

Boneboxes

An **ossuary** is a chest, building, well, or site made to serve as the final resting place of human [skeletal](#) remains.

A **sarcophagus** is a stone container for a [coffin](#) or body. The word comes from [Greek](#) "sarx" meaning "flesh", and "phagien" meaning "to eat", so *sarcophagus* means "eater of flesh". The [5th century BC Greek](#) historian, [Herodotus](#), noted that early sarcophagi (the plural) were carved from a special kind of rock that consumed the flesh of the [corpse](#) inside. In particular, coffins made of a [limestone](#) from [Assus](#) in the [Troad](#) known as *lapis Assius* had the property of consuming the bodies placed within them, and therefore was also called *sarkophagos lithos* (flesh-eating stone). All coffins made of limestone have this property to a greater or lesser degree, and the name eventually came to be applied to stone coffins in general.

Sarcophagi were usually made by being carved, decorated or built ornately. Some were built to be freestanding above ground, as a part of an elaborate tomb or tombs. Others were made for burial, or were placed in [crypts](#). In Ancient Egypt, a sarcophagus was usually the external layer of protection for a [royal mummy](#), with several layers of coffins nested within.

The sarcophagus was also used to protect dead bodies.