

Nanyang Girls' High School

Secondary One Science

Models of Cells:

The Basic Unit of Life

Cells → Tissues → Organs



● Concept of Models

- Models can be conceptual, mathematical or physical.
 - Models simulate real world phenomena.
- Models simplify real world processes or behaviours.
 - Models facilitate testing and prediction.

● Concept of Models

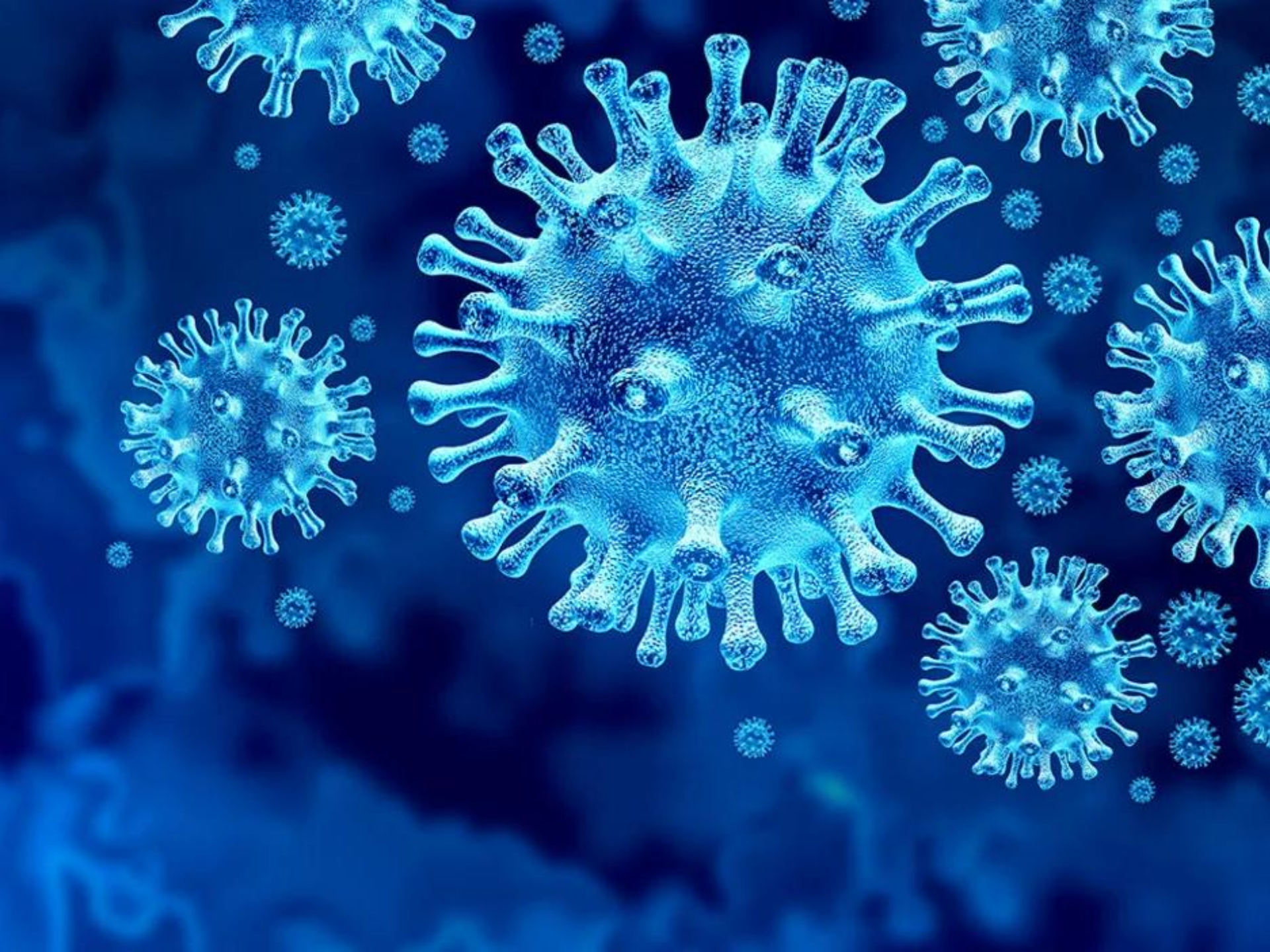
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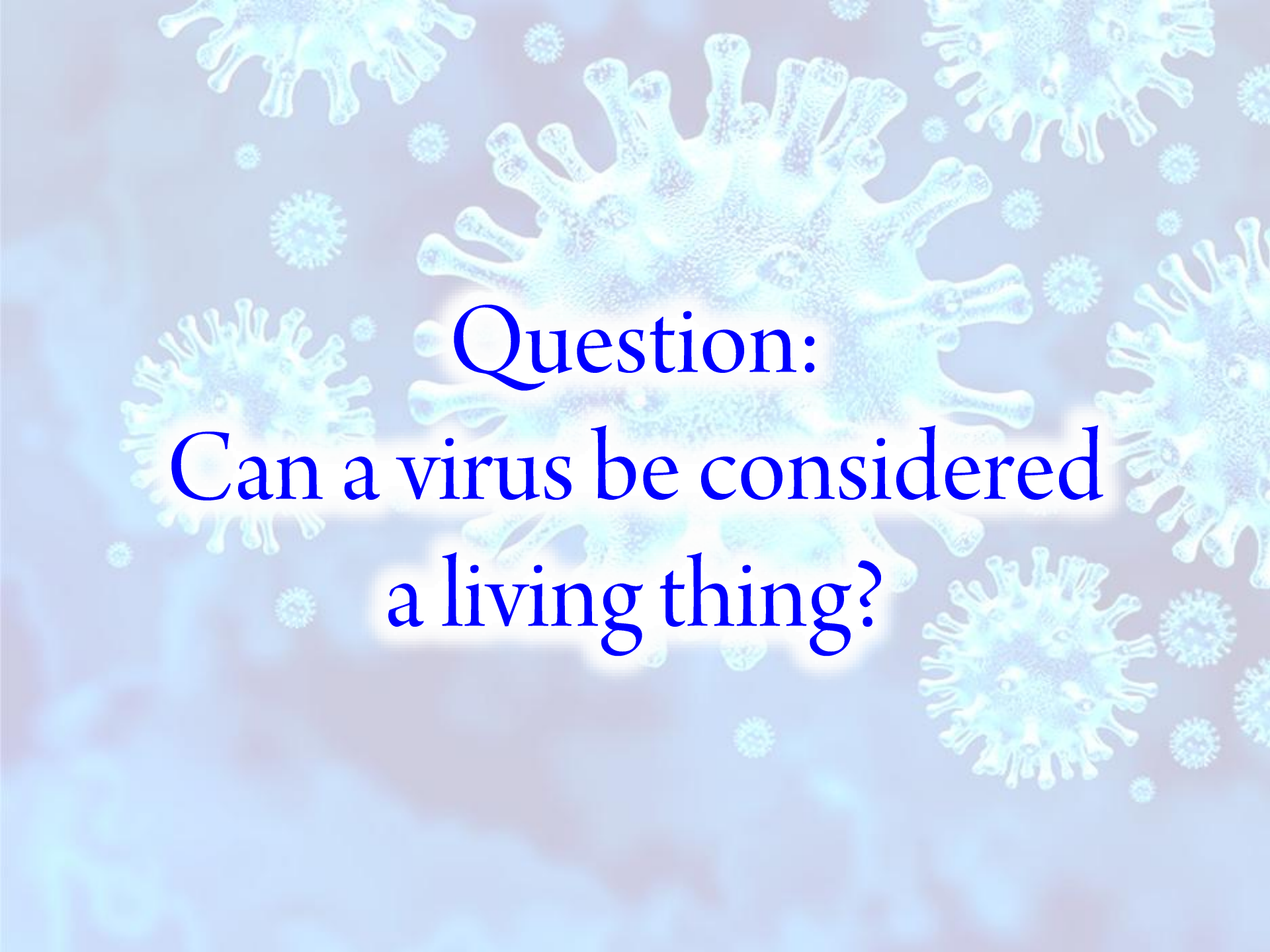
● Concept of Systems

