Oral Biofilms Data and Question Sheet

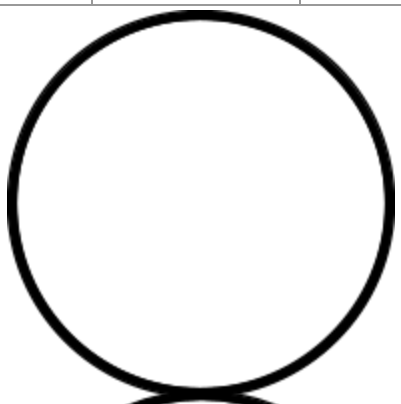
Method used to clean teeth _____

Tooth	Plaque index for buccal (cheek) side of tooth		Plaque index for lingual (tongue) side of tooth	
	Before	After	Before	After
Upper incisor				
Lower incisor				
Upper molar				
Lower molar				

Sketch of cheek cells

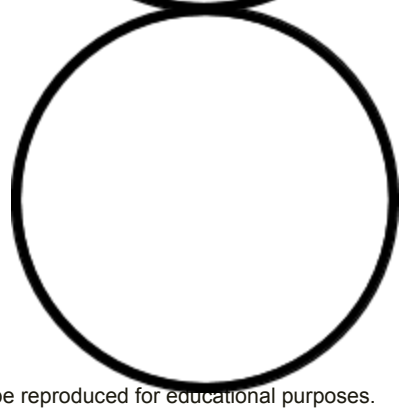
Magnification _____X

Label the cell membrane, nucleus, and cytoplasm of one cheek cell. Use this drawing to help you identify cheek cells that may be in your biofilm slide



Sketch of oral biofilm

Magnification _____X
How many different shapes do you observe? ____
(Each of these represents a different bacterial species.)



Questions

1. What must be done, according to the class data, to effectively remove dental plaque?

2. What difference did the use of toothpaste make?

3. Did mouthwash use have any significant impact on the dental plaque? Explain.

4. Do you think these results are meaningful and reliable? Explain.

5. What modifications or additional questions would you like to see to this lab?

6. Investigate ways that might *prevent* the formation of tartar (calculus) which forms when plaque hardens? (Consider toothpaste ingredient labels, online sources, or other sources of information to help you answer this.)

7. Dental caries (cavities) are one health issue associated with oral biofilms. Investigate at least one other health issue outside of the mouth that results from the microorganisms found in an oral biofilm. In other words, why is good oral health so vital to overall health?