

Food on Planes

Presented at the New Jersey Science Convention - 2004

Submitted by Cindy Pfirrmann

Objectives:

Students will be able to identify dissecting planes.

Students will orient a three dimensional figure in terms of its incisional planes.

Materials needed:

Melons Toothpicks

Cucumbers Straws

Bananas Carving Knife

Oranges Scalpels

Apples Markers

Procedure:

1. Distribute a fruit or vegetable to each team of students. On it, students appropriately locate & draw eyes and then a face. The location of the face will provide basic anatomical orientation:

**anterior (toward the front of the body)

**posterior (toward the rear of a structure)

**dorsal (the back or upper surface of an animal)

**ventral (the lower surface of an animals body)

2. Insert toothpicks or straws to localize sites of limbs.

3. Identify and mark the following directional lines:

**medial/ sagittal (through the center of the body/ midline/ between the eyes)

**lateral (away from the midline/ ears are lateral to the eyes)

**proximal (toward the trunk/ elbow is proximal to the hand)

**distal (away from the trunk/ foot is distal to the knee)

**superior (toward the top of the body/ the head is superior to the shoulders)

**inferior (toward the bottom of the body/ the hips are inferior to the head)

**coronal/frontal (the plane that divides the anterior & posterior sides of the body/ it cuts through both ears & through the shoulders)

**transverse (the plane the divides the body horizontally)

4. Students will now make incisions in their fruit person according to the following instructions:

"Orange people" and "Apple people" are to receive a transverse incision superior to the eyes and a complete sagittal incision.

"Melon people" and "Banana people" are to receive a transverse incision inferior to the mouth followed by a complete coronal incision

"Cucumber people" are to receive multiple transverse incisions

5. Wash hands & fruit & enjoy a snack!