- Systems contain elements that interact with each other to perform a function.
 - Systems maybe influenced by other systems.
 - Systems follow rules.

Essential Understanding

- All living organisms are composed of one or more cells.
- The cell is the basic unit of structure and organisation in an organism.
- All cells are formed only by the division of pre-existing cells.





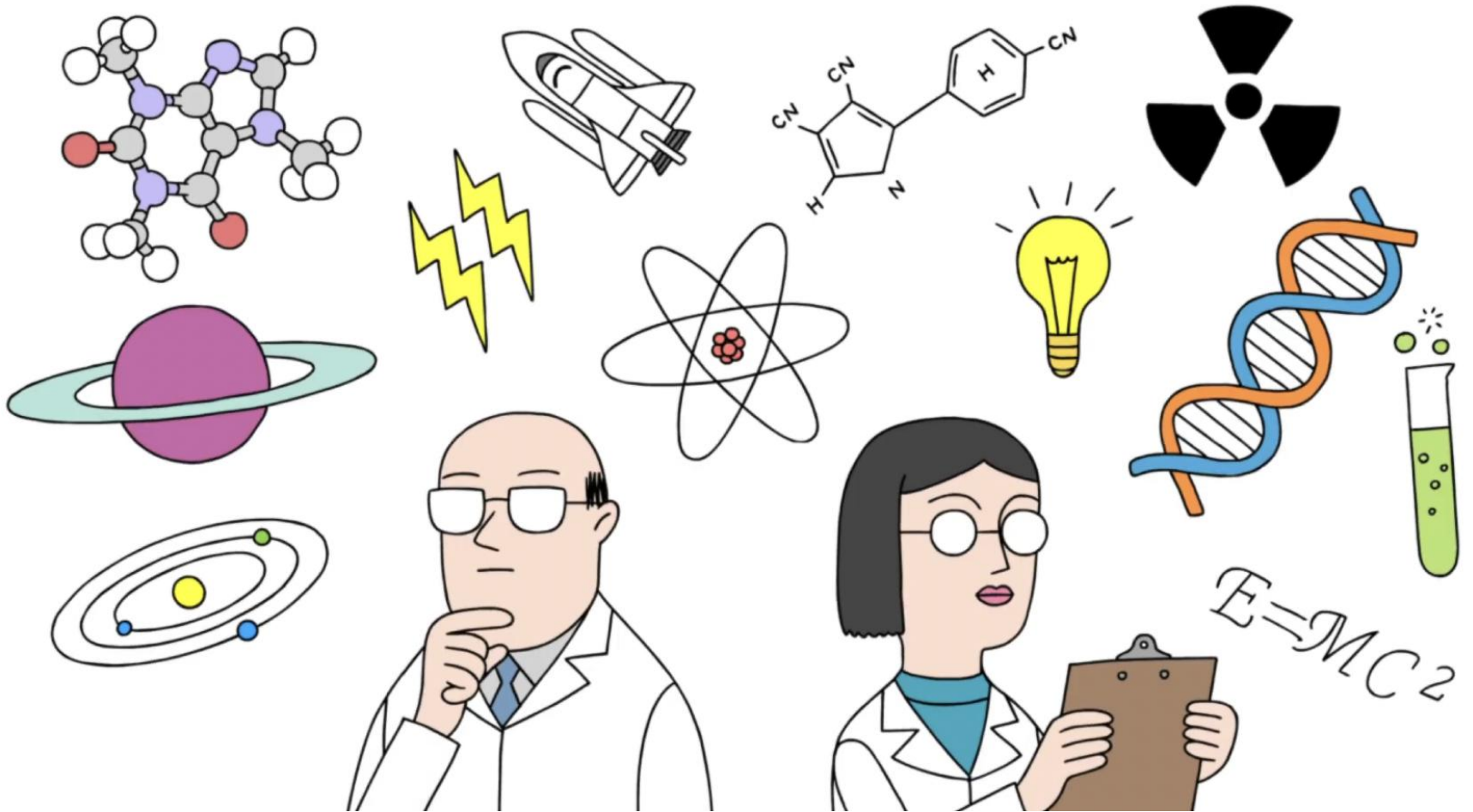
Question:
**Can a virus be considered
a living thing?**



Answer:

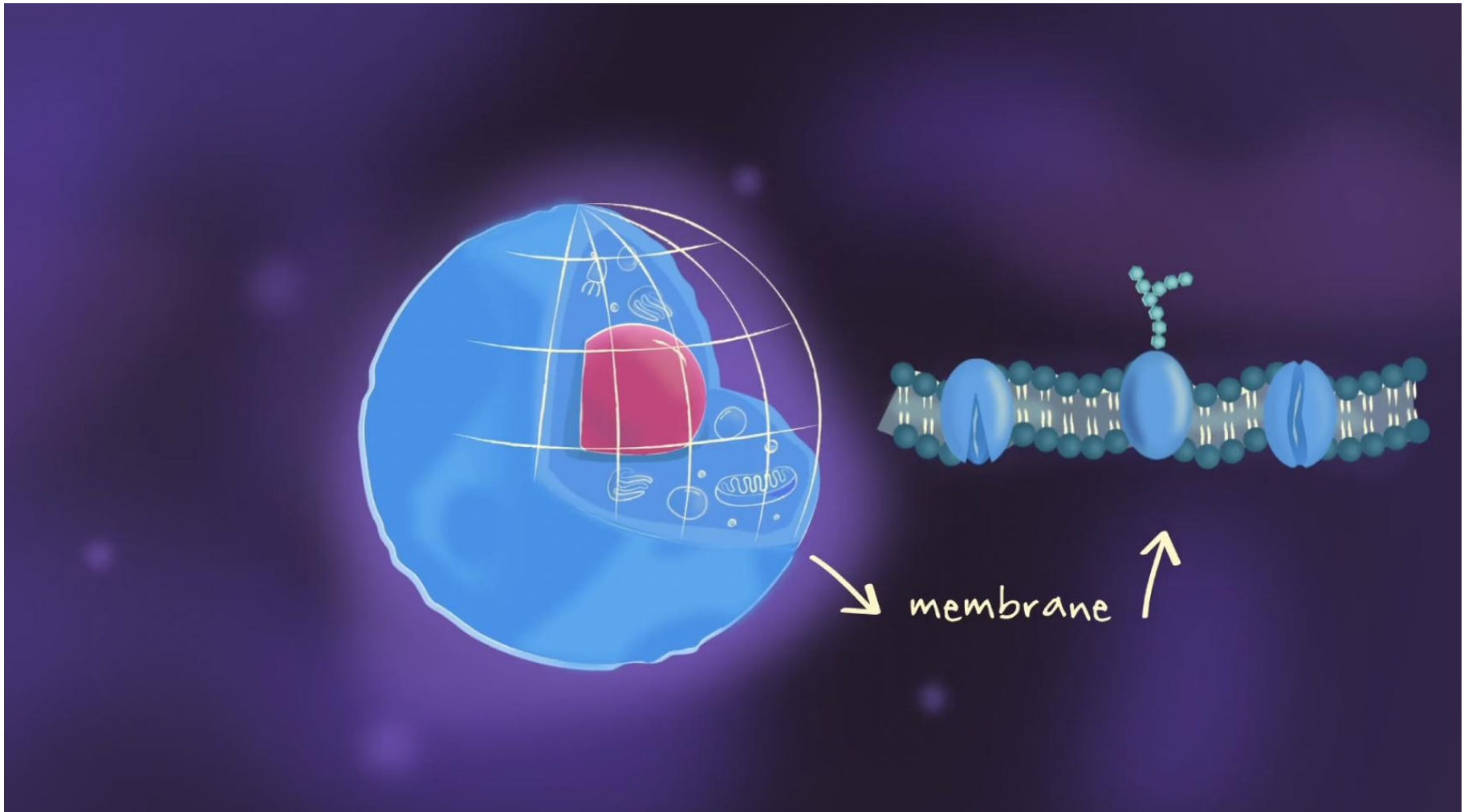
A virus is not considered a living thing. It does not possess the components necessary to reproduce on its own.

Cell Theory



[The wacky history of cell theory - Lauren Royal-Woods - YouTube](#)

What is the Biggest Single Celled Organism?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FK9xHry877U>

Why do Scientists Study Cells?

Why do Scientists Study Cells?

- A deep and thorough understanding of how cells work forms the basis for further understanding of how life works.
- Understanding how cells work in healthy and diseased states, scientists are able to develop treatments, more effective medicines, vaccines to improve the quality of life of humans.

How do Scientists Study Cells?

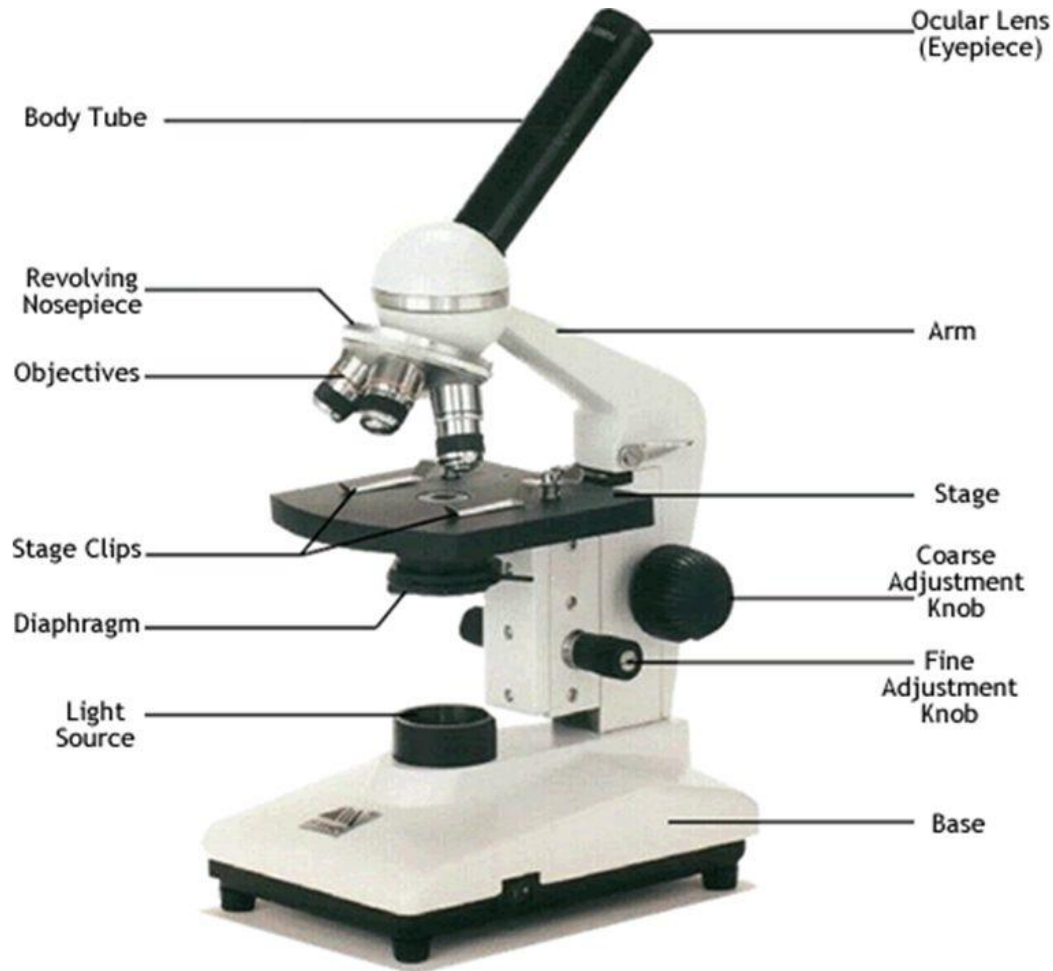
Optical Microscope



- Von Leeuwenhoek's
Microscope
Late 1600

How do Scientists Study Cells?

