



MUMMIES

Mini Unit

Mummies



A mummy is the body of a person (or an animal) that has been preserved after death. When an animal or person dies, the body starts to rot away until there is nothing left but bones. A mummy is a dead body that has been protected from decay. The Egyptians believed that

when they died, they would make a journey to another world where they would live a new life. They preserved their bodies so they could use them in the afterlife.

Only wealthy Egyptians could afford to pay for mummification. Egyptians who were poor were buried in the sand.

Mummification took a long time; it could take 70 days. The priest in charge would wear the mask of a jackal representing the god Anubis. Anubis was the god of mummification. He had a human body and the head of a jackal. The priest's job was to prepare the bodies of the dead.

The Mummification Process:

1. The body was washed.








Mummies Worksheet

True or False.

1. ___ A mummy is the body of a person that has been preserved after death.
2. ___ The Egyptians preserved dead bodies so they could use them in the afterlife.
3. ___ Mummification was so cheap that everyone was mummified.
4. ___ Mummification took about 2 days to complete.
5. ___ Each canopic jar held a particular organ.

Number the steps of mummification in order.

6. ___  Organs removed and put in canopic jars.
7. ___  Mummy placed in a coffin.
8. ___  Body washed and purified.
9. ___  Body wrapped in strips of linen.
10. ___  Body packed and covered with natron.

Read and trace each word.

mummy

Egypt

coffin

organ

linen

Cornish Hen Mummy Experiment

Materials:

- SMALL Cornish Hen (frozen is okay but thaw beforehand)
- 8 lbs. of salt
- 4 lbs. baking soda
- Gallon sized zippable freezer bags
- 16 ounce bottle of Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol
- Rubber gloves

Day One: Weigh hen and record the weight and describe the appearance, presence of odors, etc. on the Observation Chart. Rinse the hen and check for organs left in the cavity (Optional: Organs can be preserved in small baggies and put in baby food jars. Later, you can decorate the baby food jars with clay heads, turning them into canopic jars).

Fill a gallon-sized freezer bag with water and hold it up to check it for leaks. Pour out the water and then place the hen in the freezer bag. Pour the entire bottle of alcohol into the bag over the hen. Close the bag pressing out as much air as you can. Lay the bag on its side on a protected surface and leave it for an hour. After the hour has passed turn the bag over and leave it for another hour. Do this again - the hen will have soaked in the bag of alcohol for a total of 4 hours when you have finished with this phase.

Remove the hen from the bag and pour out the alcohol. Set the hen to drain in the sink. Rinse the bag and dry it (or throw it away and get a new bag).

In a large bowl and pour about 6 cups (4 pounds) of salt. Add 3 cups (2 pounds) of baking soda to the salt. Stir the mixture until it is well blended. Press out any large lumps of baking soda. Place 2 cups of the salt mixture into the gallon bag.

Hold the hen in your palm neck side down and fill the cavity with the salt mixture. Place the hen in the bag. Pour the rest of the salt mixture into the bag keeping the hen centered so it will be well covered. Close the bag pressing out as much air as possible. Place the hen in a tub or bowl in case the bag begins to leak. As the process occurs, liquid will drain from the carcass.

Observation Chart

Date	Weight	Appearance, Odors, Changes Observed



[Mummy Cupcakes](http://www.skiptomylou.org/2009/10/16/halloween-cupcakes/)

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PREVIEW