### CHAPTER NAME

## The Fundamental Unit of Life

## **NCERT Solutions**

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### 1. Who discovered cells and how? Answer:

An English Botanist, Robert Hooke discovered cells. In 1665, he used self-designed microscope to observe cells in a cork slice.

## 2. Why is the cell called the structural and functional unit of life?

#### Answer:

Cells are called the structural and functional unit of life because all the living organisms are made up of cells and also all the functions taking place inside the body of organisms are performed by cells.

## In TEXT Questions Page 53

## 1. How do substances like CO2 and water move in and out of the cell? Discuss.

### Answer:

The substances like CO2and water move in and out of a cell by diffusion from the region of high concentration to low concentration.

When the concentration of CO2and water is higher in external environment than that inside the cell, CO2and water moves inside the cell. When the concentration outside the cell

becomes low and it is high inside the cell, they moves out.

## 2. Why is the plasma membrane called a selectively permeable membrane?

### Answer:

Plasma membrane called a selectively permeable membrane because it regulates the movement of substances in and out of the cell. This means that the plasma membrane allows the entry of only some substances and prevents the movement of some other materials.

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1. Fill in the gaps in the following table illustrating differences between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.

Prokaryotic cell	Eukaryotic cell
1-Size: generally small (1-10 µm) 1 µm== 10-6 m	Size: generally large (5-100 μm)
2-Nuclear region:	Nuclear region: well-defined and surrounded by a nuclear membrane
and is known as	
3-Chromosome: single	More than one chromosome
4-Membrane-bound cell	
organelles are absent	

### Answer:

Prokaryotic cell	Eukaryotic cell
1. Size: generally small (1-10 μm) 1	Size: generally large (5-100 µm)
μm== 10-6 m	
2.Nuclear region: poorly defined	Nuclear region: well-defined and
because of the absence of a nuclear	surrounded by a nuclear membrane
membrane, and is known as	
nucleoid	
3. Chromosome: single	More than one chromosome
4.Membrane-bound cell organelles	Membrane-bound cell organelles
are absent	such as mitochondria, plastids, etc.,
	are present

# 1. Can you name the two organelles we have studied that contain their own genetic material? Answer:

Mitochondria and plastids

# 2. If the organisation of a cell is destroyed due to some physical or chemical influence, what will happen?

### Answer:

If the organisation of a cell is destroyed due to some physical or chemical influence then cell will not be able to perform the basic functions like respiration, nutrition, excretion etc. This may stop all the life activities and may result in its deat

## 3. Why are lysosomes known as suicide bags? Answer:

Lysosomes are called suicide bags because in case of disturbance of their cellular metabolism they digest their own cell by releasing own enzymes.

## 4. Where are proteins synthesized inside the cell?

### Answer:

The proteins are synthesized in the Ribosome inside the cell.

## The Fundamental Unit of Life

## NCERT Solutions BACK EXCERCISE

# 1. Make a comparison and write down ways in which plant cells are different from animal cells. Answer:

Animal cell	Plant cell
The do not have cell	They have cell wall
wall.	made up of
	cellulose.
They do not have	They contain
chloroplast.	chloroplast.
They have	They do not have
centrosome.	centrosome.
Vacuoles are	Vacuoles are larger
smaller in size.	in size.
Lysosomes are	Lysosomes are
larger in number.	absent or very few
	in number
Prominent Golgi	Subunits of Golgi
bodies are present.	bodies known as
	dictyosomes are
	present.

## 2. How is a prokaryotic cell different from a eukaryotic cell?

#### Answer:

Eukaryotic cell
Most eukaryotes are
multicellular.
Size of the cell is
generally large (50-
100 μm).
Nuclear region is well-
defined and is
surrounded by a
nuclear membrane, or
true nucleus bound by
a nuclear membrane is
present in the cell.
It contains more than
one chromosome.
Nucleolus is present.
Cell organelles such as
mitochondria, plastids,
endoplasmic
reticulum, Golgi
apparatus, lysosomes,
etc. are present.
Cell division occurs by
mitosis.
Eukaryotic cells are
found in fungi, plants,

blue-green algae.	and animal cells.
blue-green algae.	and animal cells.

