Answer: People built shrines at home to worship favorite gods

# Egyptians vs Mesopotamia

* Both believed in polytheism

**Mesopotamians religion was….**

* 1. Gloomy picture of the afterlife
  2. World of dead was under the earth
  3. External life reserved for the gods

Overhead # 2 Why the Belief in a Second Life?

* Osiris used to rule earth with his wife Isis (mother goddess)
* Osiris made laws- **taught people**?

Answer: how to plant/harvest

* Brother Set jealous- places brother into chest- scatter 14 pieces of brother
* Isis put pieces back together except for the heart
* Embalms body then wraps in linen
* Osiris is alive- becomes God of the Dead
* **Myth explains ancient Egyptians belief in a 2nd life**

## Overhead # 3 Preparation for the Afterlife

* Egyptians made great preparations
* **Took how many days to mummify a body?**

Answer: 70 days

\*\* Without the body the person’s spirit couldn’t eat, drink, dance or enjoy life’s pleasures\*\*

* **What happens without the body?**

Answer: If the body decayed then the spirit would die (No Afterlife)

* **Ka**- spirit double, looked like the person, returned to body for food
* **Ba**- person’s life force (soul), needed the person’s body

**Names**

* **What happens if you don’t have a name?**

Answer: If you did not have a name then you no longer existed (no going to Afterlife)

**Purification Ritual**

* **Who was it for?**

Answer: For the wealthy

* Carried to the West Bank of the Nile where people would mourn you

# Overhead # 4 Step 1: Pyramid Building

* **Built by whom?**

Answer: Farmers during flood season and slaves

* Pharaohs buried in pyramids to illustrate they were godlike
* Made traps and stairs that led to nowhere to fool thieves
* Pyramids replaced by secret tombs in cliffs**- why?**

Answer: So thieves could not find their tomb to rob

* **Why was pyramid building the first step?**

Answer: It could take up to 20 years. Needed to be completed before the pharaoh died

**Overhead #5A**  **Step 2**: **Embalming**

* **Embalming-** Process to treat the body to protect it from decay. **Why?**

Answer: If your body decays then you cannot go to the Afterlife

* Pulled brain from your nostrils-Used a metal hook
* Embalmers place all internal organs in a jar, except for the heart- **why?**

Answer: The heart was needed to weigh against the feather of truth

* Placed the liver, lungs, stomach, intestines into **Canopic Jars**
* **Hapy** (baboon) protected the lungs
* **Qebehsenuef** (falcon) protected the intestines)
* **Duamutef**(jackal) protected the stomach
* **Imsety** (human) protected the liver)

**Overhead 5B Step 2: Embalming (continued)**

* Covered body for 40 days with natron (salt), **why?**

Answer: Natron dries out the body

* Washed/oiled body **why?**

Answer: To clean off the natron and make the mummy sticky for the linen strips

* Wrapped body with 400 yards of linen strips- **why?**

Answer: Prevents the body from falling apart

* Placed jewels and amulets in the linen strips- **why?**

Answer: To provide protection on your journey to the Afterlife and good luck

* **What did embalming change the body into?**

Answer: A mummy

* **How were the earliest mummies preserved?**

Answer:Earliest mummies were laid in the desert to be preserved

# Overhead # 6 Step 3: Placing Mummy Into Tomb

* Mummy placed into sarcophagus with items

**Opening of the Mouth Ceremony**

* Priest performs it with mummy upright
* Touched feet, hands, eyes, ears, nose, lips of the coffin to free senses- **why?**

Answer:Freed the senses to function in the next life

**After Opening of the Mouth Ceremony**

* A mask was placed over the mummy’s head
* **Why were tom walls painted**?

Answer: Tomb walls painted with scenes from everyday life so you would remember to do everything in the Afterlife

* Objects/Paintings found in wealthy tombs
* **What are shabitis**

Answer: Servants in the Afterlife

Step 4 **Chanting**

##### After Mummy placed in a tomb, priests recited prayers/chanted magic spells

* **Why do priests do this?**

Answer: Provide protection in the Afterlife

##### What does the Book of the Dead contain?

##### Answer: hymns, prayers, magic spells

Overhead 7 Step 5: Weighing of the Heart

* Soul of the dead person argues its case before a jury of gods
* **What is the heart weighed against?**

Answer: Feather of truth (Controlled by the goddess Ma’at)

* **What is the heart the center of?**

Answer: Heart was the center of intelligence and memory

* Heart heavier than the feather of truth= you die a second death (eaten by the crocodile demoness Ammut). Means you sinned
* Heart lighter than feather= You go to the afterlife. Means you did not sin
* The person was eaten by Ammut- a crocodile-headed monster
* **Where do the dead go?**

Answer: Field of Reeds

* Workers seal the tomb- lets huge stones crash- **why?**

Answer: To block main passageway from thieves