

# Planaria Lab

## Summary

Students will conduct a lab using planaria to observe asexual reproduction.

## Group Size

Pairs

## Materials

- Planaria (may be collected with a piece of liver or chicken suspended in a freshwater pond)
- razor blades
- cups
- egg yolk
- spring water
- [student worksheet](#)  
(attached)

## Background for Teachers

### Time Needed:

To be conducted over several days--About 30 minutes the first day and 5 minutes each days observations are recorded thereafter.

Safety issues or specialized background knowledge: Be careful using sharp instruments such as razor blades or scalpels.

## Instructional Procedures

Hook activity: Have students obtain their materials--except for the razor blades. Tell them about planaria--they are freshwater worms that can reproduce through fragmentation. Do you think the planaria prefer dark areas or light areas? How could you test that using a sheet of paper? Try it. Name your planaria. Write your name and today's date on your Petri dish using a sharpie. Ask students how they think they would like to cut their planaria--horizontal, vertical, diagonal? How many pieces. Have them make their drawings. Caution students about using the sharp razor blades or scalpels, instruct them to cut their planaria.

## Assessment Plan

### Scoring Guide:

1. Students actively participated in the lab and attempted to answer all of the questions .....4
2. Students answered the questions correctly.....4

## Bibliography

Lesson Design by Jordan School District Teachers and Staff.

## Authors

[Utah LessonPlans](#)