

HANDOUT for DESSERT

LESSON 3 There's DNA in My Strawberry (Tomato, Kiwi)?

Extraction Protocol



Select 2 small kiwis, 6 strawberries or a small tomato - soft fruits work better.



Remove leaves, stems, skin (from kiwi and tomato) and chop coarsely.



Put in blender and blend to achieve "pumpkin soup-like" consistency. Add water if necessary. It is okay to be slightly chunky; don't overblend.



Add blended fruit to 8 oz. plastic cup to $\sim 1/3$ of cup's volume.



Add 1 teaspoon baking soda – it will fizz, especially with acidic ruits.



Stir several minutes until fizzing stops.



Add equal volume extraction mixture; stir for several minutes.

ion mixture (can be scaled for smaller volumes):



- In 1-quart container add:
- 4 tablespoons dishwashing liquid (e.g., Palmolive)
- 3 teaspoons iodized salt
- Add water to 1 quart



Put single layer coffee filter in strainer; filter mixture into glass. Discard pulp in strainer.



Add ½ teaspoon (2 milliliters) of this mixture to small transparent glass or plastic tube, using "eye dropper".



Using "eye dropper", gently layer 1 teaspoon (4 milliliters) of cold isopropanol down side of tube to form layer on top of mixture. Try not to mix layers.



DNA will appear at interface between alcohol and DNA mixture.



Unfold a paper clip leaving one end bent into a "U". Carefully twirl it at interface of two layers to capture DNA, which appears as a "snotty glob" on the clip.

Congratulations! You have seen the magic that is DNA!