

Microscope Mania Lab

Directions: Use your microscope mania prelab worksheets to help you complete this lab. Each member of a microscope team is responsible for preparing a lab write up and perform the prepared slide and microscope observation skills test. Behave, clean up after yourself, work only with your lab partner, use the equipment properly.

Students will

1. dive into the fundamentals of operating a microscope.
2. improve skills in preparing slides
3. hone observation skills
4. get approval for preparing a newspaper “letter” and successfully observing this “letter” under the microscope
5. work together to explain their findings and improve their techniques.

Preparing A Microscope Slide

A. WET MOUNT SLIDE – requires a slide, a drop of water, the specimen or object to be observed, and a cover slip. It is important to use water to submerge the living samples (mobile or not). Sometimes a drop of proto-slow is added if viewing fast moving protozoa.

Prepare and observe the letter “e” slide under the microscope. Use the newspaper to locate a small case letter ‘e.’ Cut out the letter ‘e’ using scissors. Follow the steps #1-20 to prepare a wet mount slide of the letter ‘e.’

1. Be sure that the slide is clean—use lens paper to clean it and keep fingerprints off the glass
2. Place the slide on a flat, clean surface.