Delicate cells

You are made of remarkable, tiny units of life: cells.

Get inspired and add colours to these beautiful, delicate tissue-like cells. These cells are from the cervix and observed through a microscope following a cervical smear test. These healthy cells are normal. Looking at cells for any changes can detect early signs of cancer and help save lives.

Celebrate these beautiful cells and add colour. The test, sometimes called the 'Pap test' after Georgios Papanikolaou who developed it in the late 1920s, uses stains to reveal the cells. In the middle of each cell is a nucleus containing DNA, surrounded by cytoplasm and a cell membrane. Add warm colours to these delicate scattered cells with deep colours where they overlap. Add dark colours or your own unique colours to the nuclei.

The bar at the bottom represents 10 micrometres (one hundredth of a millimetre). Two cells would fit across the width of a human hair.

