

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

Our Amazing Cells

Every part of the body is made of cells. Although each kind of cell has a different size and shape, they are alike in many ways. All cells need food, water, and oxygen to stay alive. As we eat, drink, and breathe our bodies get what they need. Then, our blood carries the food, water, and oxygen to the cells through our arteries. Food and water enter our bodies when we eat and drink. Our body systems break the food down until only the tiny useful part is left. Then the food and water pass into our blood where they are carried by our arteries to every living cell in our body. Oxygen enters our bodies when we breathe. Our blood goes to our lungs, picks up the oxygen, and takes it to all the living cells of our bodies.

All living cells make waste. This waste is carbon dioxide and urea. As the cells use the oxygen, carbon dioxide is left. Our blood carries carbon dioxide away from living cells through our veins. Urea is the waste made by our cells as they use the food and water. Urea is carried away from our cells by blood flowing through our veins.

All living cells have many of the same parts. The outside wall is the membrane that holds the cell together. The thick liquid inside the cell is the cytoplasm. It holds all the other parts of the cell in place as well as holding oxygen, food, and water. Organelles are the separate compartments in the cytoplasm that hold the parts of the cell. The largest organelle in each cell is the nucleus that controls everything inside the cell.

Human body cells are alike in many ways. They need food, water, and oxygen to stay alive. They make carbon dioxide and urea as waste. They are made up of many of the same parts. Cells are the building blocks that keep our bodies alive. Our cells are truly amazing!

Examples of questions pertaining to the article, Our Amazing Cells
(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. What do cells need to stay alive?
2. The sentence, "As the cells use oxygen, carbon dioxide is left." is a detail supporting what fact?
3. How do the food, water, and oxygen get into our cells?

Implicit:

1. Does it hurt when you cut your fingernails? Why?
2. What are veins and arteries?
3. What would happen to a cell if the nucleus was not there?

Our Amazing Cells Outline

- I. Different – size and shape
- II. Alike
 - A. Needs
 - 1. Food
 - 2. Water
 - 3. Oxygen
 - 4. Transported by blood through arteries
 - B. Waste
 - 1. Urea
 - 2. Carbon dioxide
 - 3. Transported by blood through veins
 - C. Parts
 - 1. Membrane
 - 2. Cytoplasm
 - 3. Organelles
 - 4. Nucleus