

Hair Evidence Lab

Name _____

A. Pull out a strand of your hair and examine it with a hand lens. You may need to put it on a piece of white or black paper to make it easier to see.

What does the root look like? Choose one.

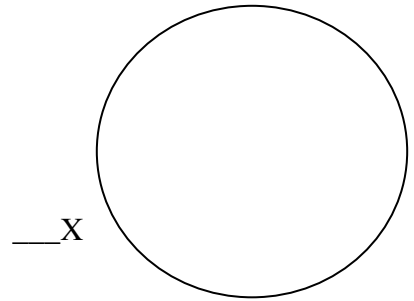
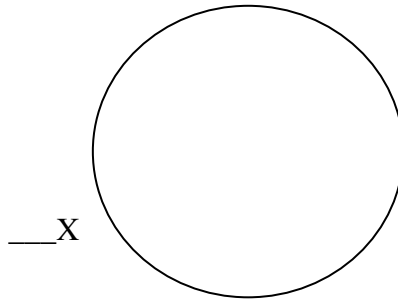
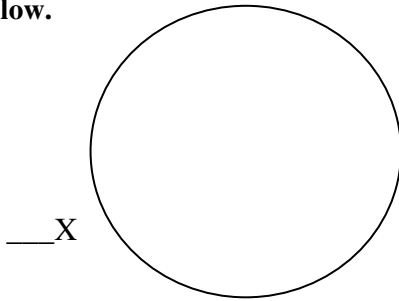
Teardrop Narrow Rounded Pointed Other: _____

What does the tip look like? Choose one.

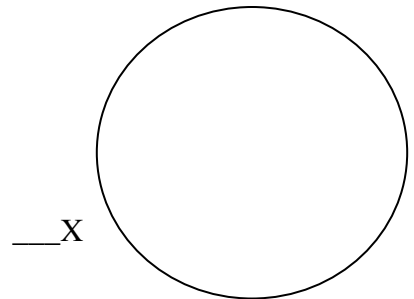
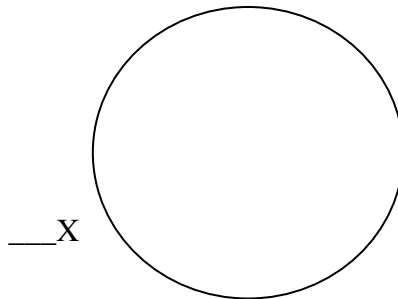
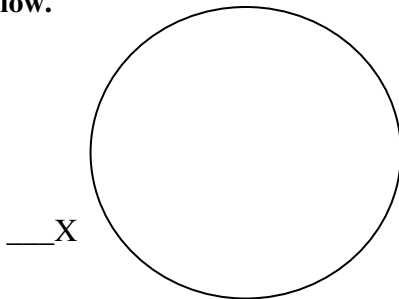
Frayed Smooth Bent Split Other: _____

What color is it? _____ Is the color the same everywhere along the shaft? _____

B. Place your hair on a slide and view the shaft at low, medium, and high power. Draw a sketch in the boxes below.



C. Place your hair on a slide and view the root at low, medium, and high power. Draw a sketch in the boxes below.



D. Locate the three primary structures of your hair and choose the best description for each feature.

Cuticle Scales Flat and smooth Protruding or spiky Other: _____

Cortex Thickness Thick Thin

Cortex Color Same color throughout Different colors – Explain: _____

Medulla Style Broken Continuous

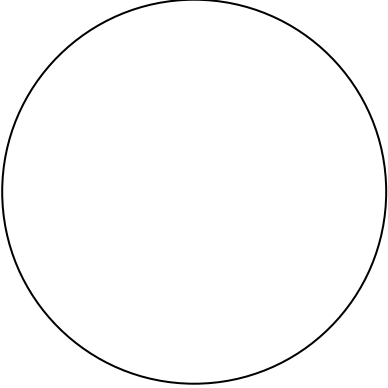
Medulla Thickness Thick Thin

Medulla Transparency Transparent Semi-transparent Opaque

E. Compare your hair sample to one from a classmate. How is it similar? How is it different?

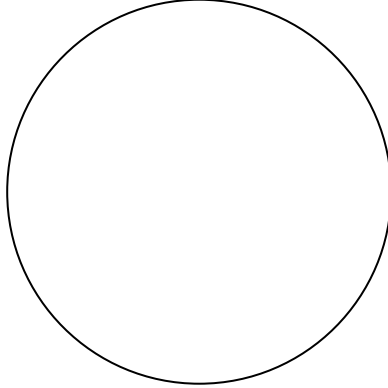
F. Examine at least four animal hairs provided by your teacher. Draw a sketch of the hair at 100X magnification and write down any unique characteristics you observe that help you tell the hairs apart.

Type of Animal _____



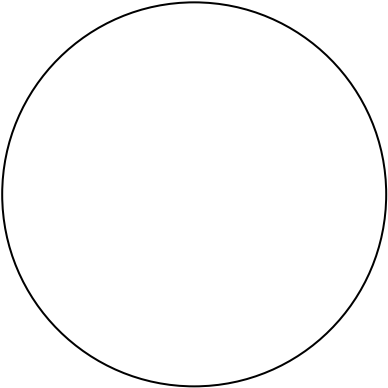
Unique Characteristics:

Type of Animal _____



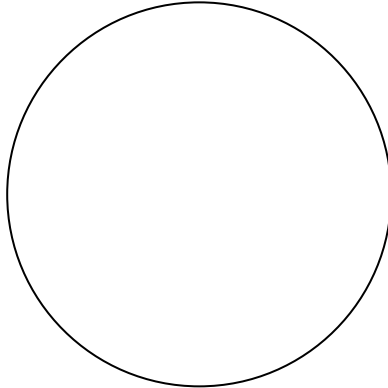
Unique Characteristics:

Type of Animal _____



Unique Characteristics:

Type of Animal _____



Unique Characteristics:

G. Write a paragraph that compares the human and animal hair samples you examined. What differences did you notice? What characteristics could you use to identify the hair samples?