

Shrinky Dink Cells

Materials provided at school

- Shrinkable plastic sheets
- Scissors
- Paper punches
- key chain loop

Materials provided from or at home

- Oven with adult supervision
1. **Step 1-** On the rough side draw an animal cell on one sheet and a plant cell on the other. Use markers or colored pencils (sharpies work best) and color each organelle a different color. Use the same color for the organelle in both the plant and animal cell. **For example, if you color the mitochondria red in the plant cell, also color the mitochondria red in the animal cell.**
 2. **Step 2-** Cut out your plant cell and animal cell with sharp scissors, leaving the edges as smooth as you can. **No sharp corners!**
 3. **Step 3-** Use a paper punch to make a hole for the keychain. **You must punch the holes before baking the Shrinky Dinks.**
 4. **Step 4-** Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Line a regular cookie sheet (not one with an insulating air layer) with brown paper cut from a clean paper grocery bag. **To make it easier to remove the paper after baking, turn one corner of the brown paper up.**
 5. **Step 5-** Lay your Shrinky Dink objects, colored-side up, on the paper-lined cookie sheet. Leave space between the pieces so they don't overlap.
 6. **Step 6-** Put the cookie sheet in the preheated oven, and bake the Shrinky Dinks for 1 to 3 minutes. Watch them as they bake; the shapes will first soften and curl up at the edges, and then settle back down as they shrink. Once the pieces flatten out again, let them bake for another 30 seconds.
 7. **Step 7-** Remove the cookie sheet from the oven, and carefully lift off the brown paper lining with your Shrinky Dinks. 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 them if needed.

Tips & Warnings-If you don't like the way a molded design turns out, or if the plastic cools and hardens too quickly, you can put it back in the oven for 2 to 3 minutes to re-flatten it and then twist or shape it again. Do NOT use a microwave oven when baking Shrinky Dinks. Only a conventional or a toaster oven will shrink your shapes. Watch the shapes as they bake and don't allow them to curl so tightly that they stick to themselves. If this happens, carefully open the oven door and use a chopstick or a small blunt stick and flatten them.

In your key color in the box with the color used for each organelle, then write the function for each.

1. Mitochondria _____

2. Nucleus _____

3. Endoplasmic reticulum _____

4. Ribosomes _____

5. Golgi complex _____

6. Lysosome _____

7. Vacuole _____

8. Membrane _____

9. Cell Wall (plant cell) _____

10. Chloroplasts (plant cell) _____

