

## Chapter - 5 The Fundamental Unit Of Life

★ Cell - It is the structural, functional, smallest, basic or fundamental unit of life.

★ Cell word is derived from Latin language which means small room or compartment.

Q1) Why cell is called structural and functional unit of life?

Ans All living organisms are made up of cells which perform various functions essential for the survival of the organism. Ex- Respiration, Digestion, Excretion etc. Thus, cell is the functional unit of life.

In unicellular organism a single cell carries out all the function, while in multicellular organisms group of cells carry out different function. Thus, cell is the structural unit of all organism life.



- Smallest cell - Mycoplasma
- Longest cell - Nerve cell
- Largest cell - Ostrich egg

### \* Basic characteristics of cell

- They have the ability to replicate independently.
- They contain hereditary information.
- They can perform all life sustaining activities.
- They show similar chemical composition.

### \* Discovery of cell

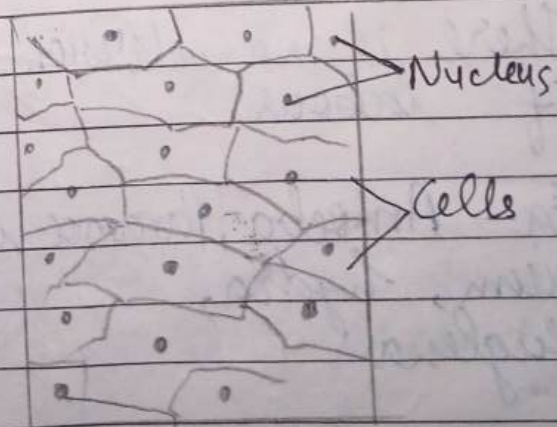
Sr no.	Name of organelle	Scientist Name	Year
1.	Dead cell	Robert Hooke	1665
2.	Live cell	Leeuwenhoek	1674
3.	Nucleus	Robert Brown	1831
4.	Cell Theory	a) Schleiden (plant)	1838
		b) Schwann (animals)	1839
		c) Virchow (pre existing cell)	1855



5.	Protoplasm	Purkinje	1839
6.	Mitochondria	Kelliker	1842
7.	Golgi Apparatus	Camillio Gorgi	1898
8.	Endoplasmic reticulum	Porter and Thompson	1945
9.	Ribosome	George Emil Palade	1955
10.	Lysosome	Christian De Duve	1974
11.	Vacuoles	Leeuwenhoek	1676
12.	Plastids	E. Haeckel	1838

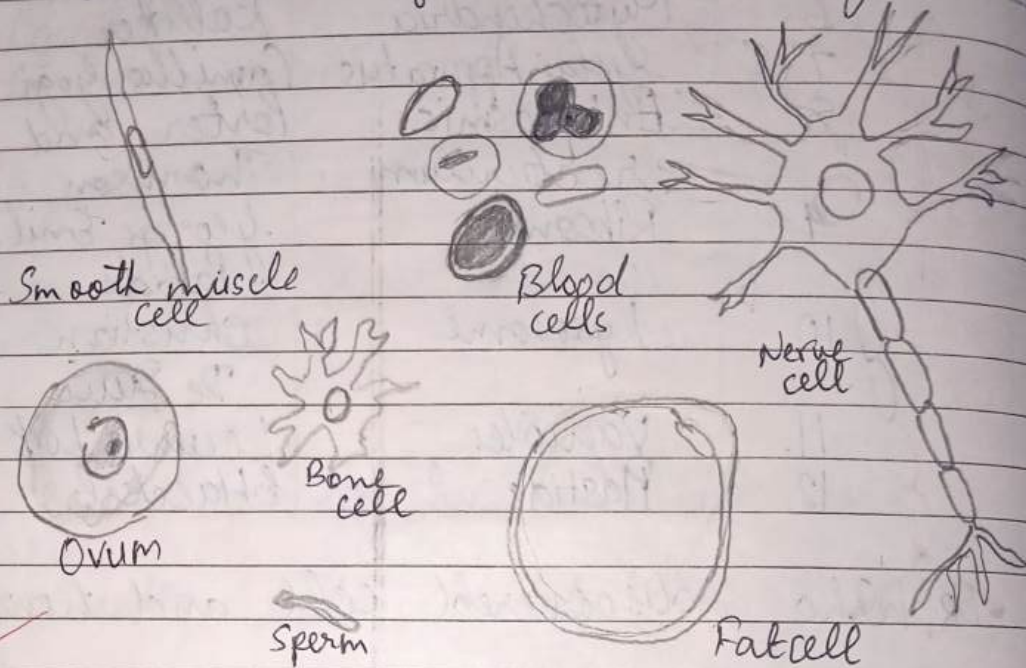
Q2 Who discovered cell and how?

