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“Promising Practices Classroom Activity”

Title of Activity: Cell Model

Recommended to use with this number of students: Any

Content Area: Science

Grade Level: 5

Match to Georgia Standard:

S5L3: Students will diagram and label parts of various cells (plant, animal, single-celled, multi-celled).

b. Identify parts of a plant cell (membrane, wall, cytoplasm, nucleus, chloroplasts) and of an animal cell (membrane, cytoplasm, and nucleus) and determine the function of the parts.

Activity:

1. Prepare onion skin slides and observe cell parts under microscope. Draw diagram in science journal, label parts and discuss function.
2. Make model of plant cell using the following materials: paper plate, vanilla frosting (dyed green), plastic fork, variety of candy. Draw rectangle on paper plate. Write student’s name on rim of plate to identify it after you take photo. Fill rectangle with frosting.
3. Set out candy and let students use candy to represent different organelles. Suggested candy to lay out: cell wall - Sour Punch Straws, cell membrane – Pull-Apart Twizzlers, Chloroplast – anything green (Tic-Tacs, jelly beans), nucleus – anything round (Hersey Kiss, York Peppermint Patty). Some of my advanced students also researched additional organelles and added vacuoles and mitochondria and used Red Hots, Smarties, Mike ‘N Ikes or grapes as possible food items.

Teacher Steps:

1. Take photo of completed model. Create a folder, entitled Cell Photos, in Google Drive. Upload all photos to folder. Set folder share settings as “View Only” (student will make a copy to use in their slide).

2. Create an Announcement in Google Classroom. Add the link to the above cell photo folder.
3. In Google Classroom, create an Assignment and upload a Google Slide template. The template is a blank slide with a title text box that says, “ _____ ’s Plant Cell”.

Student Steps:

1. Students open the assignment in Google Classroom and uploads photo of cell. Crop photo to remove plate and name from photo.
2. Add text boxes and arrows identifying organelles and candy that represents each cell part.
3. Print in color.

