

A Teacher's Guide



Mummies

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About the Book

Ancient civilizations are part of the social studies curriculum in middle school. *Kingfisher Knowledge Mummies* explores ancient and not so ancient cultures and civilizations; examines the traditions and beliefs of these cultures; and helps students appreciate how these peoples cared for their dead. It goes beyond social studies to show how present-day scientists use scientific methods to reveal the secrets of the past and allow the dead to "speak" from the grave. *Mummies* also gives your class a chance to practice and increase nonfiction reading skills.

Reading Comprehension

Give your students time to read the book on their own or in small groups. To get a sense of their understanding and how much they are learning and retaining, use the chapter summaries to open discussions. It is easy to turn the straightforward review sentences in these summaries into questions to pose to your students. For example:

- Chapter 1, page 30, "Two Ways to Make a Mummy": Ask students to define just what a mummy is. Are the only mummies of people? How are natural mummies made?
- Chapter 2, page 46, "Egypt, the Land of Mummies": Ask students to articulate the reasons that the Egyptians mummified their dead.
- Chapter 3, page 46, "Mummy World": Have your students debate the question "Who are the rightful owners of mummies?"
- Chapter 4, page 59, "Mummies Today": Ask students to talk about what scientists hope to learn from studying mummies and how they use scientific instrumentation.

