

How do cells send messages?

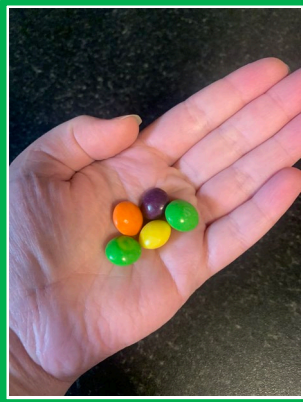
Overview

When a cell gets infected with a virus, they need a way to warn other cells that something bad is happening! They do this by making proteins that act like warning signals. These signals can then alert neighbouring cells and nearby immune cells into action to increase the fight back against the virus.

Activity

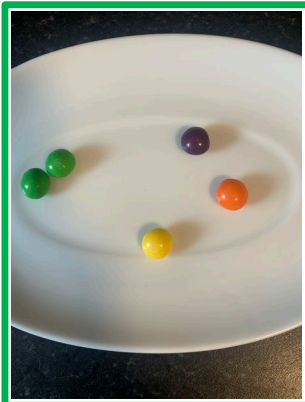
You can get an idea of how infected cells release warning signals by seeing what happens when you add hot water to sweets with a hard coloured shell...

Step 1



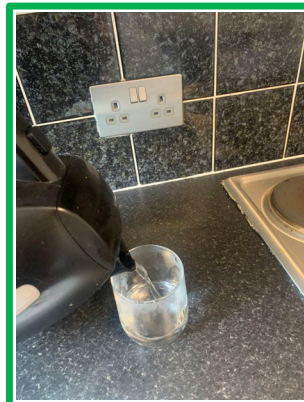
Select 5 sweets of different colours

Step 2



Arrange your sweets on plate in a design

Step 3



Pour hot water into a glass

Step 4



Add water to plate and watch what happens...

What we learnt

The hot water hitting the sweets is like a virus first infecting your cells.

The coloured dye from the sweets separates out and moves towards the other sweets.

This is like the warning signals coming from the infected cell to warn other about the virus!

