

How do the Alveoli work?

Experiments:

To examine how the alveoli increase the lungs surface area.

Materials:

You will need:

- Sellotape, scissors,
- 1 sheet of blue card (18 inches x 6 inches),
- lots of sheets of white card (6inches x 4 inches).

Method:

1. Bend the large blue sheet into a cylinder. Tape the edges. This represents the outside of a lung.
2. Make tubes from the white card. Use elastic bands to secure their shape. These represent the alveoli for the inside of the lung.
3. Place the white tubes inside the large lung blue lung until it is full.
4. Now unravel the alveoli tubes and spread them out flat.

Here comes the Science bit!

1. You have increased the surface area of your lung greatly by adding just a few alveoli tubes.
2. Imagine how great the oxygen absorbing surface area of a real lung is with millions of alveoli packed inside.