

Electron Microscope

Name _____

The sites for this assignment are listed on the “Cells & Microscopes” page of the Kid Zone at <http://sciencespot.net/>.

Site #1: MOS Scanning Electron Microscope

Click the link for “How It Works” and then choose “Slide Show”.

1. What does SEM mean? _____

2. How do conventional light microscopes work? _____

3. What does the scanning electron microscope use to magnify images? _____

4. Why are the images black and white? _____

5. How does the SEM work? Read the captions and put the steps in order from 1 to 7.

___ As the electron beam hits each spot on the sample, secondary electrons are knocked loose from its surface, which are counted by a deflector and sent as signals to an amplifier.

___ The sample is placed inside the microscope's vacuum column through an air-tight door.

___ A set of scanning coils moves the focused beam back and forth across the specimen, row by row.

___ The final image is built up from the number of electrons emitted from each spot on the sample.

___ Air is pumped out of the column before the electron gun emits a beam of electrons, which travels downward through a series of magnetic lenses designed to focus the electrons to a very fine spot.

___ The Scanning Electron Microscope reveals new levels of detail and complexity in the amazing world of microorganisms.

___ SEM samples are coated with a very thin layer of gold by a machine called a sputter coater.

6. Watch the animation if possible. Write a paragraph to summarize what you saw.

Site #2: Virtual Electron Microscope

Click and drag the specimens on the left side under the microscope to examine. Then identify the slides by dragging them to the correct spot on the right side of the screen. Write the results below.

#1 - _____

#6 - _____

#2 - _____

#7 - _____

#3 - _____

#8 - _____

#4 - _____

#9 - _____

#5 - _____

#10 - _____

Done with your worksheet? Visit the other sites listed on the Cells & Microscopes page!