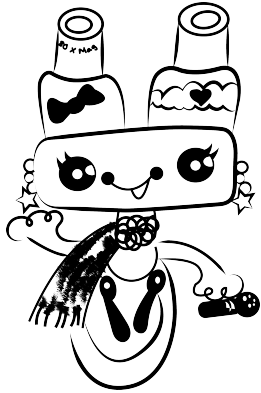


Lab Assistant: Get to Know Meeka Microscope



Student Lab Objectives:

- Students learn to use the microscope
- Students practice using the microscope focus knob, lighting options, 2x and 4x objective viewing lenses, and adjusting the eye piece width.
- Students show off their own sample to their classmates during the “Close-up Cup.”

Pre-Lab Assignment- Bring something from home to look at:

1. Ask students to bring something from home to look at under the microscope. Alternatively, you can explore outdoors for samples or just around the classroom to gather samples.

Microscopy Lab Prep:

1. **Room Prep-** Reserve Cuteda the Cart and her classroom set of microscopes.
2. **Kea tools** -Your class may utilize various tools found in Kea the crate including Petri & Nova the Petri Dishes, Tobe Tweezers, and Pippi Pipette.
3. **Lab sheet** – Print one lab sheet for each student.

Running the Lab Activity:

1. **Introduction-** Let them know that real scientist use these same microscopes in fact Meeka was developed by a real scientist and an engineer. The microscope will help them make amazing discoveries and have a different perspective about their every day lives. They will discover cells and other scientific concepts, and maybe even something new. Remember that *over 15,000-18,000 new species are discovered each year! Maybe you will make a new discovery.* The students are very lucky to have professional microscopes for their use and if they take care of them they will last.
2. **Class movie-** “Get to Know Meeka Microscope”
3. **Lab sheet and samples-** Students investigate their sample and draw it.
4. **Raise hands if you can’t focus!**- Focusing correctly takes some time and practice. Let students know to raise their hands if they need help. Also look for students that seem to be looking around and go take a peek in their microscope commonly they need help focusing. Remind them they need to hear a click when they switch from 2X to 4X and they should see the number facing them or it will look cross eyed.
5. **“Close Up Cup”-** Every student leaves their lab sheets next to their microscope and takes a pencil with them to begin the “close up cup” where they will cycle around the room and peek at their classmates samples and leave a compliment on their classmates lab sheet. Remind each student to write a sincere compliment about the object brought in by their classmates.
6. **Enjoy Discovering-** Enjoy the excitement and free form nature of discovery in this STEMtaught lab.

Discussion:

- Talk about what students learned and what samples they enjoyed.
- Ask if any feel like they still need some practice focusing the microscopes.