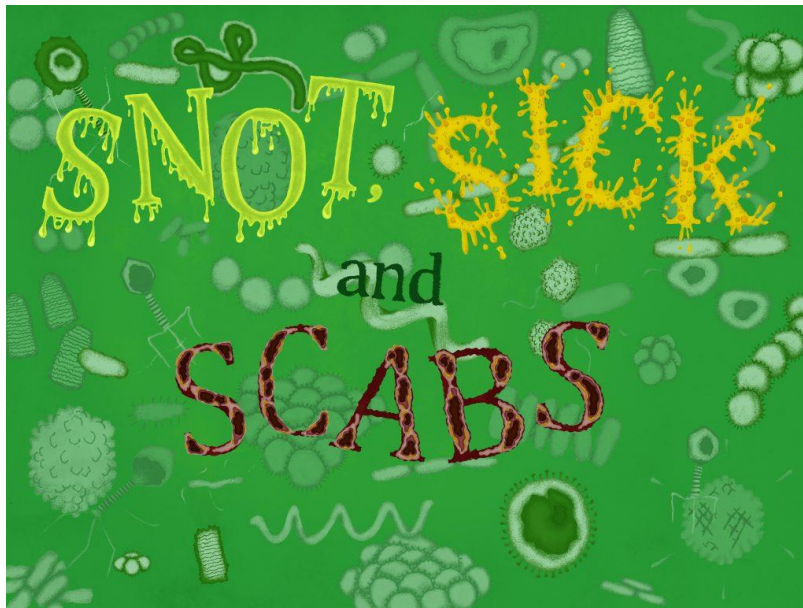


Centre of the Cell's 'Snot, Sick & Scabs' Challenge



Learn how scabs are made and craft your own scab

When you cut yourself, your body makes a scab. The scab forms a temporary barrier which will stop you bleeding. It will also stop nasty microbes from getting into your body through the cut.

What are scabs made of?

Scabs have two main components, which come from your blood:

Platelets are a special type of cell that, when activated, become sticky, and stick to your cut.

Fibrin is a stringy substance that gets made in your blood when you cut yourself.



This is what the formation of a scab looks like under the microscope!

How are scabs made?




Within 10 seconds of breaking the skin, your platelets are on the scene of your cut. Very soon, your body starts making fibrin too, which forms a sticky spider web over the cut, trapping even more platelets and some red blood cells too. When this clump of platelets, fibrin and red blood cells goes hard you get a scab!

What you need to craft your own scab:

- Paper or card
- Black & red marker pens, or colouring pencils
- Yellow star stickers
- White wool or string, cut to around 2cm long
- Red sequins
- PVA glue or sellotape

If you don't have some of these items at home, you can use other crafty materials, but try stick to the same colours

Instructions:

<p>Step 1: draw a wound</p> 	<p>Step 2: add yellow star stickers to represent platelets</p> 
<p>Step 3: stick on wool or string across the wound to represent fibrin</p> 	<p>Step 4: stick on sequins to represent red blood cells</p> 