

EXTRACT DNA FROM A STRAWBERRY

Cells are the basic unit of life. Inside most cells, you'll find DNA. This large molecule carries all the genetic information for a cell. Simply put, DNA holds the instruction manual for life. Each DNA molecule is a long, thin thread. See for yourself!

- **To start, clean your strawberries and make sure there are no green leaves on them.** Put the strawberries into a plastic bag and seal it. Gently smash the berries for about 2 minutes until they are crushed.
- **In a plastic cup, mix together ½ cup of water, 2 teaspoons of dish detergent, and 1 teaspoon of salt.** Put 2 teaspoons of this extraction liquid in the plastic bag with the strawberries. Reseal the bag and gently crush the berries again for about a minute.
- **Place a coffee filter inside a clean plastic cup and pour the strawberry mixture into the filter.** Gently squeeze any liquid in the filter into the cup.
- **Estimate the amount of strawberry liquid in the cup.** Pour an equal amount of cold rubbing alcohol gently down the side of the cup (not directly into the cup). Do not mix or stir the mixture.
- **Examine the contents of the cup.** What do you see? What does it look like? That is DNA!



Inquire & Investigate

Ideas for Supplies ▼

- strawberries
- plastic resealable sandwich bag
- 2 plastic cups
- dish detergent
- salt
- coffee filter
- rubbing alcohol
- coffee stirrer

To investigate more, try using a different berry or type of fruit in this experiment. What happens? Can you think of any other sources of DNA to experiment with?