



Make an Apple Mummy

Mummification was a common religious practice among ancient Egyptians that was used to preserve the human body. To do so, they used a salt called natron, which helps to preserve living tissue. Follow the steps below to mummify an apple with a similar mixture.

MATERIALS



1½ cup
baking soda



¾ cup of
table salt



resealable plastic
bag (or a jar that
the apple can fit in)



small apple



peeler



plastic knife



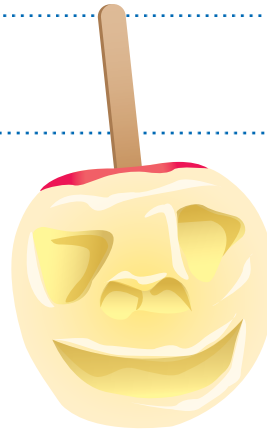
craft stick

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Measure and pour the baking soda and table salt into the bag and seal it. Shake the bag to mix the ingredients together.

2 Peel the apple. (Ask an adult for help.)

3 Use the plastic knife to carefully carve a face into the apple.



4 Poke the craft stick into the top of the apple as a handle to use later for easy grabbing. Take a picture of your apple to compare to later.

5 Place the apple into the bag and make sure it is fully covered by the baking soda and salt mixture. If you don't have enough mixture to cover your apple, make more using the same ratio of baking soda to salt.



6 Set the bag in a safe place where it won't be disturbed. Leave it wide open so moisture can escape. After 7-14 days, remove your apple from the mixture. Gently brush off the mixture from the apple with your hands. Compare the apple to the picture you took before. How has it changed?



SAFETY NOTE: Do not eat the apple or the mummification mixture. When your observations are complete, discard the apple in a compost or trash bin.

What's Happening?

The bacteria that makes apples rot need water to survive. This apple has been coated in a mixture that removes water from the apple, which prevents it from rotting.