Optical Microscope



How do Scientists Study Cells?

Electron Microscope



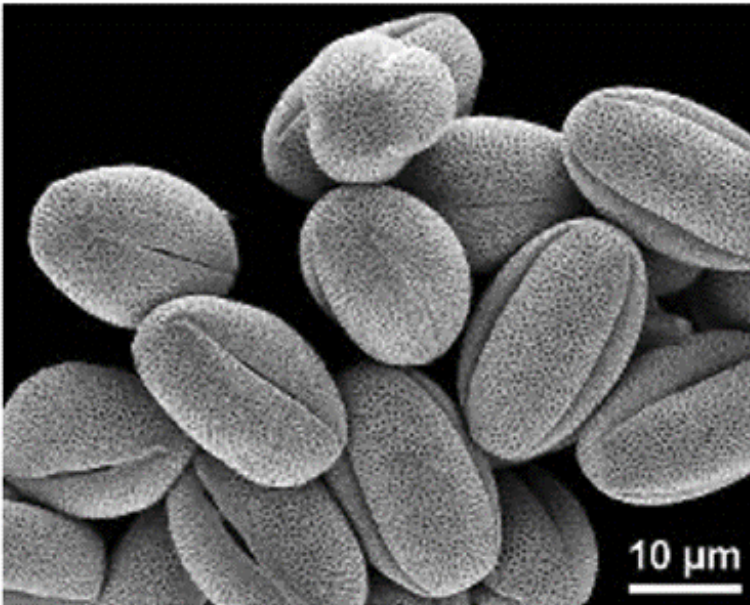
Electron Microscope

- Uses a beam of electrons instead of light.
- Able to produce image of much higher resolution and magnification.
- Magnification up to 500,000 times.

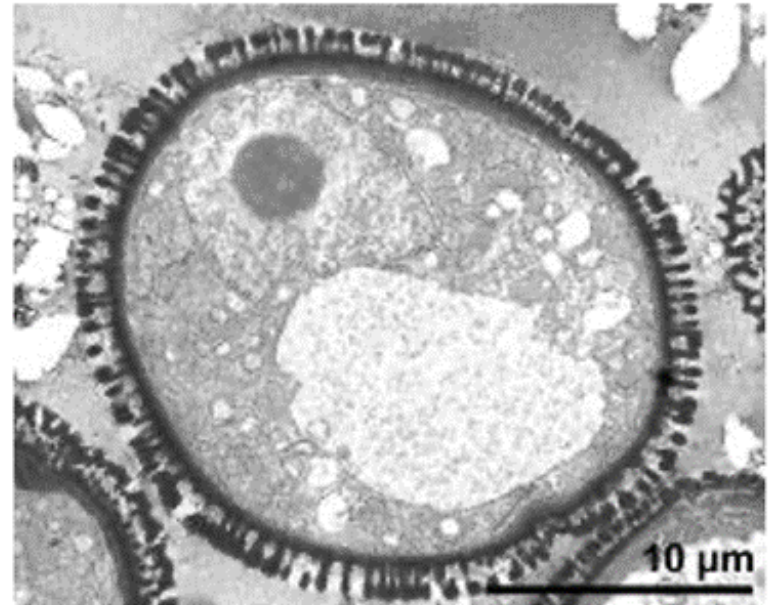
Electron Microscope

- Two types of images that electron microscopes can produce, depending on how the specimens are prepared: **scanning electron micrograph** (SEM) and **transmission electron micrograph** (TEM).
- SEM shows the **external surface** of the specimens while TEM shows the **internal structures** of the specimens.

Electron Microscope



Scanning electron micrograph of many pollen grains.



Transmission electron micrograph of a pollen grain.

Comparing light and electron microscopes

Light micrograph	Transmission Electron micrograph
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coloured images• Lower resolution*• Magnify up to 1000 x	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black and white images, but can be artificially colourised<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Higher resolution*• Magnify up to 500,000 x

*In microscopy, the term 'resolution' is used to describe the ability of a microscope to distinguish detail. In other words, this is the minimum distance at which two distinct points of a specimen can still be seen as separate entities.

How is a Cell Adapted to Perform its Function?

How is a Cell Adapted to Perform its Function?

- A cell consists of many different parts that work together to ensure that it is able to carry out its function effectively.

