

How to Read Science

Reading Skills



Compare and Contrast

Sometimes you need to **compare and contrast** information to understand what you **observe** or what you read. When you compare you say how things are alike. When you contrast you say how things are different.

Science Article

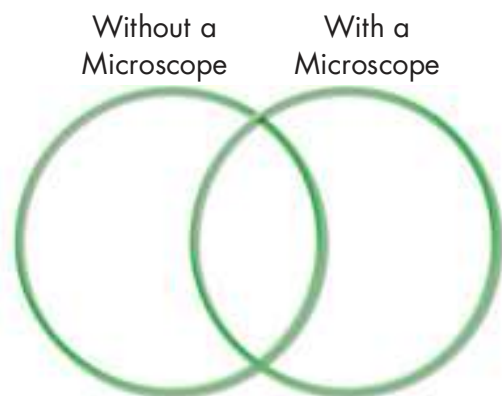
Onions and Their Cells

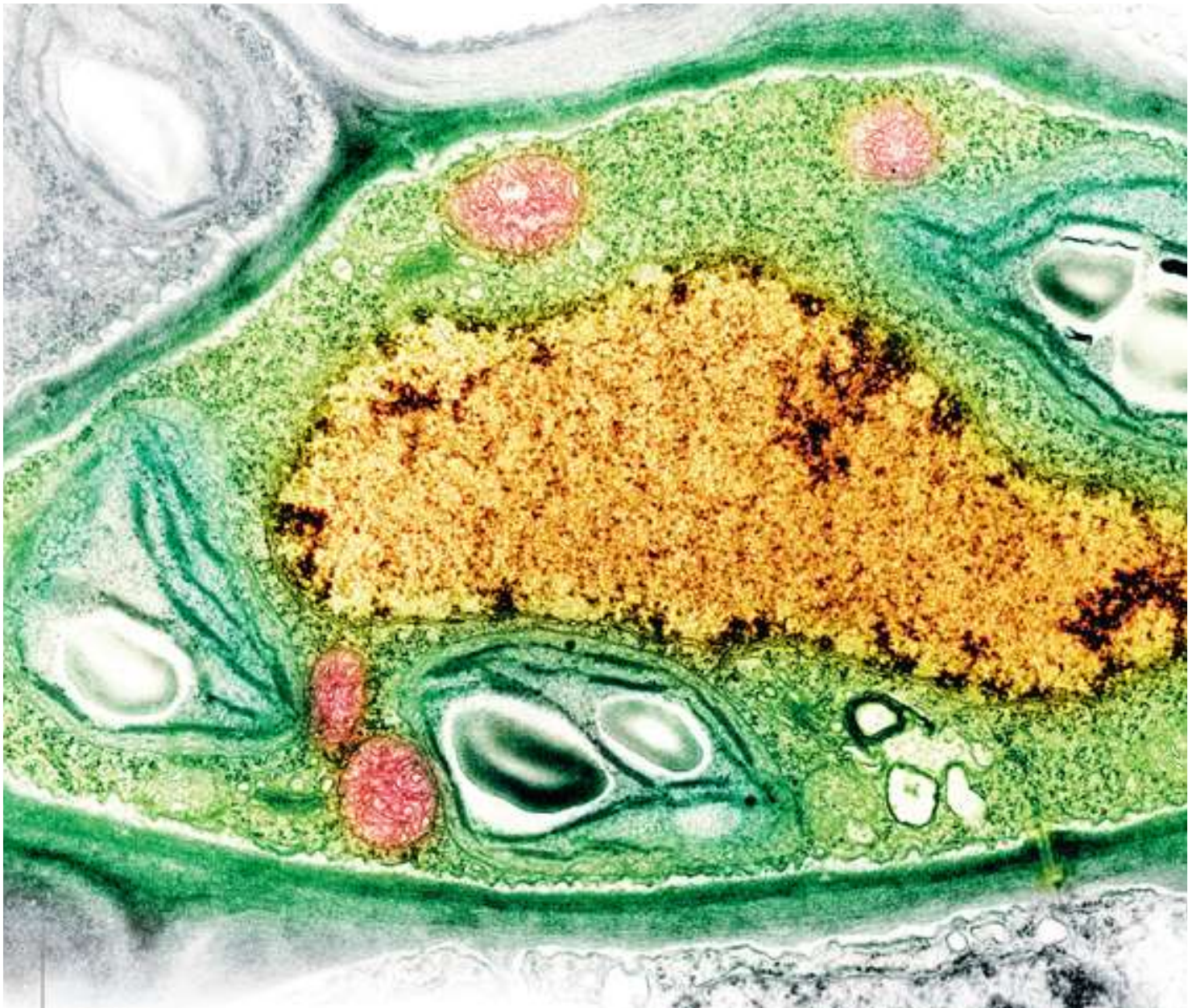
An onion has many different characteristics. An onion may be white, yellow, green, or red. Onions have layers. You can see thin lines going from the bottom to the top of the onion. Onions look very different when you observe them with a microscope. You see box-like structures called cells. They are usually the same color as the onion. You can see a dot in the center of each cell.



Apply It!

Make a graphic organizer like the one at the right to **compare and contrast** onion characteristics that you **observe**. Write the characteristics that you see without using a microscope in one circle, those you see using a microscope in the other circle, and characteristics that are the same in the center section.





You Are There!

When you look at a brick house, you can easily see the individual building blocks that it's made of. But have you seen the building blocks that make up a plant or animal? Without a way to magnify them, you wouldn't know that the blocks exist. Some are so small that over ten thousand could fit on the period at the end of this sentence. How can something so tiny be so important?