**DNA Extraction Activity**

This simple DNA extraction lesson plan lets students try a fun DNA activity while they learn more about this important biology topic.

Students will try extracting DNA from a banana by following the simple instructions and can take the activity further with the use of a microscope. Give it a try and enjoy fun classroom science for kids.

**Introduction:**

* Found in the shape of a double helix, DNA or deoxyribonucleic acid as it is otherwise known, provides the blueprint for various forms of life. This includes humans, monkeys and even things like bananas. Let's try a fun activity that involves extracting DNA from a banana.

**Activity:**

* Blend one banana together with 1 cup of water until smooth.
* Fill tubes with around 15mls of the smooth banana and water solution, making one for each student in your class.
* Add around 10 drops of detergent to the banana mixture in the tubes.
* Put a lid on the tubes and gently shake them (this will break open the cells and release the DNA).
* Carefully pour around 20 to 30mls of methylated spirits (also known as denatured alcohol) into the the banana mixture.
* Use a straightened paperclip or similar object to fish out the gooey strands of banana DNA. Tell the students to collect them in a small tube.

**After finishing:**

From here the students can try looking at the DNA under a microscope. They can also try extracting DNA from other things as well.