**CELLS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE**

Onion cells are relatively large and easy cells to see using a microscope. In this activity, you will use a microscope to study the cells of an onion.

**You Will Need**

* a piece of onion
* monocular microscope
* glass slide
* coverslip
* probe
* water
* blotting paper
* dropper of methylene blue
* dropper of iodine

**What to Do**

1. Squeeze a drop of water onto the centre of the slide.

2. Peel off a small piece of onion skin.

3. Float the piece of onion skin on the drop of water on the slide.

4. Place the coverslip over the piece of onion.

5. Place the slide on the stage of the microscope, and examine the cells. Draw what you see.

6. Remove the slide from the microscope.

7. Place one drop of methylene blue solution onto your prepared slide.

8. Holding the blotting paper against the opposite edge of the coverslip until the excess stain has been drawn under the coverslip.

9. Look at your prepared cells again under the microscope. Draw some of your stained onion cells and label any key features.

10. Place a drop of iodine solution onto the centre of a new glass slide.

11. Peel off a small piece of onion skin.

12. Float the piece of onion skin on the drop of iodine solution on the slide.

13. Place the coverslip over the piece of onion.

14. PLace the slide on the stage of the microscope and examine the cells.

**What Did You Discover?**

1. How did the satina help you to study the onion cells?

2. Are your stained onion cells clearer to see than the unstained onion cells?

3. Which stain was better the methylene blue or the iodine? Why?