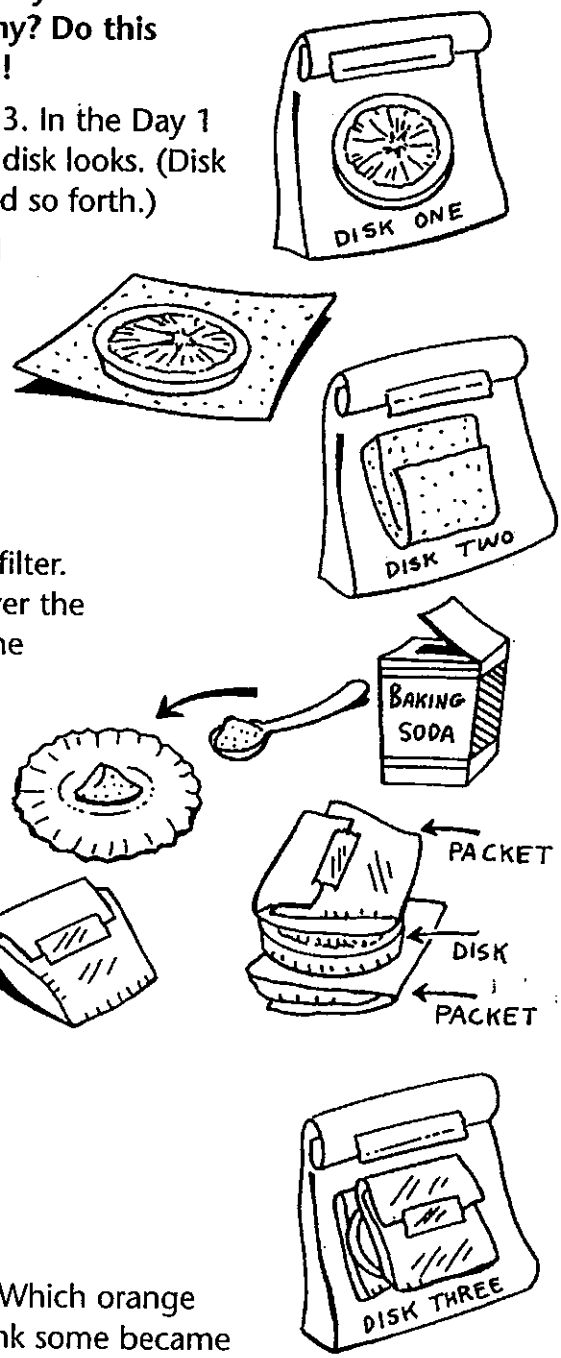
Name _____

THE MUMMY OF ALL SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

Egypt's top mummy makers used an ingredient very similar to baking soda to preserve bodies. Do you know why? Do this experiment and find the answer to that question!

1. Mark each orange disk with a number 1, 2, and 3. In the Day 1 row of your chart (page 39), describe how each disk looks. (Disk 1 goes with column 1, Disk 2 with column 2, and so forth.)
2. If you have a scale, weigh each disk in order and write its starting weight in the proper column. If you do not have a scale, go to step 3.
3. Put Disk 1 in a baggie, fold its top over twice and tape it closed.
4. Wrap Disk 2 in a paper towel and place it in a baggie. Fold its top over twice and tape it.
5. Put 2 tablespoons of baking soda in each coffee filter. Next, fold the left and right sides of the filters over the piles of soda. Now fold the top and bottom of the filters in. Finally, tape the packets shut.
6. Place Disk 3 between the two baking soda packets so that the taped sides are facing out. Put this "sandwich" in a baggie, fold its top over twice, and tape it shut.
7. On Day 2, remove each disk and describe how it looks in the corresponding column on the *Mummification Chart*. If possible, weigh the disks. Then put each disk back in its bag as before and reseal them. **Be sure not to lick your hands while working with the orange slices and wash your hands after you have put the disks away.**
8. Repeat step 7 for Days 3 and 4.
9. Write a paragraph summarizing the experiment. Which orange disk held up the best over time? Why do you think some became moldy while others did not? What link might there be between moisture and decay? How do you think this affected what mummy makers did in trying to preserve human bodies?



Name _____

MUMMIFICATION CHART

DAY	DISK 1: PLAIN ORANGE	DISK 2: ORANGE WITH PAPER TOWEL	DISK 3: ORANGE WITH BAKING SODA
1			
2			
3			
4			

CONCLUSIONS: