



MAKING A POTATO MUMMY



THE MUMMIFICATION PROCESS WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS. SO HOW DOES IT WORK?!?!

SALT and BAKING SODA are **desiccants**. Desiccants remove water from any material it comes into contact with. Bacteria that cause rotting and decay need water to survive. SALT and BAKING SODA remove the water from the potato, which makes it hard for bacteria to survive and cause decay.

Ancient Egyptians use a similar method to preserve human bodies after death. They used **natron**, a naturally occurring desiccant, to mummify bodies.

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PRESERVE A POTATO!

MATERIALS:

- **ONE SMALL POTATO**
- **SALT**
- **BAKING SODA**
- **GRADUATED CYLINDER**
- **TWO SERVING DISHES**
- **ONE PLASTIC SPOON**
- **ONE EMPTY CUP**

EMBALMER'S JOB:

PUT YOUR NAMES ON THE SIDE OF THE SERVING DISHES

- 1) PUT ONE POTATO PIECE IN EACH SERVING DISH .**
- 2) MEASURE 80 ML OF BAKING SODA AND POUR IT INTO THE EMPTY CUP.**
- 3) MEASURE 80 ML OF SALT AND POUR IT INTO THE EMPTY CUP.**
- 4) MIX THE SALT/BAKING SODA VERY WELL.**
- 5) POUR THE MIXTURE ON TOP OF ONE OF THE POTATOES. MAKE SURE THE POTATO PIECE IS COMPLETELY COVERED WITH THE SALT MIXTURE.**
- 6) PUT BOTH SERVING CUPS NEXT TO EACH OTHER ON THE BACK TABLE FOR A WEEK.**

7) AFTER A WEEK, CAREFULLY POUR OUT THE SALT MIXTURE AND TAKE A LOOK. COMPARE THE POTATO THAT WAS IN THE SALT TO THE POTATO THAT WASN'T.

Questions:

1. What was the Ba?
2. What was the Ka?
3. What were the steps taken to mummify a body?
4. What kind of preparations did they make for the after life?
5. What was the purpose of a mask?
6. What was the purpose of a mummy case? What was the case called?
7. What was the purpose of a mouth ceremony?
8. Why did they weigh the heart?

9.