

## Activity 13.5

### Dissecting a sheep's eye

#### Skills

A03.3 Observing, measuring and recording

A03.4 Interpreting and evaluating observations and data

#### Safety

Take great care with the scalpel or scissors.

Wear a lab coat or old shirt to keep your clothes clean.

Wash your hands with soap and warm water after handling the eye.

- 1 Carefully examine the eye. Using forceps and a scalpel (ask to be shown how to use them correctly), remove as much of the white fat as you can. Be careful, though, not to damage the brownish-coloured muscles attached to the outside of the eye, or the white optic nerve which comes out at the back of it.
- 2 Draw the eye, and label: conjunctiva and cornea; iris; sclera; fat; eye muscles; optic nerve; pupil.
- 3 Using sharp scissors, make a small incision into the eye about half way between the front and the back. What comes out? What happens to the shape of the eye? So what is one of the functions of this substance?
- 4 Continue cutting around the eye until you have cut it completely in half.
- 5 First, look at the back half. The retina may have detached itself from here, and may have floated away in the fluid. The next layer is the black choroid. What is the function of the choroid?
- 6 Behind the choroid is the sclera. What is it like? What is its function?
- 7 Now investigate the front half of the eye. The lens will probably be floating loose. What normally holds the lens in position? What does the lens look like? If the lens is not too cloudy, put it over some writing and look through it. What does it do?
- 8 Try to find other structures at the front of the eye – for example, the iris. Identify and describe and structures you can find.