

Making Blood

Supplies:

Vessel:

Clear Waterbottle

Plasma:

Water with yellow food coloring

OR

could use light corn syrup

Erythrocytes:

Cheerios with red food coloring

Leukocytes:

Marshmallows

Thrombocytes:

Old Fashioned Oats

What I do:

I don't have formal instructions or rubric because I do it in conjunction with the lecture. It's not for a grade, just an activity to associate with the terminology.

I have a waterbottle for every student but you can do it however you like. We will talk about plasma and then they will fill their vessel ~55% with the yellow plasma. I have seen some use corn syrup but I have not tried it yet.

We will move on to erythrocytes. Talk about RBCs and how that gives blood its color. You could probably use some form of red candy but I like that when you add the red cheerios to the plasma it turns red. Students then get the connection.

Next we talk about leukocytes and add marshmallows to the vessel. I warn them that if they shake it up too much they will end up leukopenia! A bean might be better so it won't dissolve but kids like to eat the extra marshmallows!

Last is the thrombocytes. Just add the oats.

Then I finish out the lecture.

Any suggestions or other ideas let me know!