

How to Mummify a Chicken

This is a step by step process on how to mummify a chicken. First, let me tell you that this is a 45 day process. Also, this is a project that will begin to produce a slight odor, but this may very well be one of the most fun activities that your students will participate in. They will remember this activity for a very long time. Well, let's get started.

Materials:

1 raw (store bought) chicken

1 large Ziplock bag

1 bottle of rubbing alcohol

Rubber gloves for the students

Herbs

1 role of paper towels

1 role of gauze

1 small container of a hardening solution (ex. Thinned out glue, lacquer, etc.)

2 tubs

- 1 tub to house the chicken while it is being mummified*
- 1 tub to transfer the chicken into while the students are changing out the salt mixture.*

Ratio: 1 lb of baking soda to 1 lb of salt

- You will need enough salt and baking soda to completely cover the chicken*

Day 1

Take the large Ziplock bag and pour one box of baking soda and one box of salt. Seal the Ziplock bag and mix the two components together. Once the two are mixed together, pour the mixture into the bottom of one of the tubs. This will give you a base to set the chicken on. You want to make certain that the entire chicken is eventually completely covered in the mixture. In the second tube, place the raw chicken. Pat the chicken down with paper towels to try to get as much moisture as possible off of the chicken. Make sure to place the paper towels down inside the chicken as there is a lot of moisture inside as well. Once you have dried off the chicken thoroughly, pour some rubbing alcohol onto a paper towel. This will clean the chicken so that bacteria will not grow on the chicken during this process. After you have cleaned the chicken, place it in the tub that has the baking soda and salt mixture. Once you have placed the chicken in the tub, proceed to fill the inside of the chicken with the mixture. Then lay the chicken flat in the tub. Proceed to completely cover the chicken in the baking soda and salt mixture. Place the tub in a well ventilated area. Allow the chicken to sit for 10-12 days.

Day 10, Day 20, Day 30

Go ahead and create your salt and baking soda mixture. Allow the students to make observations and record data before you remove the chicken from the mixture. The mixture should be hard and a little discolored. This is because the salt is drawing out the moisture in the chicken. After the students have made their observations, remove the chicken from the mixture and place it into the extra tub. Make sure to remove all of the mixture from the chicken, both inside and out. Once you have removed all of the mixture, allow students to make some observations about how the chicken is different than

when you first covered it in the mixture. Then, with new salt and baking soda mixture, fill the bottom of the tub. Make certain to fill the inside of the chicken again and then lay it flat in the tub. Once you have put the chicken in the tub, completely cover it with the mixture. Again, make sure that you place the chicken in a well ventilated area.

Day 40

Allow the students to make observations and record data before you remove the chicken from the mixture. The mixture should be hard and a little discolored. This is because the salt is drawing out the moisture in the chicken. After the students have made their observations, remove the chicken from the mixture and place it into the extra tub. Make sure to remove all of the mixture from the chicken, both inside and out. Once you have removed all of the mixture, allow students to make some observations about how the chicken is different than when you first covered it in the mixture. After removing the mixture from the chicken, you can fill the inside of the chicken with herbs. Have the gauss read to be applied to the chicken. You will also need the hardening solution. (If you are using a watered down glue, you may want to dip the gauss in it prior to wrapping the chicken) Make certain that the gauss is one continuous piece. Wrap the chicken tightly in the gauss. If you are using a lacquer, you will want to begin brushing it on right before you get to the end of the gauss. This will allow the gauss to cling to itself more effectively. Once you have completely covered the chicken with a hardening solution, place it in a well ventilated area to dry. This may take several days to dry.

Day 45

Once the gaus has dried and hardened, you can have the students paint it to look like an Egyptian Pharaoh Chicken. You can also have your students construct a Sarcophagus out of a large shoe box. They can decorate the shoe box to look Egyptian. You have successfully mummified a chicken!





