

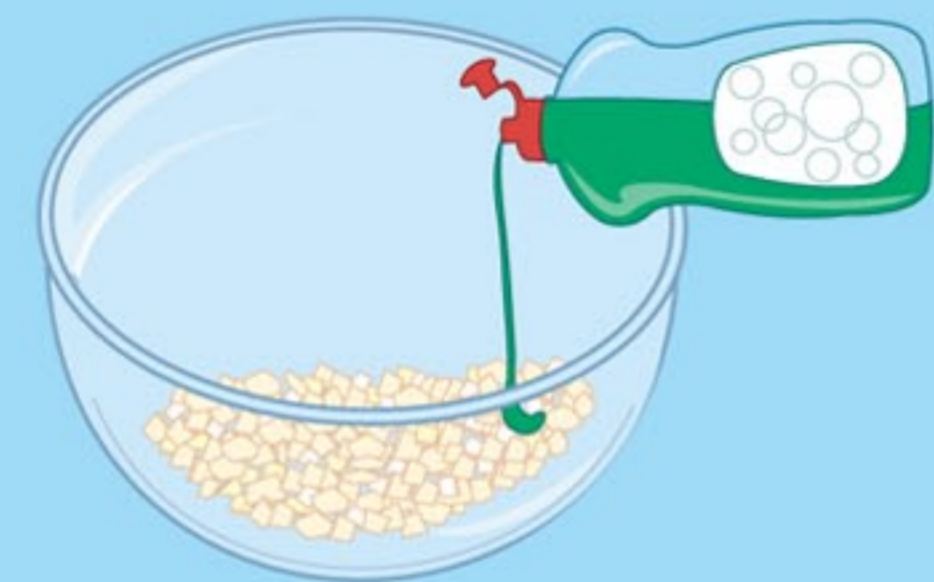
# Seeing DNA

Watch DNA emerge in front of your eyes.

