Below is a picture taken through a microscope of the alga *Spirogyra*. The diagram to the right shows what a biologist or biological illustrator might draw and how he or she would label the drawing. Did you know that some artists draw only scientific illustrations?

Some tips for better drawings:

- Use a sharp pencil and have a good eraser handy.
- Try to relax your eyes when looking through the eyepiece. You can cover one eye or learn to look with both eyes open. Try not to squint.
- Look through your microscope at the same time as you do your drawing. Look through the microscope *more* than you look at your paper.
- Don’t draw every small thing on your slide. Just concentrate on one or two of the most common or interesting things.
- You can draw things larger than you actually see them. This helps you show all of the details you see.
- Keep written words outside the circle.
- Use a ruler to draw the lines for your labels. Keep lines parallel—do not cross one line over another.
- Remember to record the level of magnification next to your drawing.