GLOWING WORMS.

TURN on white light.

LOOK at a worm on the screen of the video microscope.

USE the slider to move the small plate and observe different worms.

TURN on the UV light. What happens to the worms?

When you turn on the blue light you can see different parts of the worms glow green. Some have a glowing pharynx, other have glowing muscles.

The worms have a gene transplanted from the jellyfish Aequorea victoria. The protein made from that gene, called GFP (Green Fluorescent Protein), glows green under blue light. Scientists use the harmless GFP gene to study processes on the molecular level in order to better understand diseases like Alzheimer. It may surprise you that worms can use jellyfish genes—but it's evidence that all animals use genes in essentially the same way.

The worms are kindly provided by Prof. Dr. Schnabel, head of the research group Developmental Genetics at the Department of Genetics, TU Braunschweig.

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