

Mummification

Overview

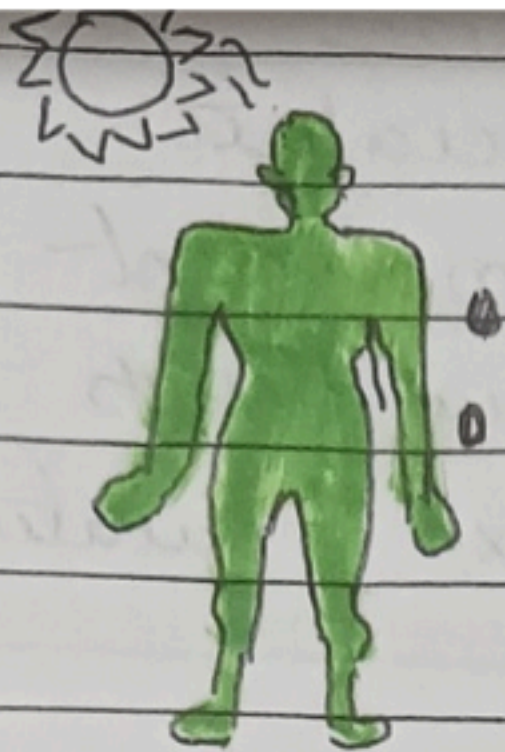
Intro:

Mechanism:

Features:

Time required

ML Imp.



Features

Begins in exposed parts

↓

face, hand, feet.

later extends to whole body including internal organs.

Intro

- modification of putrefaction
- caused by:- complete dehydration of tissue d/t evaporation of water
- Body becomes → dry, leathery, light and shrivelled but maintains general form and features.

Mechanism:

Exposure to hot dry air

↓

Evaporation > bacterial activity:

↓

Rapid evaporation of water

↓

Bacterial activity suppressed

↓

Tissue desiccate before decomposition can advance

↓

Body preserved as mummy (mummification)

- Skin :- Dry, brittle, leathery
 - Parchment-like.
 - colour:- rust-brown to black
 - Stretched tightly over bony prominence
 - may show fungal growth on surface.
 - contraction of fat cell oil forced into dermis gives translucent

• body wt - ↓ed by 50-70% d/t loss of H_2O .

• Limb :- thin & rigid.

• Muscles & tendon :- shrivel & Contract :- cause flexion of elbows, knees and fingers. clenched fists common.

• Internal organs :- shrunk, hard, dark brown to black fuse into single mass

• Insects :- moths, larvae may attack & destroy dried tissue.

Date: / /

papergrid

Time required

Rate depend on:- body size
temperature
air movement
Burial depth

Condition	Approx Duration for complete Mummification
Hot, dry climate	3-6 mo
moderate condition	6-12 mo
favourable arid environ	may persist for yrs.

ML - Imp

- 1) confirms death & pm desiccation
- 2) preserve identity (facial feature, scars, tattoos)
- 3) May preserve injuries - help to identify cause of death
- 4) Indicates dry, hot environment
- 5) Time Since death: