

Table 2.1: Parts of the Microscope

PART	FUNCTION
Arm	Connects tube to base
Tube	Main optical component; Contains lenses, prisms and/or mirrors
Ocular Lens (or eyepiece)	What you look through; Magnifies object viewed
Nosepiece	Objective lenses attached here; Revolves
Objective Lens	Magnify object viewed
Base	Bottom; Flat structure on which the microscope sits; Contains illuminator
Illuminator	Light source; Built into base
Stage	Flat surface; Objects to be viewed placed here
Mechanical Stage	Calipers hold slide; Slide moved by knobs
Condenser	Lenses that concentrate light to stage; Height adjustable; Position next to stage
Adjustable Diaphragm	Regulates stage opening diameter, thus the amount of light to the stage
Course Adjustment Knob	Used to focus object; moves nosepiece larger vertical distances
Fine Adjustment Knob	Used to focus object; moves nosepiece smaller vertical distances

Table 2.2: Cellular Structures

STRUCTURE	DESCRIPTION
Plasma Membrane	Separates the internal components of the cell from the external environment. The outermost structure of a cell.
Nucleus	A spherical organelle that contains the genetic material of the cell. Usually stains darkly in prepared slides.
Cytoplasm	The semifluid intracellular solution (cytosol) and all the organelles within the cytosol, except the nucleus.