

Name _____ Date _____ Assignment # _____

What does a scallion look like under the microscope?



SAFETY TIP - DANGER - *

1. **Razor blades are sharp. Use care!**
2. **Do not use the sun as a light source, use only indirect classroom lighting.**
3. **Iodine is poisonous if swallowed.**
4. **Wash your hands carefully when you finish**

Making a temporary wet mount of scallion skin.

Clean your slide and coverslip with a piece of lens paper.

1. Place a drop of water on the center of the slide.
2. To obtain your specimen, grasp the outermost leaf of the scallion and pull down toward the roots until it breaks free from the rest of the scallion.
3. Remove a piece of the very thin transparent tissue which looks like skin from the rest of the leaf using your forceps (tweezers) and razor blade.
4. If you can't find this kind of scallion skin on your first attempt with the first leaf, try again with the same or another leaf.
5. No luck? Try the remaining leaves. If you are still unsuccessful, scrape the *inside surface* of the white portion of the stem that came off with a leaf. To do this properly, place the leaf outside-down on a slide and gently scrape the inner surface with one corner of the razor blade until you free a small section of scallion "skin" of its inner tissues. You will be successful if you use a sharp blade, preferably one that has not been used before.
6. While the specimen is still on the slide, use your blade to cut out a small section, about one centimeter (1 cm) square, of the thin skin. This is your specimen. It is only one cell layer thick!
Being so thin makes it ideal for microscopic examination.
7. Place the specimen in the center of a drop of water on the slide. Use your toothpick and forceps to smooth out the specimen in the drop, if necessary. Folds or wrinkles will make it very difficult to see the cells precisely.

