

How to prepare a microscope slide

What you need

- Microscope slide
 - Cover slip
 - Onion
 - White tile
 - Scalpel
 - Forceps
 - Seeker
 - Iodine
 - Filter paper
 - Microscope
- For Add-on:**
- Elodea
 - Tomato

Safety

- Take care when handling sharp instruments.
- Iodine is harmful.
- Always support the microscope underneath when handling it.
- Place the microscope on a flat surface.

Procedure

Place the onion on the white tile and cut a small section using a scalpel.

Hold the section of onion in place using a seeker. Remove the transparent skin from the fleshy part of the onion using a pair of forceps.

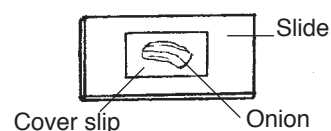
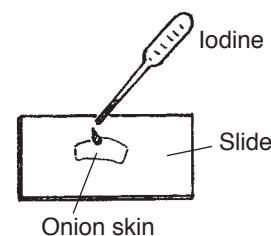
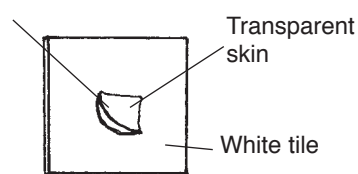
Place the transparent skin on the slide, making sure it lies flat. Remember to hold the glass slide on the edge to avoid finger marks.

Place a drop of iodine on the transparent skin. Place the cover slip on top, lowering it into position using the seeker. Absorb any excess iodine with the filter paper.

Why do you think iodine is used?

Use the microscope to look at the onion cells.
Draw what you see, in the box below.

Section of onion



Add-on

Make slides using elodea and tomato.

Onion

Elodea

Tomato