Shrinky Dink Cells

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Materials-

Shrinkable plastic sheet

Scissors

Hole Punch

Keychain

Colored Pencils or Markers

Brown Paper Bag

Oven (at home with adult supervision)

School Procedures-

1. On the rough side of your plastic draw two cells, one animal cell and one plant cell. Use markers or colored pencils to color each organelle a different color. Use the same color for each organelle in both cells. **For example, if you color the mitochondria red in the plant cell, it should also be red in the animal cell.**
2. Cut out your plant and animal cells leaving no sharp corners.
3. Hole-punch each of the cells one time. This is for your keychain so the hole should be near the outer edge.

Home Procedures-

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a regular baking sheet (not insulated) with a cut open brown paper bag and turn one corner up so it’s easy to grab.
2. Lay your cells, colored side up, on the paper bag, leave plenty of space between the cells so they don’t overlap.
3. Put the cookie sheet in the preheated oven and bake for 1-3 minutes. Watch them as they bake, they will first soften and curl up at the edges, then settle back down as they shrink. Once the pieces flatten back out, bake for another 30 seconds.
4. Remove the cookie sheet from the oven and carefully lift off the brown paper bag. Press each shape with a folded piece of brown paper for 30 seconds until they are cool enough to handle. At this point you have about 2 minutes when the shapes are still warm enough to further flatten if needed.

\*\*\*If you don’t like the way it turns out you can always heat it back up and re-flatten it. NEVER PLACE THE PLASTIC IN A MICROWAVE, ONLY A CONVENTIONAL OVEN SHOULD BE USED.

Complete the following chart to match your cells.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Organelle | Color Sample | Function |
| Mitochondria |  |  |
| Nucleus |  |  |
| Endoplasmic Reticulum (rough and smooth) |  |  |
| Ribosomes |  |  |
| Golgi Apparatus |  |  |
| Lysosome |  |  |
| Vacuole |  |  |
| Membrane |  |  |
| Cell Wall (plant cell only) |  |  |
| Chloroplasts (plant cell only) |  |  |
| Cell Membrane |  |  |