

Title: Chicken Mummies- Bog Process

Problem: How does the process of mummification that occurred naturally in bogs work?

Hypothesis: If the steps to mummify the dead in a bog are recreated and used on a chicken, then the results will be the same.

Materials Needed:

- One Cornish hen for your group
- Rubber surgical gloves for everyone in the group
- Bog "burial site" (this will be given to you by your teacher)
- Refrigerator
- Paper Towels
- Electronic Scale
- One data sheet
- Cotton gauze
- Thermometer

Procedure:

1. At a sink, thoroughly rinse both inside and outside of chicken. Do this until the liquid runs clear. Make your initial observations on the data sheet.
2. Using paper towels (many will be needed,) dry the chicken thoroughly inside and out, especially under the legs and wings.
3. Weigh your chicken with the scale provided.
4. Stuff the cavity of the chicken with cotton gauze.
5. Place it in the container of peat.
6. Cover the chicken thoroughly with the peat bog material.
7. Place the bog container in to the refrigerator for 3 weeks. The refrigerator MUST stay at a constant temperature of around 9°C throughout the experiment.
8. At the end of the three weeks, open the container and remove the chicken (be sure to wear gloves!) QUICKLY Dry off as needed and weigh the chicken. Record the weight and your observations. Immediately after weighing, place the chicken

back into the bog so that it is completely submerged. Return the container to the refrigerator.

9. Repeat this process 2 more times in 3 week intervals.

10. When the chicken is done, weigh it one last time. Paraffin wax can be poured over the chicken to try to preserve it further. If you do not wish to do this, dispose of the carcass.

Conclusion:

1.) Was your hypothesis correct?

2.) What happened in your experiment?

3.) What did you learn?

4.) Complete the Venn diagram comparing the original mummy to the mummy you created.

Type of Mummy: _____

Date _____

Initial Observations	
Look	
Smell	
Feel	
Weight (g)	

Date _____

Three Week Observations	
Look	
Smell	
Feel	
Weight before repair (g)	

Date _____

Three Week Observations	
Look	
Smell	
Feel	
Weight before repair (g)	

Date _____

Three Week Observations	
Look	
Smell	
Feel	
Weight before repair (g)	