

Instructions Years 7 - 9: How to make a slide using onion cells

How to make a slide using onion cells

An onion, scalpel, test pipette, microscope slide, cover slip and iodine are needed.

1. Scrape a very thin piece of onion skin and place it on a clean microscope slide.
2. Add one drop of water onto the thin piece of onion skin.
3. Gently lower a cover slip onto the onion skin.
4. Look at the slide under a microscope at low power.
5. Look for a pattern on the slide.
6. Remove the slide from under the microscope and add one drop of iodine to the edge of the cover slip. Allow the iodine to pass through all parts of the onion skin.
7. Look at the slide again under the microscope at low power. Observe the onion cells. (Iodine stains the cells and helps to show them more clearly under the microscope.)
8. Increase magnification and observe the onion cells.

Clear title outlines purpose of the instructions

List of materials

Use of third person

Steps written in present tense

Use of verbs to start instructions

Use of adverb (eg. *Gently*)

Active voice (eg. *Look at the slide*)

Jargon used but not defined (eg. *magnification*)

From: Department of Education, Training and Employment (1998) *Teaching ESL through Science: A Science Curriculum for Intensive English Language Programs*. Adelaide: Curriculum Resources Australia, p 103.