Electron Microscope

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