

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