

1. What cells did you collect?

You have DNA in every cell in your body. The DNA we collected comes from components of your saliva. Two of the types of cells that we collected (which are components of your saliva) are epithelial (or cheek lining) and B-cells (immune cells which are found in tears saliva and sweat).

Why did you use salt water?

The salt water along with the cold alcohol clumps the DNA together making it visible to the naked eye.

What did the soap solution do?

The soap breaks open the cells.

What did the alcohol do?

The alcohol precipitates the DNA out of its usual state. The alcohol essentially pulls the water out of the DNA.

In your own words, describe the structure of DNA and explain what its function is.

DNA carries the instructions or blueprint for making all the structures and materials the body needs to function. It contains two double helices that are connected by base pairs.