Blood Type Activity

Background

This lab explores the concepts of Mendelian inheritance using the ABO Blood Group System as an example. In this lab, you will be performing a blood type test (agglutination assay) on the simulated blood of three individuals.

As a reminder:

- Blood types in the ABO Blood Group System are A, B, O, and AB.
- A and B alleles are dominant over the O allele, and are codominant with each other. This is because possessing the A or B allele always leads to the production of the corresponding antigen.

	Group A	Group B	Group AB	Group O
Red blood cell type	4		B	
Antibodies in plasma	Anti-B	Anti-A	None	Anti-A and Anti-B
Antigens in red blood cell	♥ A antigen	† B antigen	••• A and B antigens	None

Blood Types Table

- Type A blood with A antigens will coagulate when they come in contact with anti-A serum (antibodies), but produce anti-B antibodies in a living person, so will not coagulate with anti-B serum.
- **Type B blood** with B antigens will coagulate when they come in contact with anti-B serum (antibodies), but produce anti-A antibodies in a living person, so will not coagulate with anti-A serum.
- **Type AB blood** has both A and B antigens, and will coagulate when they come in contact with either anti-A or anti-B serum (antibodies). These individuals do not produce anti-A or anti-B antibodies.
- **Type O blood** produces both anti-A and anti-B antibodies, so it will not coagulate with Anti-A or Anti-B Serum.

Lab Kit Materials

- Labeled test tubes or small containers:
 - Individual #1 Blood Sample
 - o Individual #2 Blood Sample
 - Individual #3 Blood Sample
 - Anti-A Serum
 - o Anti-B Serum
- Five eyedroppers or pipettes
- Permanent marker
- Six toothpicks or stirrers
- Blood Typing Test Plate laminated or placed in a plastic sheet protector

Instructions

- 1. Using the pipette for Individual #1, pipette several drops of Individual #1's blood sample into the circles comprising the first column of the blood typing test plate. Individual #2's sample should be pipetted into to the second column, and Individual #3's sample pipetted into the third column.
- 2. Using the pipette for Anti-A Serum, pipette several drops of Anti-A serum into each blood sample in the first row of the test plate. Using the pipette for Anti-B Serum, pipette several drops of Anti-B serum into each blood sample in the second row of the test plate.
- 3. Using a different toothpick for each of the six samples, stir each sample.
- 4. Observe each sample to see if it has coagulated or not.

Reflection Questions

- Observe each sample for coagulation. Based on what you see...
 a. What blood type does Individual #1 have? What is/are the possible genotype(s) for Individual #1?
 - b. What blood type does Individual #2 have? What is/are the possible genotype(s) for Individual #2?
 - c. What blood type does Individual #3 have? What is/are the possible genotype(s) for Individual #3?

Blood Typing Test Plate

