

Welcome everyone! Today we'll dive into how hands-on creativity can transform your classroom. We'll explore three key activities using beads and play dough to make complex concepts more engaging.

## WHY USE CRAFTS IN THE CLASSROOM?



- Enhances engagement & retention



- Appeals to different learning styles

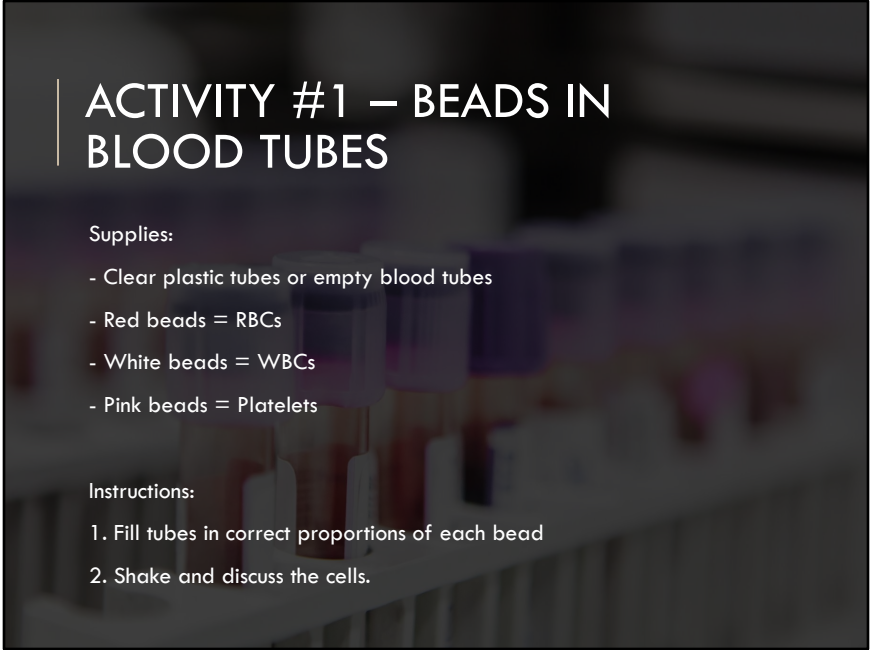


- Encourages teamwork & creativity



- Makes abstract concepts tangible

Crafting taps into visual, tactile, and kinesthetic learning styles. It helps students who struggle with traditional methods and creates memorable lessons.



## ACTIVITY #1 – BEADS IN BLOOD TUBES

### Supplies:

- Clear plastic tubes or empty blood tubes
- Red beads = RBCs
- White beads = WBCs
- Pink beads = Platelets

### Instructions:

1. Fill tubes in correct proportions of each bead
2. Shake and discuss the cells.

## TEACHING OBJECTIVES WITH BEADS

- Identify components of blood
- Understand what's in the tube
- Discuss purpose of cells
- Integrate with microscope observation and blood smear

This really aids the student in using tactile objects to tie together what is in the tube. It also helps them better understand doing hematology math and understanding scientific notation on the actual number of cells in the body.



## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

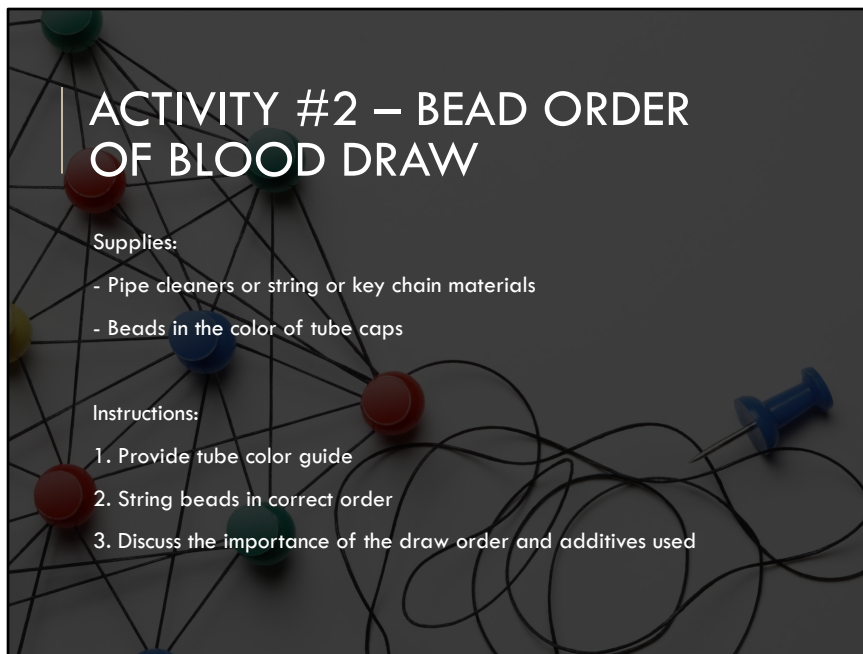
### Supplies:

- Clear plastic tubes
- Red beads = RBCs
- White beads = WBCs
- Yellow beads = Plasma

### Instructions:

1. Fill tubes in correct proportions
2. Identify the layers and their importance when a tube is spun down – plasma vs serum.
3. Shake and let settle to simulate mixing.

This activity mimics what students see after centrifuging blood. The color-coded beads help visualize RBCs, the Buffy coat, and plasma. It's a simple and effective hands-on tool.

The graphic features a dark grey background with a network of thin black lines connecting various colored pushpins (red, blue, green, yellow) scattered across the surface. The text is white and positioned in the upper left quadrant.

## ACTIVITY #2 – BEAD ORDER OF BLOOD DRAW

Supplies:

- Pipe cleaners or string or key chain materials
- Beads in the color of tube caps

Instructions:

1. Provide tube color guide
2. String beads in correct order
3. Discuss the importance of the draw order and additives used

Students often struggle with the order of blood draw. This tactile exercise makes it stick. Use it as a review game, timed challenge, or daily warm-up.

## REINFORCING TUBE ORDER CONCEPTS



- USE AS A LAB  
WARM-UP



- ATTACH TO  
BACKPACK AS  
REFERENCE



- COMBINE WITH TUBE  
FUNCTION  
FLASHCARDS



DISCUSSION: WHY IS  
THE ORDER IMPORTANT  
IN DIAGNOSTICS?

Ask students to explain the purpose of each tube. This reinforces understanding of additives and how errors can affect test results.



## ACTIVITY #3 – PLAY DOUGH CELL MORPHOLOGY

### Supplies:

- Play dough for RBCs
- Tools for shaping





### Instructions:

1. Make normal RBCs
2. Shape abnormal morphologies
3. Label with flags or cards

Play dough is perfect for modeling RBC morphology. Let students work in teams and quiz each other. It sparks creativity and reinforces pattern recognition.



# MORPHOLOGY IN ACTION

-  - Great for group work
-  - Use as a practical quiz
-  - Blend with hematology lectures or clinical cases
-  Reflection: What would mostly spherocytes suggest?

Combine this with case studies. Show a blood smear and ask students to recreate the cells with dough. It ties morphology to clinical signs.

# LET'S CRAFT TOGETHER!

- Break into groups
- Choose one activity
- Share your creations

Encourage photos & social media sharing





## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Crafts bring abstract concepts to life
- Support engagement, retention, and teamwork
- Low-cost, high-impact classroom tools

# QUESTIONS & CREATIVE SHARES



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Thank you for attending!