

Where are my stem cells?

Audience: 7+ The game is ideal for family audiences where players are of multiple ages as well as for groups of children.

Introduction:

'Where are my stem cells?' introduces the audience to where stem cells are in the body's tissues and organs. The activity also shows how scientists visualise cells through fluorescent markers and that scientists know more about some tissue stem cells than others. It also provides a great reminder or introduction as to where the different organs of the body are located. For young children it's a good introduction to cells and how they build up to make the tissues and organs of our body.

Instructions:

Watch a demo of the game here:
www.eurostemcell.org/start-as-a-stem-cell

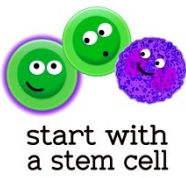


Aim of the activity:

To place the organs and tissues in the correct place on the body and match each with its correct cell image.

1. Ask someone to stand against the whiteboard. Ask their friend or relative to draw round the outline of their body.
2. Place the organs and tissues in the correct place on the outline.
3. Look at the science images. They show stem or progenitor cells found in each of the organs or tissues. Place them on the correct organ or tissue using the information on the back. This will open dialogue about how we know stem cells are there, how scientists visualise cells, why more is known about some stem cells than others and can also lead to discussions about the potential medical applications of stem cells.





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What you will need [items provided in the kit are in bold]

1. Sticky whiteboard or large whiteboard or chalkboard or human size piece of paper (though this is not reusable)
2. White board marker pens and cleaning cloth
3. **Set of 9 organ and tissue shapes**
4. **Set of 9 cell image cards**
5. Blue/white tack for sticking the organs and science images around the whiteboard

Science messages:

1. To introduce or reinforce knowledge of the location of organs within the human body.
2. To introduce or reinforce that our bodies are made up of many different types of cells and that these cells are organised to form different tissues and organs.
3. To understand that stem cells are found in organs / tissues in our bodies and that these are termed adult or tissue stem cells.
4. That adult stem cells enable the body to grow, maintain and repair itself.
5. To appreciate that this area of research is contemporary and fast moving and that new discoveries about the location and function of adult stem cells are being made all of the time.
6. That scientists use microscopes and fluorescent dyes to visualise different types of cells in the tissues.

Risk assessment pointers:

1. Care needs to be taken of players clothes when drawing round them with a marker pen.
2. If using a whiteboard or a poster board as back ground care should be taken to ensure that is stable enough for someone to lean against.



**Did you place
the organs
and tissues in
the correct
place?**

