

MUMMIFICATION EXPERIMENT

This experiment involves using food products. Lots of families and shops are running low of some foods, so make sure you check with a grown-up before you use anything.



The ancient Egyptians used to perform Mummifications on someone after they died. They did this because they believed that to survive in the afterlife you needed to preserve the body on Earth. Mummification was a process of preserving the body by drying it out with salts and wrapping it in bandages. The ancient Egyptians were so good at this that hundreds of mummies survive today! You can see lots of them in Museums.

The ancient Egyptians would use Natron salt to cover and dry out the body. We can try this at home with different salts you can find around the house.

You will need:

- A tomato,
- Table salt,
- A weighing scale,
- Two bowls,
- A teaspoon

If you want, you can use different types of salt you have in your house, such as Bicarbonate of Soda which is used to make cakes!

Method

Chop your tomato in half (you may need a grown up's help to do this).

Put one half in a bowl and set it aside. This half will be your 'control tomato'. This means we won't do anything to it. We will later compare it to the half we cover in salt.

Weigh the half of the tomato that you are using for the experiment. Record how much it weighs on your worksheet.

Draw your tomato in the box on your worksheet.

Cover your tomato in salt. Record how many teaspoons you use on your worksheet. You can use this to compare with other people how many teaspoons of salt worked best.

Put both halves of your tomato in a safe space and leave them for a week.

Once a week has passed, remove your tomato from the salt. Weigh it again, draw it and compare it to your control tomato on your worksheet.



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WORKSHEET

Today, we have lots of modern technology which helps us preserve things like food.

Can you think of any? _____

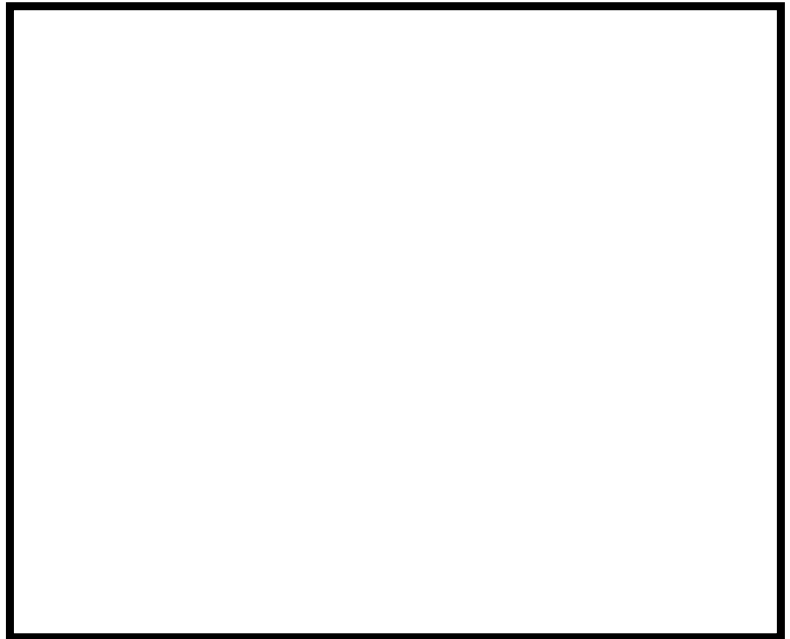
Week 1

Date: _____

Draw your tomato here:

How much does your tomato weigh?

How many teaspoons of salt did you use?



Week 2

Date: _____

Draw your tomato here:

How much does your tomato weigh?

Is your tomato lighter or heavier than last week?

Why do you think that is?



Which tomato has been better preserved? The control tomato or the one you covered in salt?
