

# Mummies, Tombs, and the Afterlife



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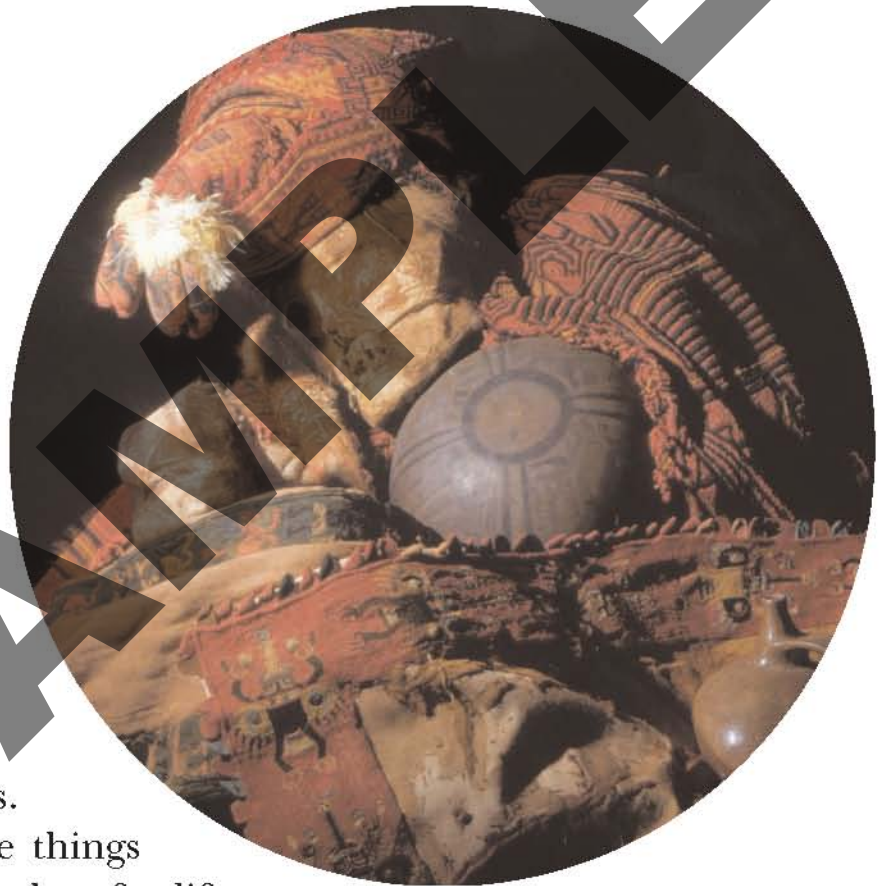


# Introduction

Most ancient peoples believed in life after death. Death was seen as the beginning of another life – the afterlife – so preparations for death were very important. These preparations, or **rituals**, helped dying people and their families to accept death. Death rituals varied from one ancient **culture** to another.

People of many cultures believed that they would need their bodies in the next world. One way to **preserve** a body after death was to mummify it.

Many ancient peoples left everyday objects beside dead bodies. They thought these things would be useful in the afterlife. For some people, seeds and a digging stick were important. For others, tools and pots were essential, or perhaps a sword mattered most.



▲ A South American mummy bundle

Royalty and rich people were often buried with gold and amazing treasures. These **grave** items inform us about the way these ancient people lived.

Dead bodies were often put in special places, such as caves, graves, **tombs**, or **burial chambers**. Sometimes, bodies were placed together in cemeteries.



An Egyptian mummy mask

