After completing the tissue chapter in my anatomy class, I provide chicken legs, purchased from our local store, to isolate and find eight different tissue types. I like to use groups of two only. Students have previously learned structure and function of each type and have also seen microscopic slides and drawings of each tissue. This is a very good hands on lab so they can actually see each tissue as it would appear in our bodies.

They should be able to find the following tissue samples:

Skeletal muscle, stratified squamous epithelial, areolar CT, dense CT, osseous CT, hyaline cartilage CT, vascular CT, and adipose CT.

I only provide them with scissors so they will not try and cut bone tissue. I can easily go around to each group and monitor their progress many times as well as check for accuracy.
CHICKEN LEG LAB

1. You and your partner need to obtain a chicken leg, gloves, protective eyewear, dissecting pan, scissors, legal size paper and paper towels.

2. Line your pan with paper towels for easy clean up and place the chicken leg on top.

3. Using scissors isolate eight different tissues. One will be an epithelial, one will be muscle, and six will be connective tissues. Obviously, bone will be one of these 8 tissues – do NOT cut bone apart – just lay the entire bone on your paper without most of its outer tissues.

4. Place a sample of each tissue on your plain legal size paper on your table and label the entire name for that tissue by the tissue sample.

5. When you are done, have your teacher verify your results.

6. Discard all tissue samples and paper towels in garbage cans. Wash your scissors and return to cup. WASH your hands with soap before leaving the classroom and clean up your lab station with cleaner provided. Return your pan.

7. Return directions to teacher’s desk.