MUMMIFY A HOT DOG ![C:\Users\searcy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\1W264237\MC900334434[1].wmf]() ![C:\Users\searcy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\3C0S92UV\MC900133587[1].wmf]() CHICKEN FRANK

Team Names:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mummification Observation Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Length:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Change: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Around middle: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Change:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Weight:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Change:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How does Frank look compared to last week:

How does Frank feel compared to last week:

What does Frank smell like compared to last week:

Did any of the hypotheses you made last week happen? If so, which ones?

On the back write your hypotheses for the next observation:

Length\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Middle\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Weight\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Look

Feel

Smell

Ancient Civilizations – Mummify a Hot Dog

Source: <http://www.tecca.com/columns/do-it-yourself-mummification-weekend-tech-with-kids/>

**What you will need:**

* 1 hot dog (extra-long not recommended)
* 2 lb. baking soda
* 1 lb. salt
* 1/4 cup fragrant dried spice(s) (cinnamon, nutmeg, or whatever fragrant spices you like)
* mixing bowl at least 4" deep and 2" longer than your hot dog
* ruler
* weight scale
* colored markers

**Step 1: Prepare the body.**In ancient Egypt, this would be the part where you and the kids would wash the body to remove any contaminants that might hinder the mummification process and remove and store the internal organs of your mummy in [canopic jars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canopic_jar) that would be buried with the mummy. This is also when you would use your handy brain hook to pull the mummy's brain out through its nose. Unless there is something seriously wrong with your hot dog supplier, you can skip those steps.

Rinse and pat dry the hot dog to make sure that it is clean and ready for the preservation process. After the hot dog has had its bath, go ahead and have the kids measure its length and weight. Make a note of these measurements for later.

**Step 2: Preservatives are good for you (if you are a mummy).**Ancient Egyptians preserved a mummy's body by completely covering it with [natron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natron). They would also mix fragrant spices into the natron to cover up any unpleasant smells that the preservation process produced.

You and the kids will start by manufacturing your own homemade pseudo-natron. All you have to do is mix together baking soda and salt, and that makes natron. Now stir in your spice or spice mix, to keep your mummy smelling fresh as it gets ready to take on the next 10,000 years.

After you make the natron, split it into two equal parts. Fill the mixing bowl with half of the mixture, and then place the hot dog in the middle. Next, cover the hot dog with the rest of the preservative mix. Store your experiment somewhere cool and dry, but not in the refrigerator. Ancient Egyptians didn't have fridges, so you don't get to use one either.

**Step 3: Check your progress.**Wait a week, and then dig up your hot dog. Have the kids check its measurements and compare them to the ones they took before the process started. Write the measurements down.

Now have them feel their natron mixture. If it is damp, they will need to discard the current batch and make some more. Return the hot dog to its natron burial chamber, and wait 10 more days.

After waiting the 10 days, pull the hot dog back out of the mix. If it is stiff and dry, the preservation process is complete, and you are ready to wrap things up — literally. If the hot dog still feels flexible and not quite dry, you should return it to its preservative bed for one more week before wrapping.

Once the kids are satisfied with the preservation process, have them take the mummy's measurements again. Now compare the numbers. As the process of preservation continued, the hot dog lost size and weight. Do the kids know why? If they can't figure it out, explain to them that the natron mixture pulled all the moisture out of the hot dog. By removing the water, the mixture caused the hot dog to shrink and lose weight.

Losing the water also took away a key factor that causes bodies to rot. The bacteria that cause rotting (or decomposition) needs moisture to survive. Remove the water, and the decomposition process grinds to a halt.

**Step 4: Wrap it up.**Once the body had been preserved with natron, the Egyptians wrapped the body in cloth to help it stay preserved and add another layer of protection from the elements. The process was so meticulous that they even wrapped each finger and toe individually.

For your kid's mummy, you will be substituting toilet paper for fine linen, but I don't think the hot dog will complain. Start by unwinding a couple of feet of paper, and then fold it in half lengthwise. Now wrap the hot dog in the paper from end to end until all the paper is used up. Next, unwind three or four more feet of paper and fold it lengthwise again. Once it is folded, you can wrap the hot dog around and around until all the paper is used up again. Tape the end to secure it, or you can just tuck the end into one of the last few turns around the hot dog.

When your mummy is wrapped, have the kids decorate its wrappings with the markers to suit their tastes. As long as the mummy is stored in a dry place, there is no limit to how long it will last.









