Blueberry DNA extraction



'DNA liquid'

- 100ml Shampoo
- 2 teaspoons salt (15g total)
- Make up to 1 litre with water.

Materials for each group

- 4 Blueberries
- 'DNA Liquid' (see above)
- Cold ethanol (100%)
- 1 sandwich bag
- 1 plastic tube (50ml)
- 1 funnel lined with a coffee filter
- 1 bamboo stick to collect DNA
- 1.7ml collection tube

What to do

1. Place 4 blueberries into a sandwich bag, seal shut and squash for about 1 minute between your thumb and index finger making sure there are no lumps (except for the skin).

2. Add 10ml of 'DNA Liquid' (soapy, salty water) and continue to squash for a further minute or until well squashed.

3. Pour the blueberry liquid from the bag into the funnel lined with a coffee filter.

4. Wait while the liquid dribbles into a clear tube. **Do not** squeeze the filter. Once the drips slow down you should have enough (5-7mls).

5. **Ask an adult** to pour 2 volumes of ice cold ethanol carefully down the side of the tube so that it forms a separate layer on top of the blueberry liquid.

6. Watch for about 30 seconds – 1 minute. What do you see? You should see bubbles trapped in a white, fluffy cloud between the two liquids – That's DNA!

7. Gently stir the stick around in the DNA, so that it wraps around the stick.

8. Pull out the stick and put the DNA into the 1.7ml tube. You should see that the DNA is very viscous or 'sticky' looking.

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