

For use with the unit: The Inside Story
Reading in the content area.
(L.A.A.2.2.1.4.1)

Building Blocks of Life

All living things are made of cells. Since I am alive, I am made of cells. Cells are the building blocks of all living things. They are the start of all life and continue growing and dividing all through life. My body makes over a billion new cells every minute. Some of these new cells replace others that have died, like my skin cells that are always dying and being replaced as I wash my hands. Some of the new cells replace injured cells when we are ill or hurt. Some new cells are needed as we grow.

Human cells are too small to be seen with our eyes. Microscopes must be used to see our cells. Scientists and doctors study our cells using a microscope.

Cells are different shapes and sizes. Human cells grow into the shapes and sizes needed for the different parts of my body. Some cells are needed for my blood. Other types of cells are needed for my bones, muscles, and skin. Every part of my body is made of the special type cell needed for that part of my body.

Not all of our cells are still alive. Our hair, fingernails, and skin all have cells that were once alive but as they divided and grew, they no longer could get the nutrition needed to stay alive. That is why it doesn't hurt to get haircuts.

I began as one single cell, which has grown and divided until they have made me what I am today. No wonder cells are called the building blocks of life.

Examples of questions pertaining to the writing, Building Blocks of Life
(LA.A.2.2.1.4.1)

Main idea:

1. What is the main idea of the entire writing?
2. Look at only the third paragraph. What is the main idea of that paragraph?
3. Which sentence in the last paragraph tells the main idea of the writing?

Explicit:

1. Why does my body need to make new cells?
2. The sentence, “That is why it doesn’t hurt to get haircuts.” is a detail supporting what fact?
3. How do we know I am made of cells?

Implicit:

1. Does it hurt when you cut your fingernails? Why?
2. What are my bones made of?
3. Cancer is a type of cell that harms our body. How do scientists know about cancer cells?

Example of Note Taking Procedure

Building Blocks of Life

Living things made of cells

Cells are start of all life

Make billions a day

Replace dead cells

Replace injured cells

New cells when growing

See with microscope

Different sizes and shapes for different parts of the body

Need nutrition to stay alive

Cells divide

Outline

Teacher Information

Purpose: To organize information

Use: As a study guide for tests, writings, projects

Points to remember when constructing:

1. Go from broad information to specific details (see example below)
2. Each subheading is indented under its broad heading
3. Each detail is indented under its subheading
4. Topic outlines use only words or phrases, no sentences
5. Entries are in pairs or more (every 1 must have a 2 or more, every A must have a B or more, etc.)

Example of outline form:

Title

- I. Heading (major topic)
 - A. Subheading (supporting fact for topic I above)
 1. Detail for subheading A
 2. Detail for subheading A
 - B. Subheading (second supporting fact for topic I)
 - C. Subheading (keep numbering for additional subheading for each supporting fact for topic I)
 1. Detail for subheading C
 2. Detail for subheading C
 3. Keep numbering for additional details for subheading C
- II. Second heading (follow the same numbering and indenting procedure as above)

Example of an outline (LA.A.2.2.5.4.1)

Building Blocks of Life Outline

- I. Living things made of cells
 - A. Grow and divide
 - 1. Millions each day
 - 2. Replace injured or dead
 - 3. My body grows
 - B. Different cells
 - 1. Different shapes
 - 2. Different sizes
 - 3. Dead and alive
- II. How do we know?
 - A. See with microscope
 - B. Scientists and doctors study