

## International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic:           Death and Dying

Read the paragraph about ancient Egyptians, discussing words and concepts. Then read through the questions together and let each person choose the question they would like to ask the group.

The Ancient Egyptians focused a lot on death. They believed that the soul could not survive the afterlife if it decomposed in this life. So, when person died, they went through a process called mummification. After the death, the person's internal organs would be removed and some were placed into sacred jars to be kept for the afterlife. Then the body would be covered in salt for around 70 days to dry out the body. The body was then wrapped in linens with little trinkets wrapped between the layers which were thought to drive away evil spirits. When the mummy was actually buried, prayers were recited by priests to ensure a happy afterlife.

1. Tell what funerals are like in your country.
2. Explain burial or cremation practices.
3. Are there certain rites or ceremonies performed when someone dies?
4. What are the mourning customs? For example, how long do people mourn the dead? Have these practices changed over time?
5. Are there specific colors people wear in your home country to mourn the dead?
6. Explain how "wills" are handled in your country.
7. What are some useful euphemisms for telling someone that someone they know has died? For example, "to pass away."
  
8. What do you believe about life after death?
9. Does the thought of death make you afraid?
  
10. What should you say or not say to a friend who is facing death?
11. What should you say to someone who has lost a loved one?
  
12. What is grief?
13. Do you think the grieving process is different for different ages? Give examples.
  
14. Have you known someone who had an extended sickness before death?
15. Have you ever lost someone close to you?
16. How do you cope with the death of someone special?
17. What are some ways which you can help a family which has just experienced the death of a family member?
18. Do you have a bucket list, a list of all the things you would like to do before you die?