Cell (Plasma) Membrane

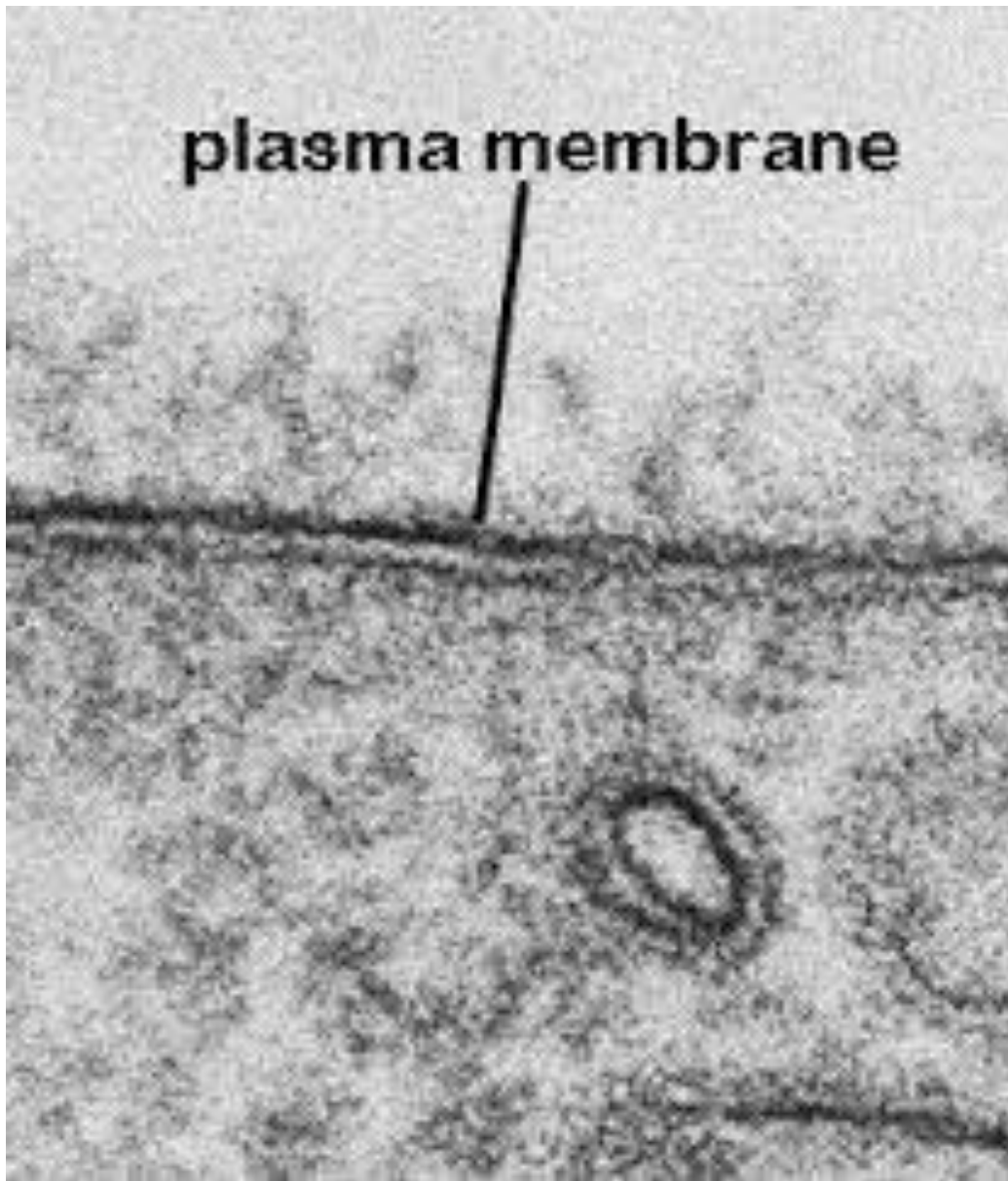
Structure

- *Partially or selectively permeable* [do NOT use the term semi-permeable].
- A very thin layer of fats and proteins.

Function

- Controls the movement of substances in and out of cell.

plasma membrane



Cytoplasm

Structure

- Contains largely water with different types of substances such as **proteins**, **carbohydrates**, **fats** and **salts**.
- Contains specialised structures called **organelles** with specific functions.

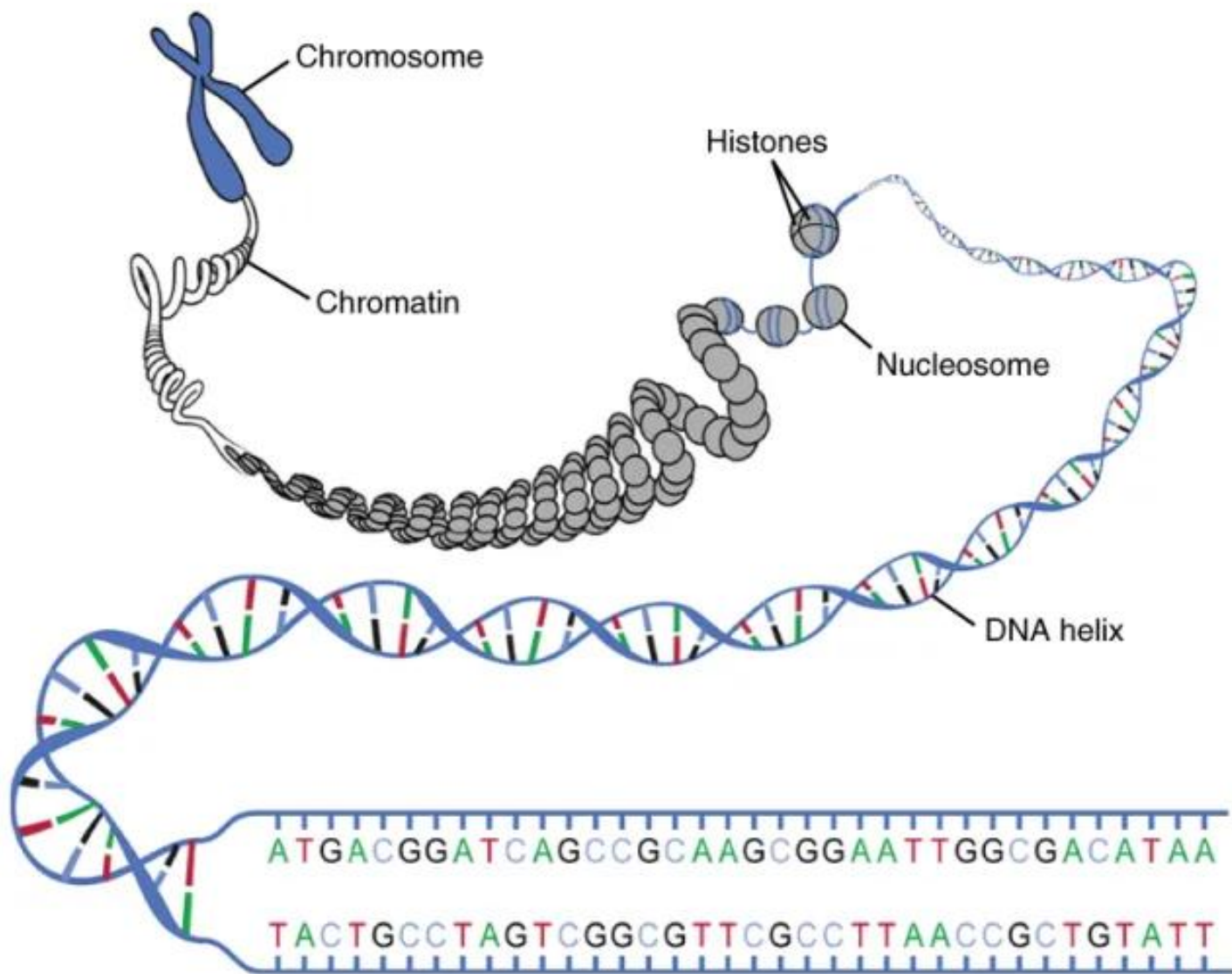
Function

- It is where most cell activities e.g. **chemical reactions** occur.

Nucleus

Structure

- Contains *chromatin*.
- *Chromatin* coils to form rod-like structures called *chromosomes*.
- Chromosomes are made of a substance called **deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)**.
 - Each chromosome carries many *genes*.
- A *gene* is a section of a DNA that carries instructions for a specific characteristic.



