What Runs Through My Veins

Name: ______________________________

Class/Period: ________________________

Materials:
• Compound light microscope
• Prepared slides of normal blood smears

Procedure:
1. Place the prepared slide on the stage of the compound light microscope. Turn the light on, or adjust the mirror so that light is reflected up toward the specimen.
2. Turn the nosepiece so that the 10X objective lens is in place over the slide.
3. Adjust the focus by turning the coarse adjustment knob until the image of the blood smear is clear.
4. Sketch your observations under low power on the back of this sheet. Which cellular components are visible?
5. Turn the nosepiece so that the 40X objective lens is in place over the slide.
6. Sketch your observations under high power on the back of this sheet. Which cellular components are visible?

Analysis Questions:
1. Describe the appearance of red blood cells (RBCs), white blood cells (WBCs), and platelets.
2. Describe the function of RBCs, WBCs, and platelets.
3. What would happen to a person if his or her RBCs were not functioning properly? His or her WBCs? His or her platelets?
4. If you know of a disease/disorder in which any of these cells fail to function properly, name and describe it on another sheet of paper.