Ans Cell was discovered by Robert Hooke in the year 1665. He observed the cell in the cork slice with the help of self designed microscope. The cork slice resembled the structure of honeycomb consisting of small room/compartment like structure. Hooke called this rooms as cell.





## \* Various cells of human body



★ Good

## Difference between

Unicellular

Multicellular

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| i) A single cell constituted the whole organism | i) Many cells are grouped together in a single body. |
| ii) There is no division of labour              | ii) There is a division of labour                    |
| iii) Ex - Amoeba, Paramecium, Hydra, Euglena    | iii) Eg:- Humans, plants and animal                  |



## Prokaryotic

- 1) They are small (1-10  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- 2) Single chromosome
- 3) Poorly developed or no nuclear membrane
- 4) Nucleolus absent
- 5) Centriole absent

## Eukaryotic

- 1) They are large (5-100  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- 2) Many chromosomes
- 3) Well defined nucleus with nuclear membrane
- 4) Nucleolus Present
- 5) Centriole present

## Plant Cell

- 1) They are bigger in size
- 2) They have regular shape
- 3) Cell wall is present
- 4) A large vacuole is present

## Animal Cell

- 1) They are smaller
- 2) They have irregular shape
- 3) Cell wall is absent
- 4) Many small vacuoles are present



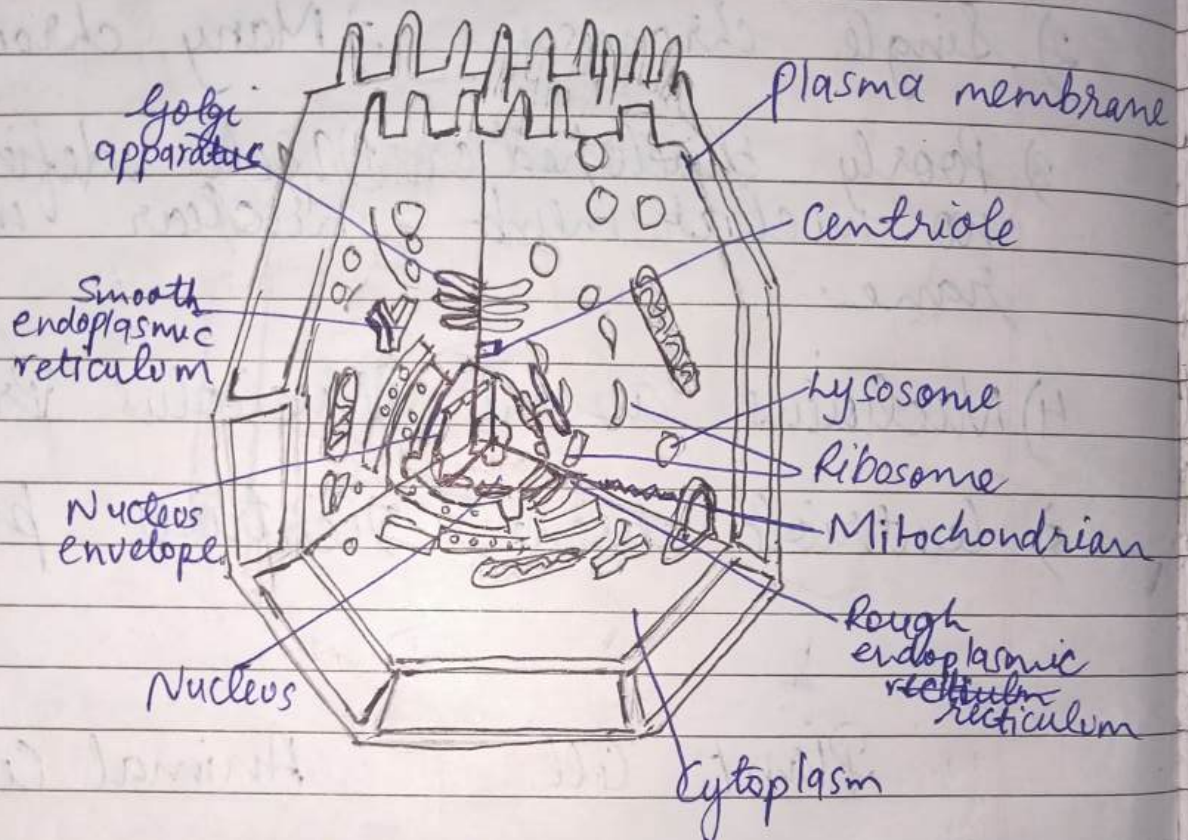


Fig Animal Cell

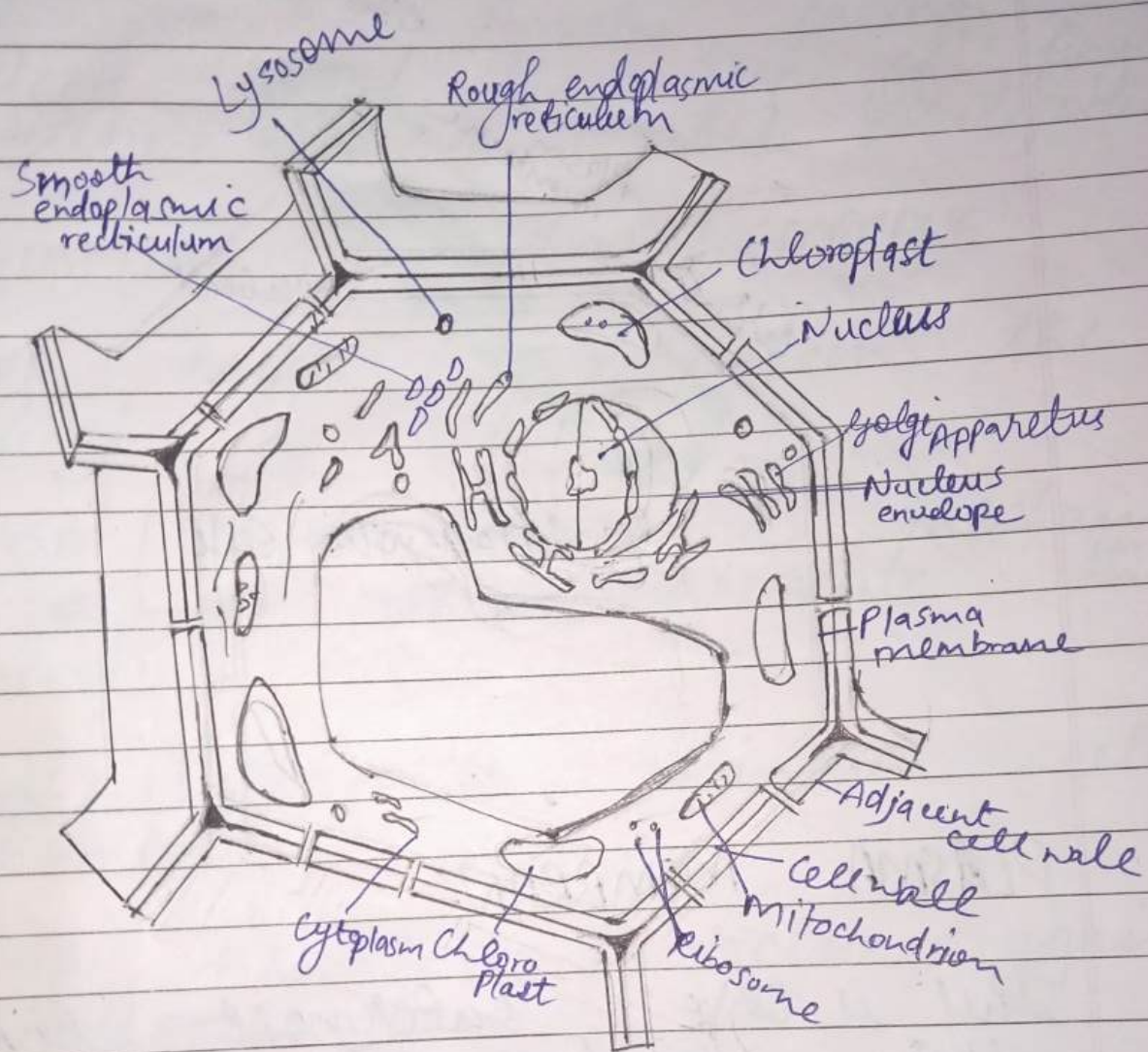


Fig Plant Cell



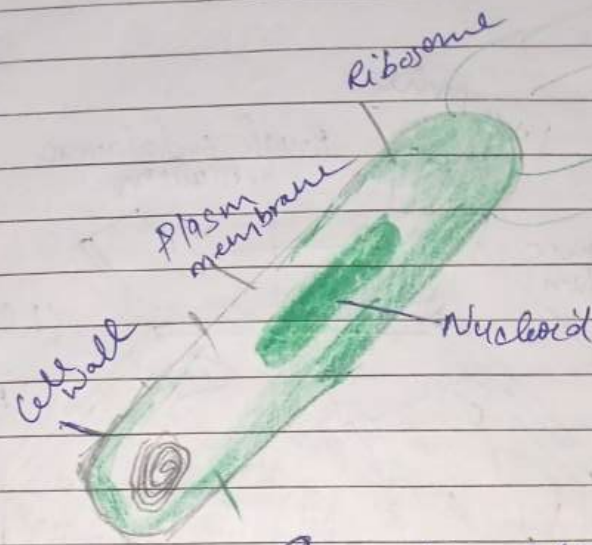


Fig Prokaryotic Cell

## PLASMA MEMBRANE

This is the outermost living thin and delicate covering of cell. It separates the contents of cell from external surrounding. It is made up of phospholipids.

## Endocytosis

It enables the cell to engulf the food and other material from its external environment & process. This



process is called endocytosis  
Ex- Amoeba taking the  
food with the help of finger  
like projection called Pseudopodia

## FUNCTION OF PLASMA MEMBRANE

- 1) It helps to maintain the shape of cell
- 2) It acts as a mechanical barrier which prevents the leaking out.
- 3) It helps to maintain cellular homeostasis
- 4) It provide protection against pathogens
- 5) It allows entry and exit of certain molecules with the help of plasma membrane which acts as a semi-permeable and selective permeable membrane



## Holiday Homework

1) Who discovered cells and how?

Ans Robert Hooke found the cell in year 1665. He observed the cell in the cork of tree with the help of his self made microscope. The cells were arranged in a honey-comb structure the were like little rooms so Robert named them cell which means small room/compartment in Latin.

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

Ans All the organism are made up of cells which perform various functions like Digestion, Respiration etc. thus are called functional unit of life. In multicellular organism multiple cells perform



different functions while in unicellular organism single cell perform all the function and thus the cell is called structured unit of life

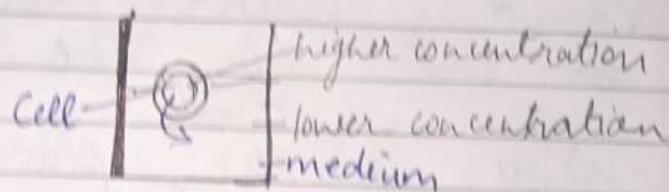
- 3) How do substances like  $\text{CO}_2$  and water move in and out of the cell? Discuss and
- 4) Why is the plasma membrane called a selectively permeable membrane?

