

# What's Old is New Again

The KRHS students in Mr. Tom Miller's Anthropology class have been working diligently on a long-term research project regarding ancient civilizations. First, they went to the website of the Museum of Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania:

<https://www.penn.museum/exhibitions/special-exhibitions> where they found an ancient culture to study. The students researched the culture they picked and presented a paper based on the information they had gathered.

Next, they went to the Museum of Archaeology to find an artifact that corresponded with the civilization they had chosen. One student chose a Canopic jar used to house mummified remains of extracted organs. The lids of the four jars represented a son of the Egyptian god Horus.

- Duamutef the jackal-headed god looked after the stomach.
- Imsety had a human head and protected the liver.
- Qebehsenuf depicted by a falcon's head contained the intestines.
- Hapy watched over the lungs and had a head of a baboon.



The student was required to complete a form used by archaeologists when they make a discovery. On this form every minute detail of the object is described. For instance, size, where it was found, what they believe it is, even a drawing of the piece, etc.

Some interesting facts that may not be in your history book:

- South Americans started mummification two-thousand years before the Egyptians.
- Embalming and mummification are not the same thing. Embalming is one step in the mummification process.
- It is believed embalming began during the civil war because President Lincoln wanted to ensure Union soldiers' remains would reach their families for a proper burial. It essentially preserves the body for a little more time for friends and families to say good-bye.
- Currently, a tribe in Papua, New Guinea will mummify their deceased if requested.
- There is a company in Utah today that will mummify pets and people for a significant fee.

Just like in Egyptian times, the wealthiest people may indeed be mummified today. Always interesting how the past appears to repeat itself.