

You Try It

Make this model of blood to see the huge number of red blood cells it contains. You'll need yellow jelly dessert powder, 140 mL (1/2 c. plus 1 tbsp.) of red 5 mm (1/4 in.) pony beads, 50 clear seed beads and 1 white 9 mm (3/8 in.) pony bead.



1. Ask an adult to mix 20 mL (4 tsp.) of jelly powder and 80 mL (1/3 c.) boiling water in a heatproof bowl. Stir until dissolved.



2. Add 125 mL (1/2 c.) cold water. Stir, then pour into a clear bowl or glass and place in the refrigerator for one hour. Your jelly should be thick but not set.

3. Stir in the red beads. These are your red blood cells.

4. Drop in the white bead to represent a white blood cell and the clear beads to be the platelets. Stir.



Your model blood is swimming with red blood cells, just like the blood in your veins. If you weigh 36 kg (80 lb.), you have about 12 billion red blood cells.

(Pour your "blood" into a strainer and run hot water over the beads to clean them so you can reuse them.)