



Mummified Lunch

What you need:

GLOVES
PAPER TOWELS
MEAT HOT DOG
RULER
STRING OR YARN (ABOUT 4IN/10 CM LONG)
PHONE/CAMERA
PLASTIC STORAGE BOX WITH LID (SHOEBOX SIZE WORKS BEST)
BAKING SODA (ENOUGH TO FILL THE BOX)



What to do:

PLACE THE HOT DOG ON TOP OF THE PAPER TOWEL AND MEASURE AND RECORD ITS LENGTH WITH THE RULER.
MEASURE THE LENGTH OF STRING NEEDED TO TRAVEL AROUND THE CENTER OF THE HOT DOG ONE TIME. THIS IS THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE HOT DOG.
TAKE A PICTURE OF THE HOT DOG TO OBSERVE ANY FUTURE CHANGES.
PLACE ABOUT 1IN/2.5 CM OF BAKING SODA IN THE BOTTOM OF THE BOX. LAY THE HOT DOG ON TOP OF THE BAKING SODA. COVER THE HOT DOG WITH AT LEAST 1IN/2.5CM OF BAKING SODA
SEAL THE BOX WITH THE LID AND LEAVE IN A SHADY INDOOR LOCATION, AWAY FROM HEATING AND COOLING VENTS FOR 7 DAYS.
AFTER SEVEN DAYS, PUT ON YOUR GLOVES AND TAKE THE HOT DOG OUT OF THE BAKING SODA TO TAKE YOUR MEASUREMENTS/PICTURES.
REPEAT THE SAME PROCESS MENTIONED ABOVE USING FRESH BAKING SODA AND DISCARD THE OLD BAKING SODA.
RECORD ANOTHER ROUND OF MEASUREMENTS AFTER 14 DAYS.

What's going on?

ANCIENT EGYPTIANS BELIEVED A PERSON'S BODY SHOULD BE WELL-PRESERVED TO ENJOY THE AFTERLIFE. THEY LEARNED THAT BY COVERING A BODY WITH A MIXTURE OF DIFFERENT SALTS CALLED NATRON, THE BODY WOULD DRY OUT OVER TIME. IN THIS EXPERIMENT, YOU USED ONE OF THE SALTS FOUND IN NATRON (SODIUM BICARBONATE OR BAKING SODA) TO ACT AS A DESICCANT. DESICCANTS ARE CHEMICALS WHICH DRAW WATER OUT OF A NEARBY SUBSTANCE. WITHOUT MUCH OF ITS WATER, YOU SHOULD HAVE OBSERVED A HOT DOG THAT HAD SHRUNK IN SIZE AND CHANGED IN COLOR OVER TIME.