

Putrefaction

Body cooled down to ambient temperature

After *Livor Mortis* and *Rigor Mortis* have passed

State of putrefaction

Putrefaction

1 What is putrefaction?

2 How does it happen?

DNA

Fingerprints

Fibre Analysis

Poison

Blood

What is putrefaction?

After death



Microorganisms start eating you



Chemically break down your tissues



By-product



Gases & volatile chemicals

Putrefaction rate

Depends on environment



Temperature



Drug use

Few scientific studies on the decomposition rate of human bodies

“Body Farm”

Open ground

Donated bodies
are placed in
particular situations

Observe the process
of putrefaction



**Body Farm, Forensic
Anthropology Centre,
University of Tennessee**

Putrefaction

2 - 3 days



Staining begins on abdomen



Gas formation



Body starts swelling

Putrefaction

3 - 4 days



Staining spreads



Veins become discoloured

5 - 6 days



Abdomen swells with gas



Skin blisters

Putrefaction

2 weeks



Abdomen very tight and swollen

3 weeks



Tissue softens



Organs and cavities burst



Nails fall off

Putrefaction

4 weeks



Soft tissues begin to liquefy



Face becomes unrecognizable



Identify via other means

Putrefaction

A body without a coffin will decay within 12 years

Time taken depends on environmental factors

In Singapore



2 weeks

Mummification

Very dry conditions



Body mummified



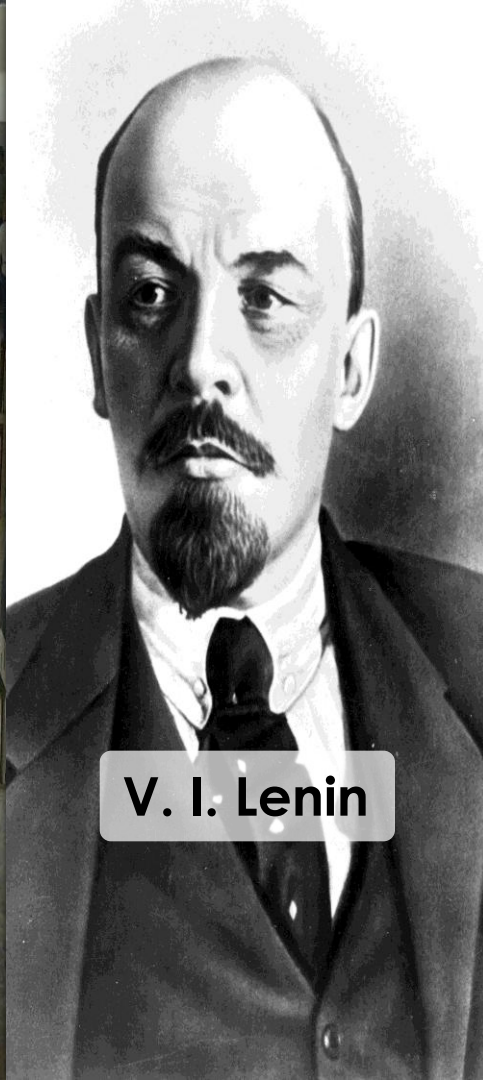
Tissues preserved

On accident

Deliberately



Ramses II



V. I. Lenin



Mao Tse Tung



Jeremy Bentham