

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Exploring Cells with a Microscope

LAB ACTIVITY

7-3 SCIENCE, MR. ANDREACCI

(Part A)

Purpose

To prepare objects and observe them through a compound microscope

Materials (per pair of students)

compound microscope	water
microscope slide	forceps
coverslip	scissors
newspaper	medicine dropper

Procedure (Part A)

1. Cut a small letter “e” from a newspaper.
2. Clean a slide and cover slip with a tissue and water, if needed.
3. Make a **wet mount** by placing a drop of water on the center of the slide. Use the forceps to place the letter “e” face up in the drop of water. Hold the coverslip at a 45° angle to the slide. Slowly lower it onto the water. If a large air bubble forms, make a new wet mount.
4. Make sure the microscope is set on the low power objective. **Note:** *Remember to use the proper procedures for switching objectives and avoid touching the slide with the objective.*
5. Place the slide under the stage clips on the stage carefully, so that the letter “e” faces you and is in the center of the stage opening. Turn on the light source.
6. Watch the microscope from the side. Use the coarse focus adjustment to lower the low power objective slowly until it is close to the slide. Look through the eyepiece with both eyes open. Lower the stage slowly using the coarse adjustment until you can see the letter. Examine the slide under low power.
7. Focus with the fine adjustment. Draw what you see in the *observations* section.
8. Look through the eyepiece. Move the slide slightly to the right, then slightly toward you.
9. Turn the high power objective into place. Carefully focus with the fine adjustment. Draw what you see in the observations section.