

Tips for Choosing the Right Microscope for Your Family



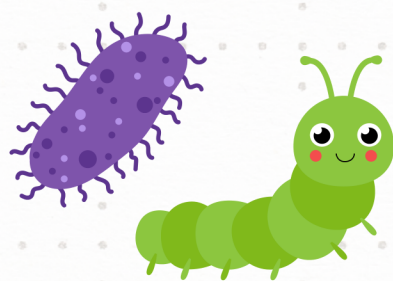
1



Determine your budget. There are a lot of options in every price range.

Not everyone needs every feature. Knowing your budget will help you narrow down your options. A Foldscope is used by scientists around the world and costs \$10.

2



Decide what you'll be doing with the microscope.

Will you be looking at the outsides of bugs? You'd want a stereo microscope. Investigating microbes in pond scum? A compound microscope will work better for you.

3



Is this a microscope that will sit on a desk or will it get moved?

Some microscopes are easier to move or store than others. Unless you have the space to always have it out, you'll want to have another plan.

4



What will be the light source?

Some microscopes marketed for families rely on sunlight and a mirror. Make sure your microscope has bright, even illumination.

5



How easy is it to find something?

If you haven't used a mechanical stage before, you might think they are a luxury. Once you have, you probably won't ever want to go without one. It lets you use knobs to smoothly hunt around the slide.

6



How easy is it to focus?

Having both coarse and fine focus knobs that turn smoothly makes it easy to get your subject nice and clear. Nothing is more frustrating than not being able to get your microbe in focus!