

Name _____ Period _____

Date _____

Life Science Cell Structure Vocabulary

| Structure | Looks like.... | Definition or Function | Key word |
|----------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Cells | All different types | Basic unit of structure and function in living things | Bricks or legos |
| Organelles | All different types | Structures that carry out specific functions within a cell | "tiny organs" |
| Cell wall | Tiny rooms | Stiff layer of nonliving material that surrounds the cells of plants, fungi, and bacteria. Made of cellulose | The stringy part of celery |
| Cell membrane | Cell skin/shell | Controls what substances go into and out of a cell. Phospholipid bilayer | Window screen |
| cytoplasm | Jelly or "goo" | The jelly-like material between the cell membrane and the nucleus that organelles float in | fluid |
| mitochondria | Jelly bean, kidney bean, small eggplant, rod-shaped | Breaks down sugars (glucose) into ATP which it uses to produce the energy a cell needs to carry out its functions | "powerhouse" or "engine" of a cell |

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| Nucleus | Large, oval, ball-shaped, center | Controls all of a cells processes and passes on genetic material | The Brain |
| Endoplasmic reticulum (ER) | Passageway or a maze | Connects to the nucleus Transports proteins and other materials around the cell | Highway |
| ribosomes | Tiny dots, dirt, pepper | Builds proteins (the major purpose of a cell) Found on ER and cytoplasm | Manufacturer or factory |
| vacuole | Water filled sac | Stores water, food, and other needs of the cell. Larger in plant cells | Storage unit |
| lysosome | Small, round | Contain enzymes that break down food and kill invading bacteria. Digested molecules are passed to the mitochondria. Common in animal cells, rare in plant | Janitors, clean-up crew, stomach |
| chloroplasts | Large green ovals | Contains chlorophyll to capture energy from the sun to produce food for the cell (photosynthesis) | Solar power plant GREEN |