



C. elegans

Step 1: Concentrating the Worms

Need

plastic pipette
small plate of worms
Eppendorf tube
marking pen
small vial of distilled water at each set of desks
several buckets of ice

After observing how the worms move around on the plate using a microscope:

1. Label the Eppendorf tube somehow so you know it is your own.
2. Suck up approximately 1 ml of distilled water into plastic pipette (= the “L” in “BERAL”).
3. Gently squeeze water into the plate of worms and swirl gently to get the worms into the water.
4. Gently tip the worm plate slightly and suck up the worms and water into the pipette.
5. Gently squeeze the water and worms into the eppendorf tube.
6. Cap the Eppendorf tube.
7. Place the Eppendorf tube on ice.

Why put the worms on ice? What happens when small animals get cold?

(They slow down and try to conserve energy. In the same way, the worms stop moving and fall to the bottom of the tube. This is how to concentrate the worms in a small volume.)