## 3. What would happen if the plasma membrane ruptures or breaks down?

### Answer:

If the plasma membrane ruptures or breakdown then the cell will not be able to exchange material from its surrounding by diffusion or osmosis. Thereafter the protoplasmic material will be disappeared and the cell will die.

## 4. What would happen to the life of a cell if there was no Golgi apparatus?

### Answer:

Golgi apparatus has the function of storage modification and packaging of the products. If there is no Golgi apparatus then the packaging and transporting of materials synthesized by cell will not happen.

## 5. Which organelle is known as the powerhouse of the cell? Why?

### Answer:

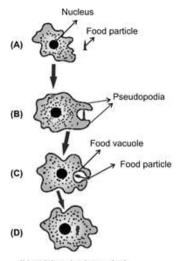
Mitochondria are known as the powerhouse of cells because energy required for various chemical activities needed for life is released by mitochondria in the form of ATP (Adenosine triphosphate) molecules.

## 6. Where do the lipids and proteins constituting the cell membrane get synthesized? Answer:

Lipids are synthesized in Smooth endoplasmic reticulum (SER) and the proteins are synthesized in rough endoplasmic reticulum (RER).

## 7. How does an Amoeba obtain its food? Answer:

Amoeba takes in food using temporary finger-like extensions of the cell surface which fuse over the food particle forming a food-vacuole as shown in figure. Inside the food vacuole, complex substances are broken down into simpler ones which then diffuse into the cytoplasm. The remaining undigested material is moved to the surface of the cell and thrown out.



(Nutrition in Amoeba)

### 8. What is osmosis?

#### Answer:

Osmosis is the process in which water molecules moves from the region of high concentration to a region of low concentration through a semi permeable membrane.

### 9. Carry out the following osmosis experiment:

Take four peeled potato halves and scoop each one out to make potato cups. One of these potato cups should be made from a boiled potato. Put each potato cup in a trough containing water. Now,

- (a) Keep cup A empty
- (b) Put one teaspoon sugar in cup B
- (c) Put one teaspoon salt in cup C
- (d) Put one teaspoon sugar in the boiled potato cup D.

Keep these for two hours. Then observe the four potato cups and answer the following:

- (i) Explain why water gathers in the hollowed portion of B and C.
- (ii) Why is potato A necessary for this experiment?
- (iii) Explain why water does not gather in the hollowed out portions of A and D.

Answer:

- (i) Water gathers in the hollowed portions of setup B and C because water enters the potato as a result of osmosis. Since the medium surrounding the cell has a higher water concentration than the cell, the water moves inside by osmosis. Hence, water gathers in the hollowed portions of the potato cup.
- (ii) Potato A in the experiment acts as a control set-up. No water gathers in the hollowed portions of potato A.
- (iii) Water does not gather in the hollowed portions of potato A because potato cup A is empty. It is a control set-up in the experiment. Water is not able to enter potato D because the potato used here is boiled. Boiling denatures the proteins present in the cell membrane and thus, disrupts the cell membrane. For osmosis, a semi-permeable membrane is required, which is disrupted in this case. Therefore, osmosis will not occur. Hence, water does not enter the boiled potato cup

# 10. which type of cell division is required for the growth and repair of the body and which type is involved in formation of gametes

#### Answer:

here are two ways in which a cell divides:

- 1. Mitosis
- 2. Meiosis

**Mitosis** is the type of cell division that results in the formation of two daughter cells each with the same number of chromosomes as the parent cell.

**Meiosis** is a type of cell division that results in the formation of four daughter cells each with half the number of chromosomes as the parent cell.

Hence, Mitosis is the type of cell division that is involved in the growth and repair of the body whereas meiosis is a type of cell division that results in the formation of gametes.