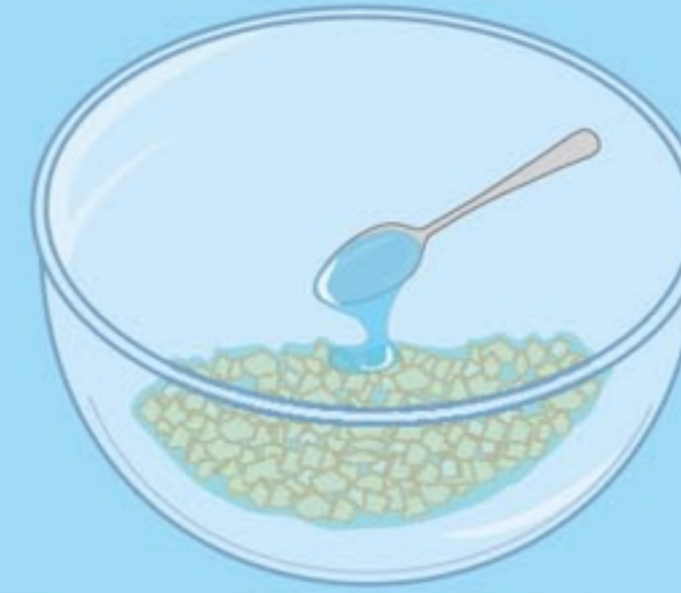


## Special equipment

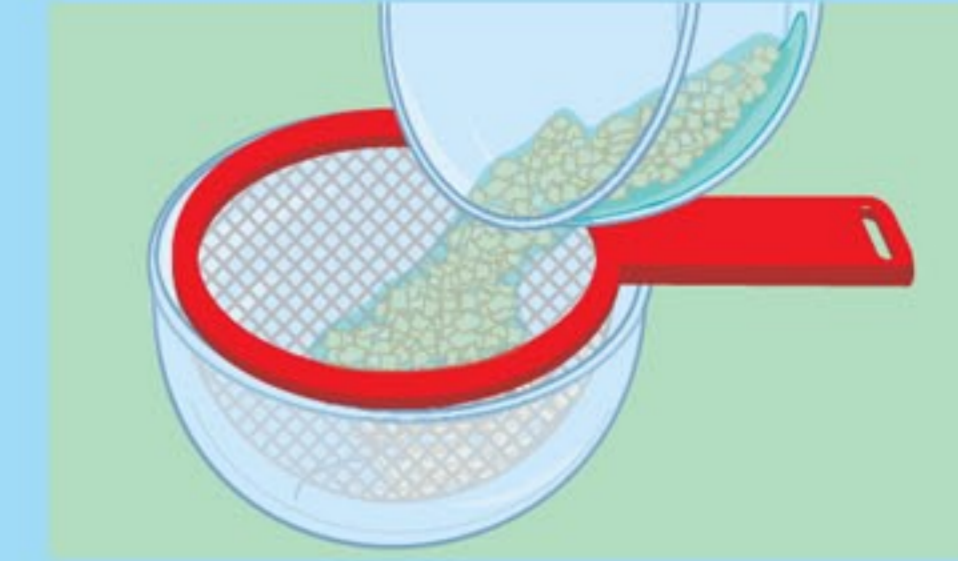
You can get surgical spirit from pharmacies.



1. Finely chop an onion and put the pieces in a bowl. Mix in enough washing-up liquid to coat but not cover them.



2. Then add half a teaspoon of salt and two tablespoons of water. Stir gently to avoid making foam or bubbles.



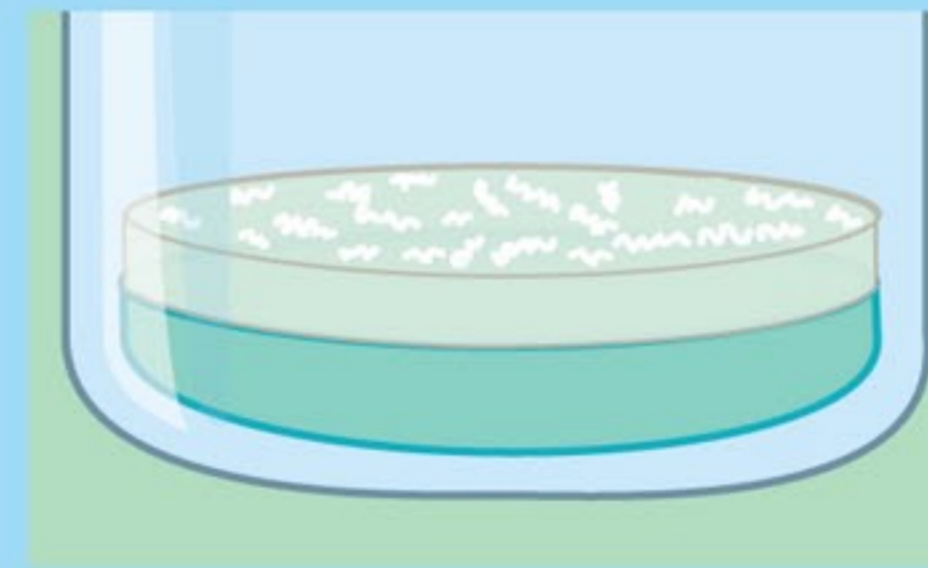
3. Leave the mixture for ten minutes. Then stir it again and use a sieve to strain off the liquid into another bowl.



4. Pour the liquid into a glass jar. Use a spoon to scrape off any foam or bubbles from the surface.



5. Pour surgical spirit gently down the inside of the jar. The spirit will form a separate layer. Don't stir the layers.



6. After about 20 minutes, a stringy white substance will appear in the top layer. This is the onion's DNA.

## What's going on?

The salt and washing-up liquid help to break down the onion's cells, releasing the DNA. DNA doesn't dissolve in alcohol-based liquids such as surgical spirit. So it appears as the solid, white strands that you see floating in the surgical spirit on top of the washing-up liquid.

