



What's the Matter with My Orange? *Background Information*



Dehydration

What is it?

Dehydration is the process by which solid matter loses its moisture through evaporation.

Dehydration is a physical change since the properties of the object have not changed and a new substance is not produced.

How does it relate to this activity?

The skin of the orange has openings that are large enough to allow water molecules to escape, but small enough to slow bacterial and fungal growth. When left exposed to the air, oranges lose their moisture before bacteria and fungi are able to break down the skin of the orange. The result is a mummified orange which still has skin and pulp, but very little moisture.

Did you know?

Egyptian mummies were preserved for thousands of years through the process of dehydration.