**“What does DNA look like?”**

**What equipment do you need?**

You will need the following;

1. Two clear glasses/cups
2. Ziploc bag/plastic bag which you can seal at the top
3. Banana (you can use other fruit as long as it is easy to mash up)
4. Blunt knife and teaspoon
5. Plate/chopping board
6. Measuring jug
7. Either a colander/sieve/tea strainer
8. Either a coffee filter/dish cloth/paper towel
9. Black paper/card/black t-shirt/black jumper
10. Vodka/surgical spirit/rubbing alcohol (keep in freezer)
11. 4 teaspoons salt
12. 2 teaspoons washing up liquid
13. Warm water
14. Skewer (optional)

**“How to”**

**For this activity:**

You will need **an adult** and a **pair of safety glasses** (or your own glasses/sunglasses)

Follow these instructions:

1. Place the banana onto a plate. Use the knife to chop it up.
2. Place the pieces into your Ziploc bag. Close the bag and gently squash the banana till smooth.
3. Fill the glass half full with warm water. Add the salt, then stir with a teaspoon until dissolved.
4. Add washing up liquid to the glass and stir. Pour into the bag. Close the bag and squash gently for 10 minutes.
5. Put the sieve on top of the jug. Place the coffee filter into the sieve and pour the contents of the bag into it. Let the liquid drain through. This can take a while!
6. Pour the drained liquid into a glass. Place on top of the black card. Make sure you are wearing **safety glasses**!
7. Ask your adult to pour the alcohol down the side into your glass. Watch the bottom of your cup! White strands which look like cotton should appear. This is your banana DNA – the instructions to make a banana!
8. You can use a skewer to pick out the DNA.