

Quick Lab

Practice Staining Techniques

The parts (organelles) of a typical cell are mostly transparent. In a technique called staining, color is added to cell parts to help identify and distinguish them.



Procedure

1. Use forceps to remove a thin layer of onion skin, and place it in the center of a glass slide. Add a drop of water, and place a coverslip over the specimen.
2. Examine the onion skin with a light microscope. Draw what you see.

3. Place a drop of iodine stain along one edge of the coverslip. Touch a piece of paper towel to the opposite edge to draw the water. When the skin is stained, examine it with the microscope.

Analysis

1. **Describe** how the stain affected the onion skin.

2. **Critical Thinking Analyzing Information** What is the advantage of using the paper to draw the stain across the field of view?
