

Cliffe Castle Museum

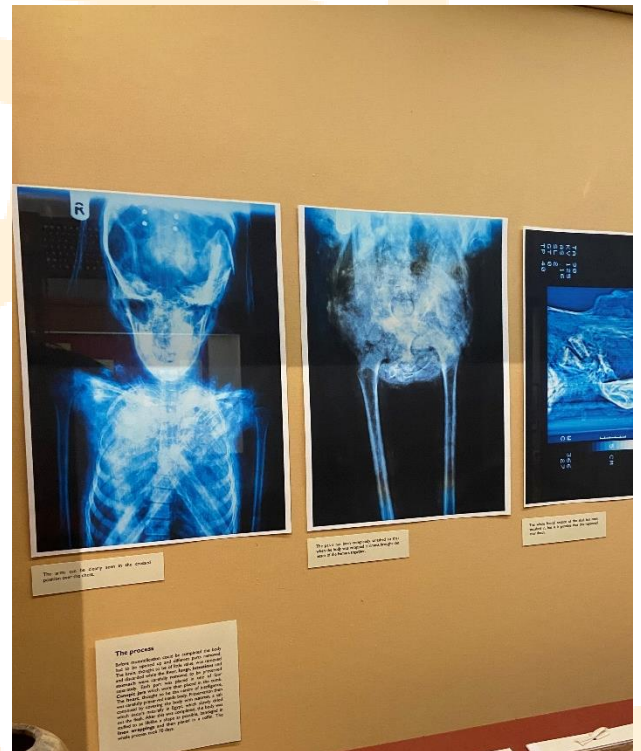
Mummy

This is an Egyptian mummy on display at Cliffe Castle Museum. An Egyptian mummy is a deceased human or animal whose body has been preserved through a process known as mummification. In ancient Egypt, mummification was a complex and religious practice associated with ensuring the deceased's successful transition to the afterlife.

The process typically involved removing internal organs to prevent decay, treating the body with preservatives and then wrapping it up in layers of linen bandages. After mummification, the body was placed in a decorated coffin known as a sarcophagus and buried in a tomb, often along with personal possessions.

This mummy was originally excavated from a temple in Egypt and then donated to the Keighley Museum by the Egyptian Exploration Society in the early 1900s. In 1989, the mummy was X-rayed at Bradford Royal Infirmary with the aim of finding out information on the person's identity. The X-rays, also on display, reveal that the body belonged to a teenage girl, who suffered injuries to her head and pelvis.

Mummies are integral to understanding Ancient Egyptian life and their beliefs about the afterlife, as they reflect the culture's emphasis on preserving the body to ensure the individual's resurrection in the next life.



Talk Topics

- Why did people in Ancient Egypt mummify their dead?
- What were the key steps involved in the process of mummification?
- How do you think the ritual varied across social classes in Ancient Egypt, were the rich treated the same as the poor in preparation for the afterlife?
- What objects were commonly buried alongside the mummified person in their tombs?
- How do we know that the Ancient Egyptians existed?
- Should objects from tombs be displayed in museums?