ATGACGGATCAGCCGCAAGCGGAATTGGCGACATAA
TACTGCCTAGTCGGCGTTTCGCCCTTAACCGCTGTATT

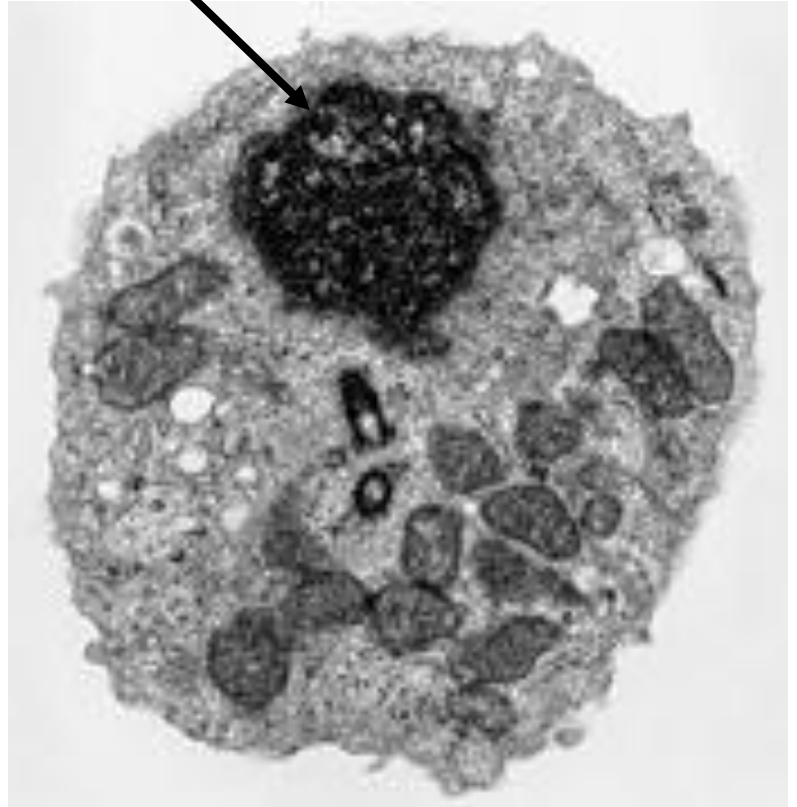
Nucleus

Function

- Controls cellular activities; cell will die if nucleus is removed.
- Contains deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) - the hereditary or genetic material in living things passed down from parents to offspring.



Nucleus



Vacuole

	Animal cell	Plant cell
Structure	a fluid-filled space in a cell surrounded by a membrane	
	has numerous small vacuoles	has a large central vacuole
Function	vacuoles store liquid, nutrients and waste materials	vacuole stores cell sap, containing liquid (water), nutrients (sugars, dissolved mineral salts etc.) and waste materials

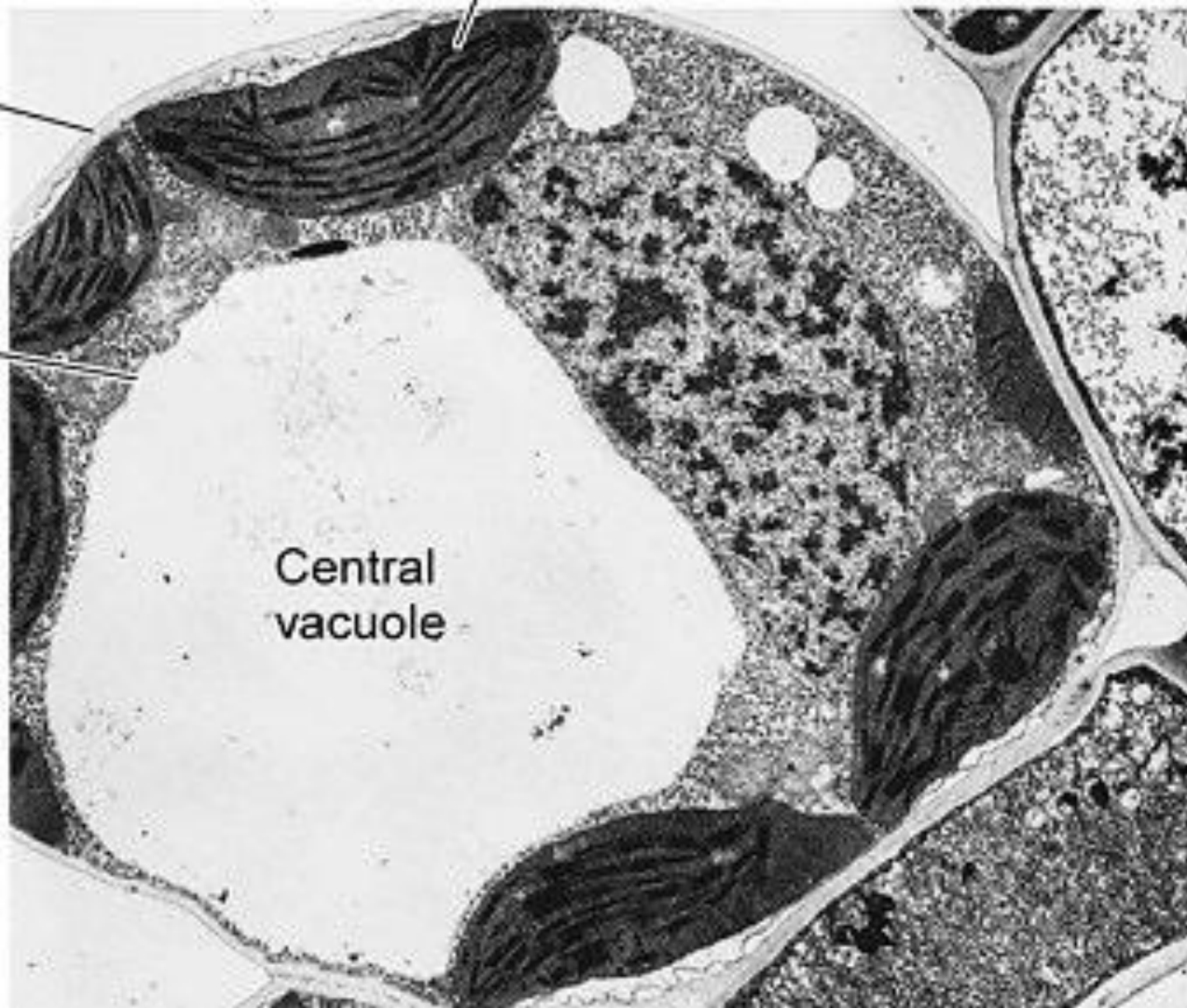
Chloroplast

Plant cell wall

Vacuole membrane

Central vacuole

1.83 μm



Mitochondrion (singular)

