



A Question of Taste

Using PCR to investigate human evolution
A hands-on workshop for post-16 biology students

“Very interesting and now I actually understand the PCR process...”

“Interesting and engaging activities that were pitched at the correct level”

“The genetics terminology used and pace was appropriate”

“Presenters were knowledgeable about topic and the presentation material was very good”

4 January – 1 April 2016

In partnership with:



The University of Manchester

Manchester
Academic Health
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This one-day workshop explores the evolution of an unusual trait, where some people taste a particular chemical as being horribly bitter, while others can't taste it at all. Why have we evolved these two responses? What evolutionary advantage could each have given us?

Students work with their own DNA to classify themselves into one of three common genotypes and then compare their DNA sequence with that of a chimpanzee, helping them to understand convergent evolution between the two species.

The workshop is run by members of the Public Programmes team and research students from The University of Manchester. It is delivered in the Nowgen Laboratory, on the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust site.

What teachers tell us...

“content relating to A-level syllabus [is] extremely good”

“all helps to consolidate, motivate and inspire”

“very related to A2 and BTEC units”

Learning outcomes

- Key genetic terms (dominant, recessive, homozygote, heterozygote, and more)
 - DNA and the genetic code
 - Genetic variation
 - Classifying organisms
 - Variation, adaptation and evolution
- Practical experience of:
 - Isolating DNA
 - Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
 - Use of restriction enzymes
 - Gel electrophoresis
 - Interpreting DNA gels

Costs and booking

Cost: £375 per workshop
[maximum of 25 students]

Limited places available so please book early

T: 0161 276 8943
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W: www.genomicsforschools.org

2012-2015: 99% of students felt that attending the workshop successfully allowed them to develop their practical skills

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