

Feeding a growing world: Observing starch grains in potato tissue

Technician notes

Aim

The aim of the practical investigation is to observe starch grains in potato tuber tissue.

Investigation

Planning

This investigation may be carried out at the end of the main investigation: potato reducing-sugar content. In this case, there should be plenty of chunks of potato left over for students to use.

Safety

Teacher: Carry out a risk assessment with the students. Ask what hazards they can predict and how to control them.

Take care when using scalpel blades and when handling microscope slides and coverslips.

Wear eye protection.

Equipment

Per student/pair:

- eye protection
- scalpel
- white tile
- microscope slides and coverslips
- mounted needle
- iodine/potassium iodide (KI) solution and dropper pipette
- microscope

Method

See the student activity sheet for a description.