Ans Cell membrane or Plasma membrane is called a selectively permeable or semi-permeable membrane because it allows substance like  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_2$  and water to move in and out of the cell. By moving these substances from high concentration to low concentration

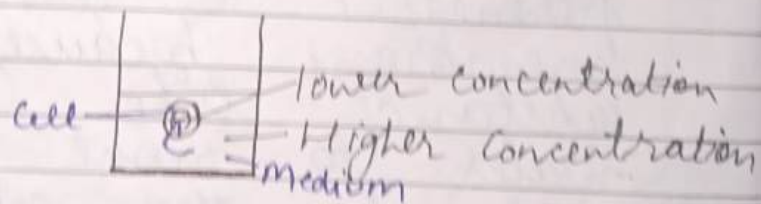


## \* Three types of solution

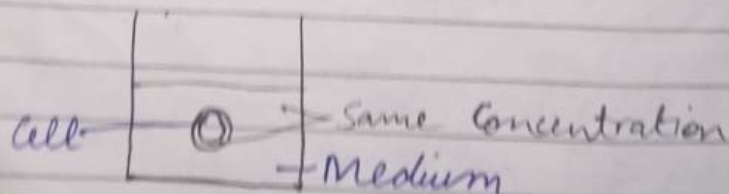
i) Hypertonic solution - If the medium has lower concentration of water than the cell. Cell shrink in such solution.



ii) Hypotonic solution - If the medium has higher concentration of water than the cell. Cell ~~shrink~~ <sup>swell</sup> in such solution.



iii) Isotonic solution - When the medium has exactly same concentration as the cell. All ~~whole~~ <sup>size</sup> remain same.





## CELL ORGANELLES

### 1) Lysosome (Suicidal bags)

They are called suicidal bags as they burst and digest enzymes are present/released which digest their own cells in case of damage.

Function - Destruction of damaged cell and digestion of cellular material.

### 2) Vacuoles (Storage sac)

They are storing different molecules like food, water and air and other molecules. They provide turgidity and rigidity to the cell. They are smaller in animal cell and larger in plant cells.

### 3) Mitochondria (Power house of the cell)

It releases the energy in the form of ATP.  
ATP - Adenosine tri phosphate

→ They store energy and supply it to other organelles.



→ They have their own own DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid)

→ They also synthesize their own protein.

4) Endoplasmic ~~ret~~ reticulum (ER)  
→ They are of two types -  
RER (Rough Endoplasmic Reticulum)  
SER (Smooth Endoplasmic reticulum)

→ They produce ribosome which manufacture protein.

SER ( ) - They do not contain ribosome

RER ( ) - They contain ribosome on their surface

5) Golgi Apparatus:-

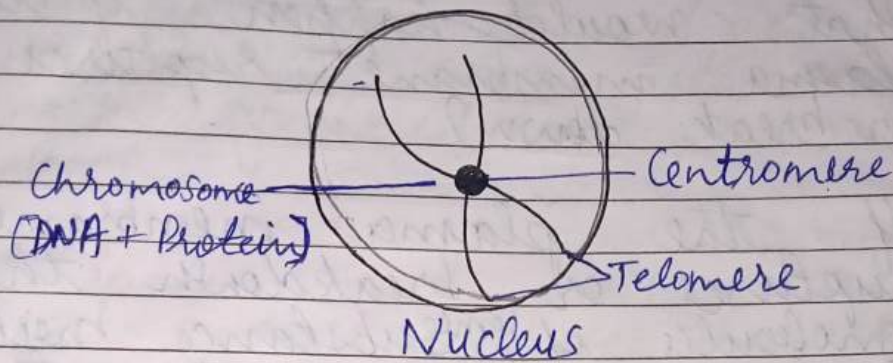
They package and dispatch<sup>ing</sup> the chemical substance or material produced in the cell.

6) Ribosome -

They help in manufacturing of proteins.



## 7) Chromosome -



They are chromatid made up of DNA and protein which transmit/transfer genetic information from one generation to next generation.

8) Nucleus (Brain or controller of cell)  
It controls the activities of all other cell organelles.

9) Cytoplasm  
It is a jelly like substance or fluid present inside the cell which keeps the cell organelles safe inside the cell.



### 3. Question

3) What would happen if the plasma membrane ruptures or break down?

Ans If the plasma membrane ruptures or breakdown the molecules of <sup>some</sup> substance will freely move in and out.

