

# How to use a microscope

## What you need

- Microscope
- Prepared microscope slide of an onion cell

## Safety

- Always support the microscope underneath when handling it.
- Place the microscope on a flat surface.

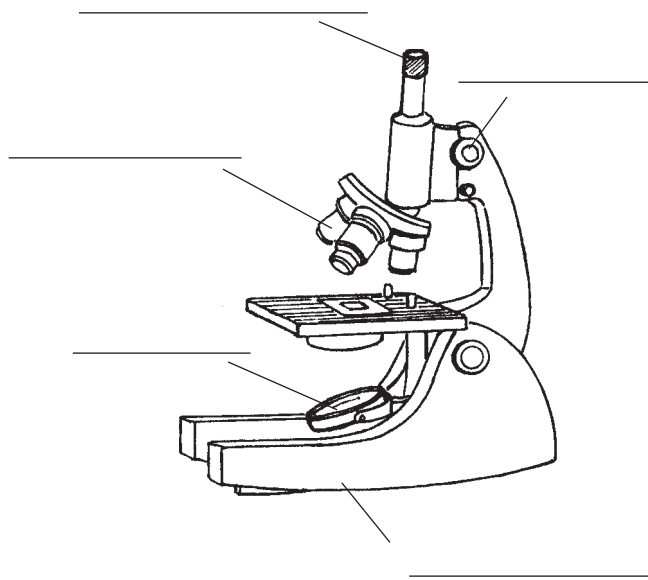
## What you should know

A **microscope** enables us to see things that are too small to be seen with the naked eye.

A famous scientist by the name of Robert Hooke put forward the idea that living things are built up of building blocks which he called **cells**. A microscope is used to magnify these cells.

## Label the parts of the microscope using the following words:

adjustment knob  
mirror  
objective lens  
eyepiece  
stage



## Procedure

Hold the prepared slide on the edge to avoid getting finger marks on it. Place the slide on the stage of the microscope. Rotate the low power objective lens into position. Adjust the mirror so that light is reflected into the microscope.

Looking at the side of the microscope, carefully turn the adjustment knob so that the objective lens and the stage are close to each other.

Look down the eyepiece. Turn the adjustment knob slowly to bring the onion cell into focus. This is called **focusing**.

Repeat the focusing procedure using a higher power objective lens.

Draw what you see on a separate sheet of paper.

Label the cell.

## Add-on

If the eyepiece has a magnification of x10 and the objective lens has a magnification of x4, what is the total magnification?