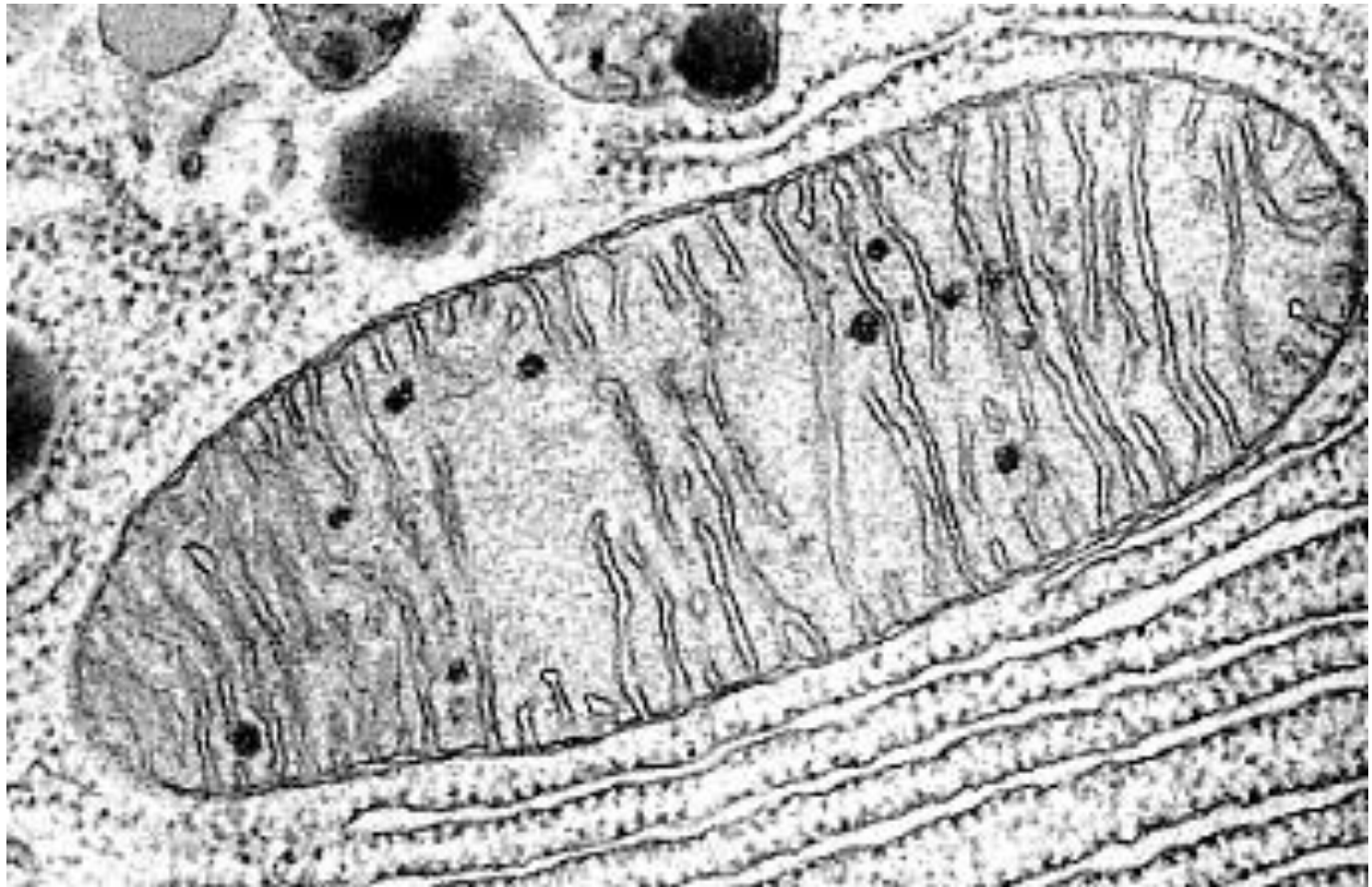
Mitochondria (plural)

Structure

- A rod-shaped structure / organelle.

Function

- Cellular respiration occurs here.
- During cellular respiration, food substances are oxidised to release energy.
- Energy released is used by cell for cellular activities, e.g. growth.



Question: Which cell is likely to contain large numbers of mitochondria?

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Answer:

A cell that requires a large amount of energy will have a large number of mitochondria. Some examples are the heart muscle cell, liver cell, kidney cell etc.

