Supplemental Hands-On Activity: Strawberry DNA Extraction

Materials:

* 1 strawberry
* 1 sandwich bag
* Coffee filter or strainer
* Rubbing Alcohol (kept cold)
* Toothpick or popsicle stick
* Extraction Solution:
  + 1 tsp. Salt
  + 2 tsp. Dish soap
  + ½ cup warm water

Instructions:

1. Smash the strawberries inside a plastic bag. Add 1 T. of extraction solution to the squished strawberry and combine. The solution will break down the cell walls and precipitate strands of DNA releasing them.
2. Attach the coffee filter onto a cup and pour the liquid to strain. Pour about an equal amount of cold rubbing alcohol into the strawberry liquid. Let it sit for about five minutes. DNA is insoluble in alcohol and will clump together. Use a toothpick or popsicle stick to scoop it out. You’ll see a white thread-like cloud floating to the top, this is the strawberry DNA!
3. You can preserve the DNA in a sealed container of isopropyl alcohol. You can also view a small amount through a microscope!