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

Ans Golgi apparatus has the function of storage and packaging of the products in vesicles. If there were no Golgi bodies packaging and dispatching of materials synthesized by the cell will be blocked.

5) Which organelle is known as the power-house of cell?

Ans Mitochondria is known as the power house of cell because it releases the energy required for different



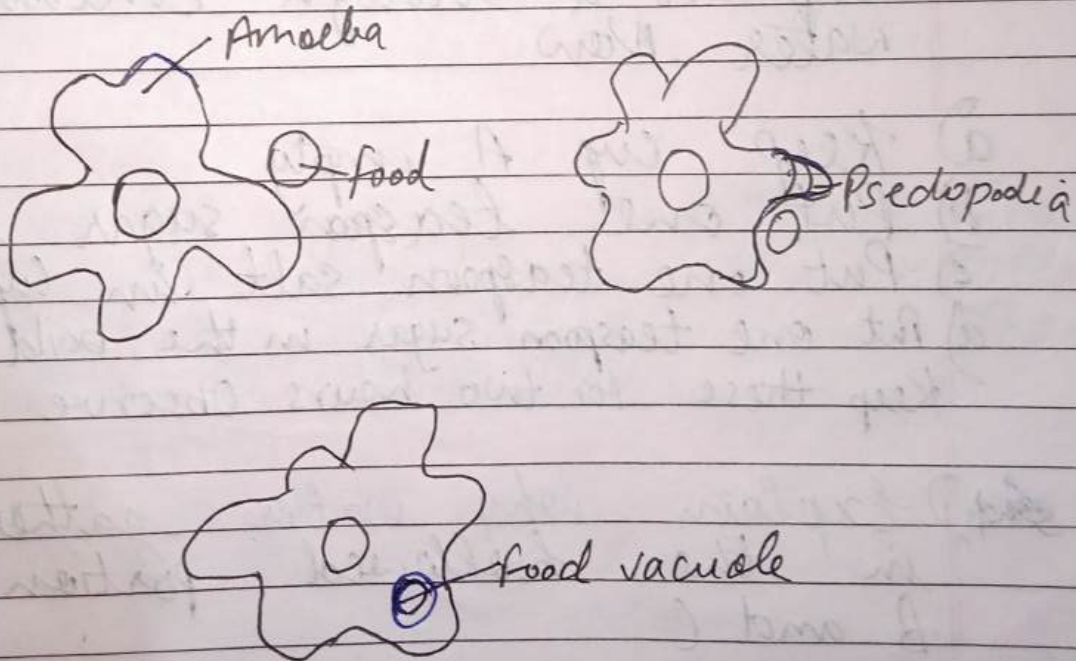
## activities of life.

5) Where do the lipids and proteins constituting the cell membrane get synthesised?

Ans Lipids and proteins are synthesised in endoplasmic reticulum (ER).

6) How does an Amoeba obtain its food?

Ans Amoeba takes its food ~~by~~ the cell membrane which forms the food vacuole.



Endocytosis in Amoeba



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Q) What is osmosis?

Ans Osmosis is the process of movement of water molecule from a higher concentration to a lower concentration through a semi-permeable membrane.

Q) Carry out the following osmosis experiment.

Take four peeled potato halves and Scoos 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

- Keep cup A empty
  - Put one teaspoon sugar in cup B
  - Put one teaspoon salt in cup C
  - Put one teaspoon sugar in the boiled potato cup
- Keep these for two hours. Observe

Q) Explain why water gathers in the hollowed portion of B and C.

Ans Water gather in B and C because of osmosis. as there is a difference in the water



concentration it will move from high concentration to low concentration

ii) Why is potato A necessary for this experiment?

Ans Potato A, is necessary for control

iii) Explain why water does not gather in the hollowed out portions of A and D.

Ans Water does not gather in A and D as there is no change in water concentration

10) Plastids

Plastid is a membrane-bound organelle found in the cells of plants, algae, and some other eukaryotic organisms

→ Present in plant cell

→ Two types - 1) Chromoplasts (coloured)

2) Leucoplasts (colourless)

→ Plastids containing green pigment chlorophyll are called Chloroplast

→ Leucoplast stores materials as starch, oils and protein granules.