

Make A Mummy

Materials

- ▲ Meat hot dog
- ▲ 2 boxes of new baking soda
- ▲ Paper towel
- ▲ Ruler
- ▲ Sealable container; larger than hot dog, at least 3 inches tall
- ▲ Ruler
- ▲ Gloves
- ▲ Dark space/room

Students will learn about the ancient art of mummification using household items.

6th - 8th
Grade

Directions

1. Wear gloves prior to beginning experiment.
2. Measure the length and thickness/circumference of the hot dog. Record those measurements.
3. Line your container with a paper towel. Add baking soda to the container until it is at a height of 1 inch.
4. Place hot dog on top of the baking soda and completely cover with baking soda. Make sure all of the hot dog is exposed to the baking soda, and cover with about 1 inch again.
5. Seal container and place in a dark room. Leave for 4-7 days.
6. After 1 week, put on gloves, open container, and observe your hot dog. Gently tap off all the baking soda. Does the hot dog smell the same? Did its length or circumference change?
7. Throw all supplies away in the trash. **DO NOT EAT** the hot dog.

What happened?

Baking soda, or sodium bicarbonate, is a desiccant. This means it removes moisture from its surroundings. The baking soda will have absorbed the moisture from the hot dog, resulting in a mummified hot dog!

Click the pyramids to learn how the ancient Egyptians mummified their deceased.

