

Mouth watering

You are made up of tiny living cells that work together. Islands of cells help make your saliva. You have three main salivary glands, which make around a litre of saliva each day. Your saliva helps you swallow and digest food, and protects you from infections, promotes tissue repair and looks after your teeth.

Get inspired by the surprising beauty of a healthy salivary gland as seen under a microscope. Add vibrant colours to the nuclei, seen as circles within cells, where your DNA is found. Add a circle to any cells missing a nucleus. Islands of cells work together to make and secrete saliva. Add shading and colour to reveal islands of cells called acini (meaning 'berries' in Latin).

Oral pathologists can look at a sample like this under the microscope.

The bar at the bottom represents one tenth of a millimetre (100 micrometres), which is around the width of a human hair.



Oral Pathology
Salivary gland