

UNIT 5 - MUSCULAR SYSTEM

ACTIVITY - Chicken Wing lab

The Chicken leg lab is an inexpensive and convenient way to review the integumentary, skeletal, muscular systems and introduce the Nervous system.

Time: 30 to 45 minutes

Materials:

- Hind quarter chicken parts (contact the local butcher for these)
- Small dissection or fingernail scissors
- Forceps or tweezers
- 4x4 gauze sponges
- Foam meat trays
- Gloves
- Paper towel
- Wet wipes
- Table covering

Strategy:

Divide the students into teams of two or three. Two is the ideal. One per leg is not as effective in teaching as two. Three would be the maximum to group together. More than three the learning process will be significantly diminished.

Each student team is given one chicken leg on a foam meat tray, gloves for each student and instruments for dissection.

The tables or desks should be covered with paper or plastic. Wet wipes and paper towel are used to clean up after the dissection.

Instructions:

This is an exploration experience lab. Students are encouraged to share what they find as they explore the chicken leg. The rules of dissection are explained with the student accomplishing simple dissection with the finger as much as possible and then continue using the dissection tools.

Introduce the lab by explaining that most surgical dissection is accomplished with the finger and a 4x4 sponge. The students remove the skin from the chicken and hold it up to the light to visualize the capillaries and note the accessory structures. As dissection is occurring point out the loose connective tissue substances that are holding the skin to the muscles deep fascial layer.

Students are then asked to look for structures in the muscles and the bone and to observe the structures while figuring out the function. The hind quarter of the chicken has the following structures which are identified easily by the student

Look for the following:

Skin
Arrector pili muscle structure in the skin
Capillaries
Adipose tissue
Loose connective tissue
Fascia
Muscle
Muscle bundles
Fascicles
Tendon
Ligament
Ball and socket joint
Hinge joint
Blood vessels
Blood clots
Injuries to the chicken leg
Bone structures
Bone tissue
Hematopoiesis
Fossa
Hyaline cartilage
Vertebrae
Spinal cord material

The teacher should walk around the classroom and answer questions as they arise. The students will get the most from the experience by sharing with one another as they complete the task. ***The discovery is the activity.***