

Quiz B: RI.7.5

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

“Bind, Burn, and Bury: Funeral Rites from Different Cultures”

- 1 The circle of life: a person is born, lives, and then dies. If one is lucky, life is full of family and prosperity and death comes with loved ones and friends nearby. But what happens after one dies? The answer changes depending on the culture of the person you ask. The beliefs about what happens after death can define the funeral rites a culture practices, and the specific ways in which the dead body is prepared for its future travels. Here are a few examples of elaborate rites that take place at the passing of a loved one.

Egyptian Mummies

- 2 The mummy has a legendary legacy as a creepy monster who returns to life and comes back to terrorize tomb raiders and archeologists. However, a mummy is not a creepy monster. Instead, a mummy is a deceased human body that has undergone a process called mummification. Binding the corpse in strips of fabric was the last step in a series of careful rituals in the mummification process. Mummification includes embalming, which is used in funerals today. It helps to preserve the body so it is recognizable and protected from decay, at least until the family is able to say their goodbyes to the departed soul. Evidence of mummies goes back at least 6,000 years. However, the most famous early examples are those of the Egyptian culture, beginning closer to 3,500 years ago.
- 3 Early Egyptians saw the careful preservation of the body in this life as a protection for wealth and happiness in the next one. The body’s entrails, or the organs in the middle of the body, were removed, as well as the brain. The only body part left in the body was the heart to ensure that the physical form and soul stayed together. Then, a mix of spices and palm wine was applied to the inside of the body to stop the process of decomposition. The organs were placed in jars and either dried or preserved and set beside the body. Then, the remainder of the body was preserved in resin and wrapped in linen cloth. Small amulets were then tucked into the cloth to protect the person from evil. The body was sealed within a tomb along with his or her worldly goods to help him or her in the afterlife.
- 4 Many cultures on nearly every continent have evidence of mummifying their dead, either deliberately or by accident. Because dehydration is key, conditions in which bodies dry out rapidly and are not able to decay can lead to accidental mummies. Bog mummies are another example where natural processes achieved the same ends as all the minerals and care applied by the Egyptians. The frigid water in bogs is extremely acidic, and the lack of oxygen slows the decaying process. It is not clear whether bog mummies were deposited into the bogs as punishment, sacrifice, or postmortem (after death) procedure. But these bog bodies are some of the best-preserved mummies that exist.

Cremation

- 5 Have you ever heard of karma? Karma is the idea that what you do in this life will affect your next life. It is rooted in what many Buddhists and Hindus believe about reincarnation, or a return to life after death. Hindus cremate, or burn, their dead, signifying a release of the spirit from the body. The body is prepared for

