Extracting DNA Biology



DNA is the blueprint for life. It spells out the instructions to all living things to tell them how to become what they are, and how their cells should work.

What you need:

- Fruit (strawberries and kiwis work well)
- Clear plastic cups
- Mini-sieves
- Extraction buffer: salt, washing up liquid and water
- Funnels
- Alcohol (~70% and chilled for best results)
- Fork or spoon for mushing

How to do it:

- 1. Mush up strawberry or kiwi with a fork
- 2. Add extraction buffer and mush up some more
- 3. Filter strawberry mush to remove seeds and big lumps
- 4. Slowly add the alcohol down the side of the cup
- 5. The fluffy white DNA will appear at the top of the mixture

DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid and is a string of units where each unit has a different letter, A, T, G or C that the cell reads. These strands form the infamous double helix structure.

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