

## A three-dimensional approach to pGLO bacterial transformation

### CONCEPTS

- *Central Dogma*
- *Genetic Engineering*
- *Gene Expression*
- *Microbiology*

### SKILLS

- *Bacterial Transformation*
- *Microbial Culturing*
- *Data Collection and Analysis*
- *Experimental Design*

This scaffolded approach to the classic pGLO transformation lab teaches core genetics concepts — including gene expression and gene regulation — using a student-driven experimental design experience. Students use bacterial transformation to investigate the role of antibiotic selection markers, then they design and conduct another experiment to switch on the *GFP* gene in transformed bacteria. Finally, they apply what they’ve learned to design a biosensor, based on bacterial transformation, to solve a real-world problem.

#### Visible, Dramatic Phenotype

Bacteria transformed with the pGLO plasmid glow a brilliant fluorescent green under UV light. Once students perform this transformation, they never forget the central dogma of molecular biology: DNA > RNA > Protein > Trait — Green Fluorescence.

#### Aligned to NGSS

The activities in this kit include modeling, experimental design, and design engineering that align to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and modern teaching methods.

#### Gene Expression and Regulation

Students transform bacteria with the pGLO plasmid and determine whether transformants are resistant to the antibiotic ampicillin. Then they design and run a second experiment to use arabinose to switch on the *GFP* gene and see the bacteria glow under UV light.

## Activities include

- Pre-lab activity — transfer of genes between species
  - Observe fluorescent organisms
  - Model the processes that occur in green fluorescent bacteria
  - Analyze the pGLO plasmid
- 2 laboratory activities
  - Transform bacteria with the pGLO plasmid
  - Switch on the *GFP* gene
- Post-lab activity — bacterial transformation/biosensor design challenge

## Kit contents support 32 students

- pGLO plasmid and *E. coli* strain HB101 K-12
- Everything you need for plating and transformation (includes reagents and plastics)
- UV pen light
- Foam floats
- Curriculum, including teacher's guide, student manual, and quick guide, available online

## Required accessories not included in kit

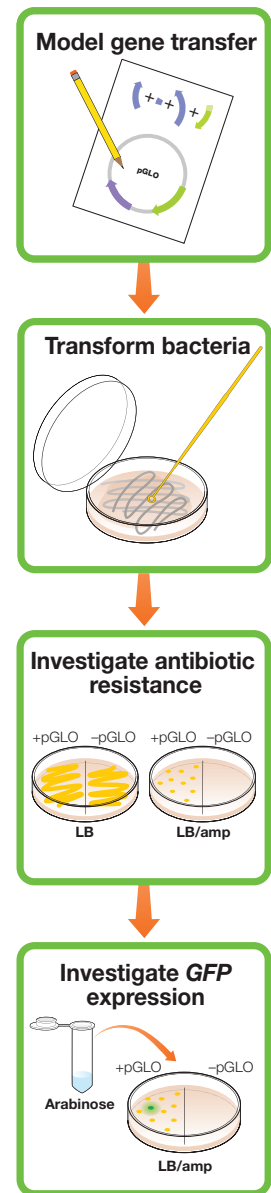
- Incubation oven (for growing the bacteria)
- Water bath or dry bath (for the heat shock step)
- Microwave oven, autoclave, or hotplate (for agar preparation)

## Timeline

Complete all activities in three to five 50-minute class periods.

## Ordering Information

Catalog #	Description
17006991EDU	<b>pGLO Transformation Kit for General Biology</b>
1660555EDU	<b>Transformation Reagent Refill Kit</b>



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