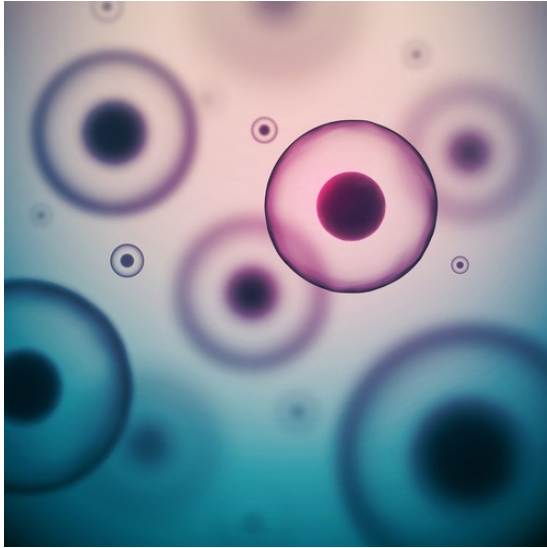


Name: _____

Cells: Building Blocks of Living Things

by Cindy Sherwood



To build a tower of blocks, you put one block on top of another until it creates a tall structure. With living things, there is a type of building block that does the same thing, creating the structure of who we are. This building block of all living things is called a cell.

A cell that is cut in half will not survive. That makes a cell very special. It is considered the smallest part of an organism that can survive on its own, so it is the most basic unit of life.



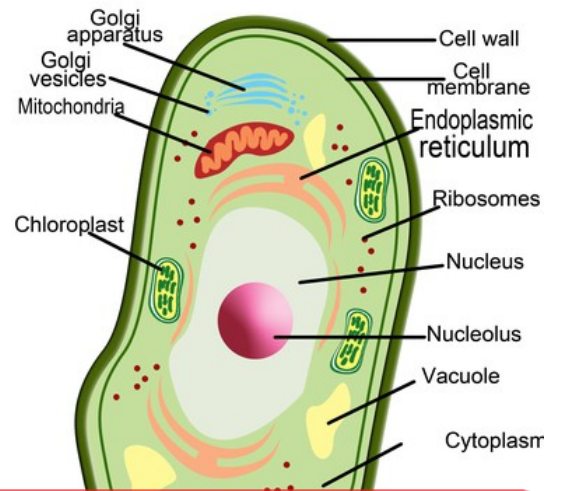
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the cell. This membrane separates one cell from others and protects it from its outside environment. The membrane also allows some materials to enter and leave the cell.

There are many different types of cells, which serve different purposes in how plants and animals function. There are cells that take in nutrients from food and other cells that turn those nutrients into energy. Some cells provide structure to an organism. Other cells can make copies of themselves. Certain types of cells contain organelles. Just like the name sounds, organelles are similar to small organs of the human body and perform specific tasks necessary for an organism to survive.

A human being may live to be a hundred years or older. But that does not mean all of our cells live that long. In fact, depending on the type of cell, some only live for a few days while others may live as long as a year. In fact, every single minute, about 300 million cells die in your body. But there is no need to worry you will run out of cells because so many die all the time. About 300 billion new cells are produced every day in the human body!



Preview

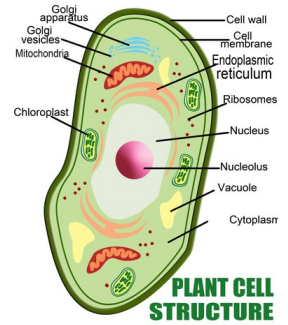
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or girl. Who could imagine that something as tiny as a cell could be so important to all of life!

Name: _____

Cells: Building Blocks of Living Things

by Cindy Sherwood



1. What would you find inside a human cell if you could inspect it closely?

- a. smaller living organisms
- b. genetic material
- c. bacteria
- d. smaller cells

2. According to the information in the article, will a human being have the same set of cells that he or she is born with when he or she is old? Why or why not?



Preview

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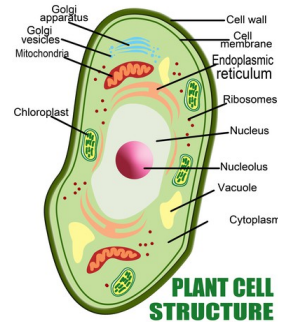
4. In your own words, describe what some of the earliest life forms were like.

5. According to the information in the article, what does the membrane of a cell do?

Name: _____

Cells: Building Blocks of Living Things

by Cindy Sherwood



The following terms are vocabulary words from the article. Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition by writing the corresponding letter on the line.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. _____ genetic | a. threadlike structures inside cells that carry genetic materials |
| 2. _____ primitive | b. an instrument that allows you to look closely at objects that are invisible to the human eye, including cells |
| 3. _____ organelles | c. remain alive |

The banner features a cartoon superhero character with brown hair, a blue suit, and a red cape, flying through the air. The character's chest has a blue shield with the letters 'M.S.' on it. To the right of the character, the word 'Preview' is written in large, bold, red letters. Below it, the text 'Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.' is written in a smaller, black font.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 7. _____ organism | g. the strength a living thing gains from absorbing nutrients |
| 8. _____ bacteria | h. ancient; prehistoric |
| 9. _____ survive | i. substances that provide the nourishment living things need to survive and grow |
| 10. _____ energy | j. an animal, plant, or single-celled living thing |

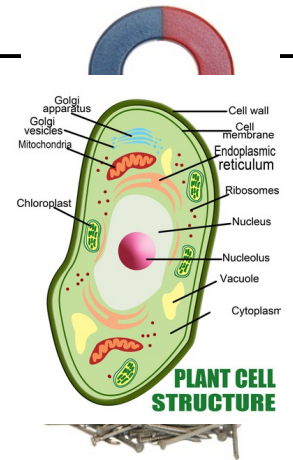
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Cells: Building Blocks of Living Things

by Cindy Sherwood

In the article, "Cells: Building Blocks of Living Things," you learned that a cell is the most basic unit of life. Trillions of cells make up the human body, and each one has a special function that helps the body run smoothly.

Using the information in the article, and your science textbook, describe **three different types of cells** in the human body. Make sure you share the name of the cell, describe its function in the body, and provide any other interesting facts you find about that type of cell.





Preview

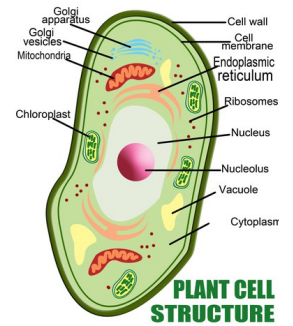
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ANSWER KEY

Cells: Building Blocks of Living Things

by Cindy Sherwood

1. What would you find inside a human cell if you could inspect it closely? **b.**
- a. smaller living organisms
 - b. genetic material
 - c. bacteria
 - d. smaller cells



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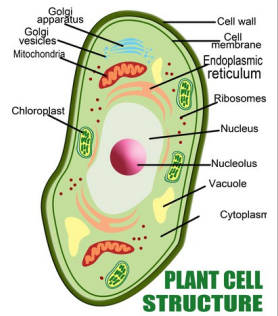


A membrane protects a cell from its outside environment and allows certain materials to enter and leave the cell.

ANSWER KEY

Cells: Building Blocks of Living Things

by Cindy Sherwood



The following terms are vocabulary words from the article. Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition by writing the corresponding letter on the line.

- d.** genetic
a. threadlike structures inside cells that carry genetic materials
- h.** primitive
b. an instrument that allows you to look closely at objects that are invisible to the human eye, including cells

Preview

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