

How to Make a Mummified Apple

When we hear the word “mummy,” we often think of ancient Egypt. However, mummies have been found all over the world.

The main quality that makes a mummy is that their soft tissue (like the skin and muscle) is preserved. This preservation prevents or slows down the deterioration of the person’s remains. Some mummies, like mummies from ancient Egypt, are intentional. This means that people performed specific rituals or processes on a deceased person’s remains to preserve their soft tissue. Cultures that intentionally mummified their dead did so in order to preserve the body for an anticipated afterlife.

Some mummies are *unintentional*, meaning they were mummified through a variety of chemicals, extreme cold or heat, very low humidity, or the anaerobic conditions of a bog environment. Some examples include Tollund Man or Otzi the Iceman. Your adult can help you look up more information about these famous unintentional mummies. You can experience the science behind mummification by creating a mummified apple. The baking soda and salt will remove the moisture from it and prevent the growth of bacteria.

Materials:



1/2 cup
baking soda



1/2 cup
salt



small
apple



plastic bag



plate



time

Directions:

1. Mix the baking soda and salt together in the plastic bag.
2. Place bag onto plate.
3. Place apple into the bag, completely covering the apple with baking soda and salt mixture.
4. Keep plastic bag open, and check again in seven days.
5. If the apple is not dried, make a new mixture of baking soda and salt, place into another plastic bag, add the apple, and wait until it is completely dried.

Observe the appearance of the apple. Does it still look like an apple? Is it bigger or smaller than it was before? Is there any evidence of spoiling, rotting, or mold? Why or why not?

Note: This apple is **NOT** meant to be eaten! It won't look good to eat once it is done anyway. Plus, why would you eat a mummy?