

VIRULENT

Overview:

Virulent is a viral infection game where you play as a virus trying to infect a host cell. Players must decide how to infect, manipulate, and escape from host cells as the Raven virus, which is modeled after the Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (Rhabdoviridae), on which Dr. John Yin (a WIDs leader) is an expert. Here, the cell and immune system responses were simplified and designed to teach core principles of how these systems respond to viruses.

Standards:

The gameplay within Virulent, intended for students aged nine and up, meets a number of Common Core and NextGen Science Standards, including (but by no means limited to) the following:
(MS-LS1-1.), (MS-LS1-2.), (MS-LS1-3.), (MS-LS3-1.), (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.8), (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.9), (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.11-12.3)

Educational Moments:

Through interactions with the game covered under the subjects of science and English, students will be able to comprehend the process of viral infection - including the vocabulary of cell biology and virus replication that they will encounter throughout the game, comprehend the process of replication, and understand the human body's biological response to infection.

Computer and iPad versions are available (though the iPad version is recommended whenever possible). For the computer version of the game, technical requirements include Unity Player and an internet connection. Using the iPad version, a player needs only the app and an internet connection. Contact outreach@learninggamesnetwork.org.