

# Compound Microscope Lab Answers

Compound Microscope Lab Answers Compound Microscope Lab Exploring the Invisible World The compound microscope a marvel of scientific innovation allows us to delve into the microscopic world revealing structures and organisms invisible to the naked eye This lab explores the fundamental principles of compound microscopy guiding you through the process of preparing slides focusing on specimens and observing minute details By the end of this lab you will be equipped with the skills to confidently use a compound microscope and interpret the images it reveals

**Materials** Compound microscope Prepared slides eg onion epidermis cheek cells pond water Blank slides and coverslips Dropper bottle with water Forceps Toothpick Iodine solution Lens paper Lab coat and safety goggles

**Procedure**

**Part 1 Familiarization with the Microscope**

**1 Identify the Parts** Before using the microscope familiarize yourself with its components

- Eyepiece** Ocular The lens you look through usually 10x magnification
- Objective Lenses** Rotating lenses with different magnifications 4x 10x 40x
- Stage** Platform where the slide rests
- Stage Clips** Hold the slide in place
- Coarse Adjustment Knob** Moves the stage up and down for initial focusing
- Fine Adjustment Knob** Makes minor adjustments for sharp focus
- Diaphragm** Controls the amount of light passing through the specimen
- Light Source** Provides illumination for viewing
- Base** The stable foundation of the microscope
- 2 Arm** Connects the base to the head

**2 Setting Up the Microscope**

Place the microscope on a flat stable surface Turn on the light source Rotate the lowest power objective lens 4x into position Adjust the diaphragm to allow a moderate amount of light through

**Part 2 Observing Prepared Slides**

**1 Preparing a Slide** Carefully remove a prepared slide from its container Place the slide on the stage and secure it using the stage clips Ensure the specimen is centered over the light source

**2 Focusing on the Specimen** While looking through the eyepiece slowly rotate the coarse adjustment knob to move the stage upwards Once you see a blurry image use the fine adjustment knob to bring the specimen into sharp focus

**3 Changing Magnification** Rotate the objective lens to a higher magnification 10x then 40x You may need to adjust the fine adjustment knob for optimal focus at each magnification

**4 Observing and Recording** Carefully observe the specimen under different magnifications Note the details you see including

- Size and Shape** What is the overall size and shape of the specimen Can you identify any specific structures within the specimen
- Color** Does the specimen have a specific color or pattern
- Movement** Is the specimen moving If so describe its movement

Record your observations in a lab

notebook or worksheet

**Part 3 Preparing Your Own Slides**

**1 Onion Epidermis** Use forceps to peel a thin layer of skin from the inner surface of an onion. Place the onion skin on a clean slide. Add a drop of water to the onion skin. Gently lower a coverslip onto the onion skin, avoiding air bubbles.

**2 Cheek Cells** Gently scrape the inside of your cheek with a clean toothpick. Transfer the scraped material onto a clean slide. Add a drop of water to the slide. Lower a coverslip onto the slide, avoiding air bubbles.

**3 Pond Water** Use a dropper to collect a small sample of pond water. Place a drop of pond water onto a clean slide. Gently lower a coverslip onto the slide, avoiding air bubbles.

**4 Staining with Iodine** After observing your prepared slides under the microscope, you can enhance the visibility of certain structures by staining them. Place a drop of iodine solution on the edge of the coverslip. Use a piece of tissue paper to draw the iodine solution under the coverslip, ensuring it spreads evenly. Observe the stained specimen under the microscope.

**Safety Precautions** Always use a compound microscope with care and follow the instructions provided by your teacher. Handle the microscope carefully, especially when changing objectives. Avoid touching the lenses with your fingers. Use lens paper to clean them. Always wear a lab coat and safety goggles during the experiment. Dispose of used slides and solutions properly as instructed.

**Discussion** Compare and contrast the appearance of the prepared slides under different magnifications. What features did you observe in each specimen? How did staining with iodine enhance the visibility of the specimens? How do the dimensions of objects viewed under a compound microscope compare to their actual size? What are some practical applications of compound microscopy in different fields like medicine, biology, and engineering?

**Conclusion** This lab introduced you to the fascinating world of compound microscopy, allowing you to explore the intricate details of various specimens. Through hands-on experience, you developed the skills to use a compound microscope effectively, prepare slides, and interpret the images observed. This knowledge can be applied in numerous scientific fields, fostering curiosity and understanding of the invisible world around us.

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