

Name: _____

Class: _____

ANIMAL CELLS – HUMAN CHEEK

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to view animal cells under a microscope, in order to gain a more clear understanding of the appearance of cells in multicellular animals.

Equipment:

- Microscope
- Microscope Slide
- Slide Cover
- Tweezers
- Methylene Blue
- Eye Dropper
- Toothpick



Procedure:

1. Using a clean toothpick, gently rub the inside of your cheek – do not use the point to do so.
2. Smear the toothpick along the center of your slide.
3. Place a small drop of methylene blue on the smear.
4. Place the slide cover, properly, over the smear.
5. Observe the cheek cells with the microscope.
 - a. Complete a drawing of the cheek cells at lower power, focusing on the layout of the cells – what shape are they, how do they fit together (tight/spaced), are they similar or different
 - b. Complete a drawing of a single cheek cell at high power, focusing on the components of the individual cell – can you see organelles
6. Label your slide with a marker, and save it for future viewing.

Note: There are several safety precautions to consider:

- The skin on the inside of your cheek is soft, be very careful not to push too hard with the toothpick.
- Methylene blue is poisonous, keep it away from your mouth and wash your hands once you are done using it.
- Methylene blue will stain both your skin and your clothes, handle it carefully.

Notes: You will be completing a project based on your work with microscopes throughout this unit. If there are any other observations/notes you think you should take, I recommend you do so.

If you wish, you may use your phone to take images throughout this activity.