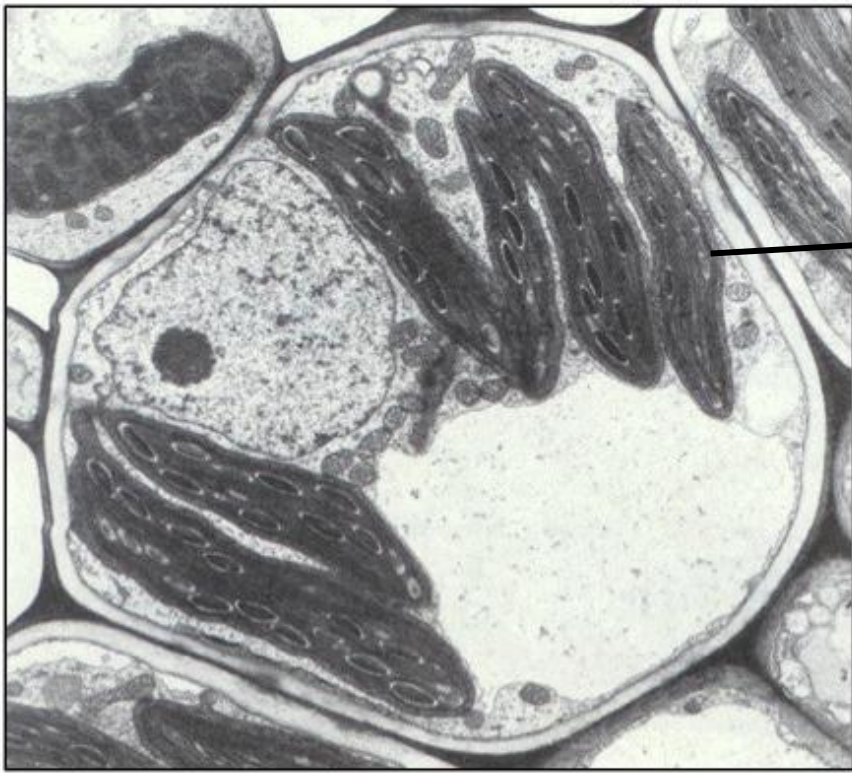
Chloroplast

Structure

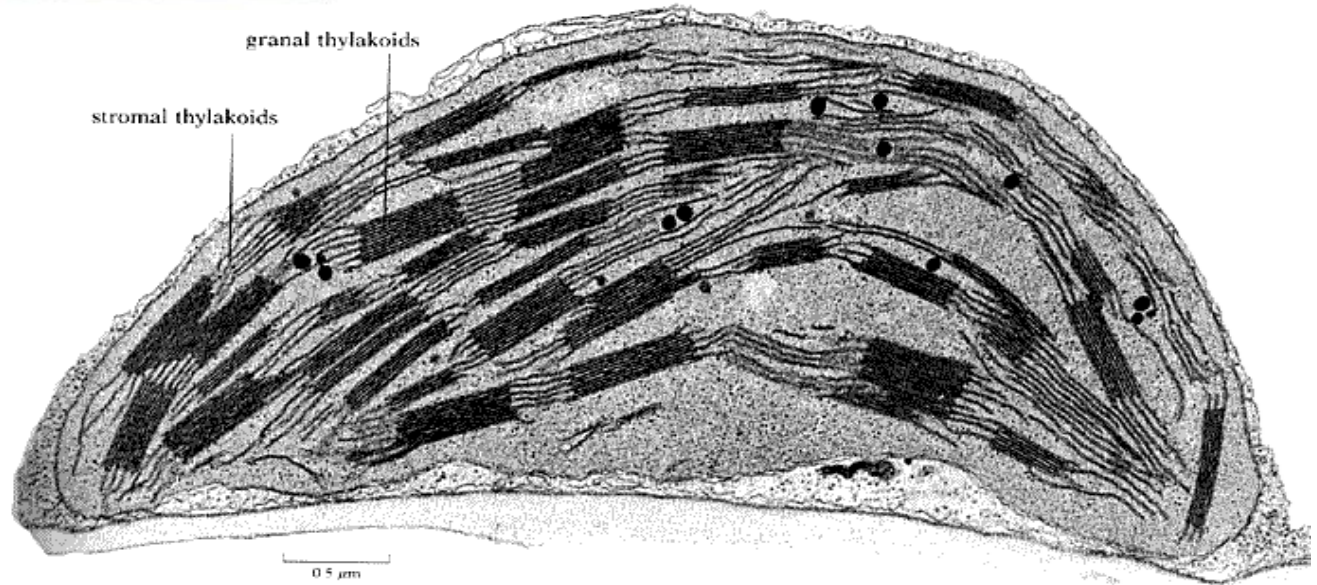
- An oval-shaped structure/organelle.
- Contains a green pigment called chlorophyll that traps or absorbs light energy.

Function

- Allows photosynthesis to occur by absorbing light energy.
- The light energy is then used to convert carbon dioxide and water into sugars for the plant. Oxygen is produced in the process.



chloroplast



granal thylakoids

stromal thylakoids

0.5 μm

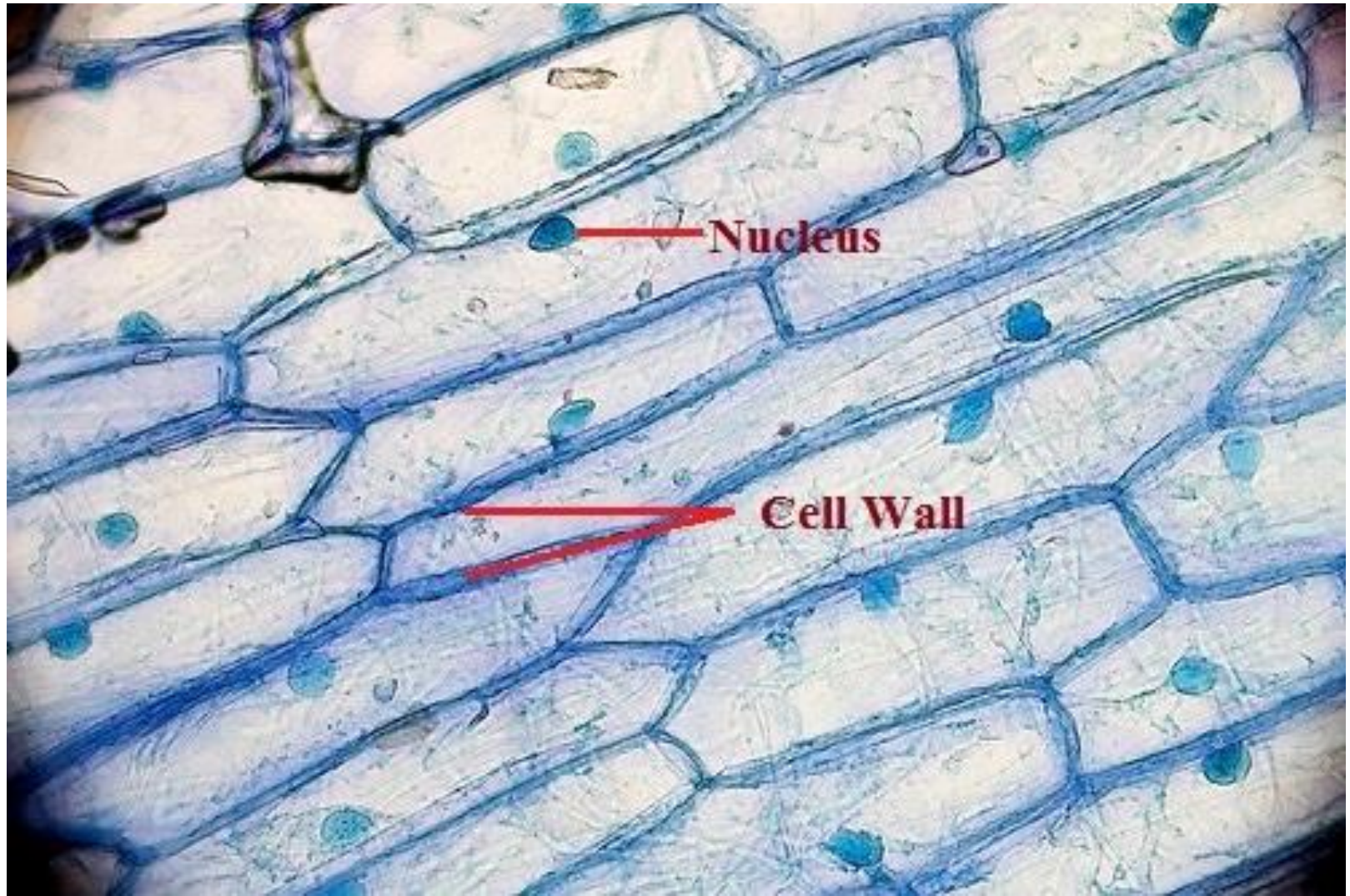
Cell Wall

Structure

- Every **plant cell** has a cell wall.
- It is mainly made up of **cellulose**.
- It is **fully permeable**; allows substances to move into and out of the cell.

Function

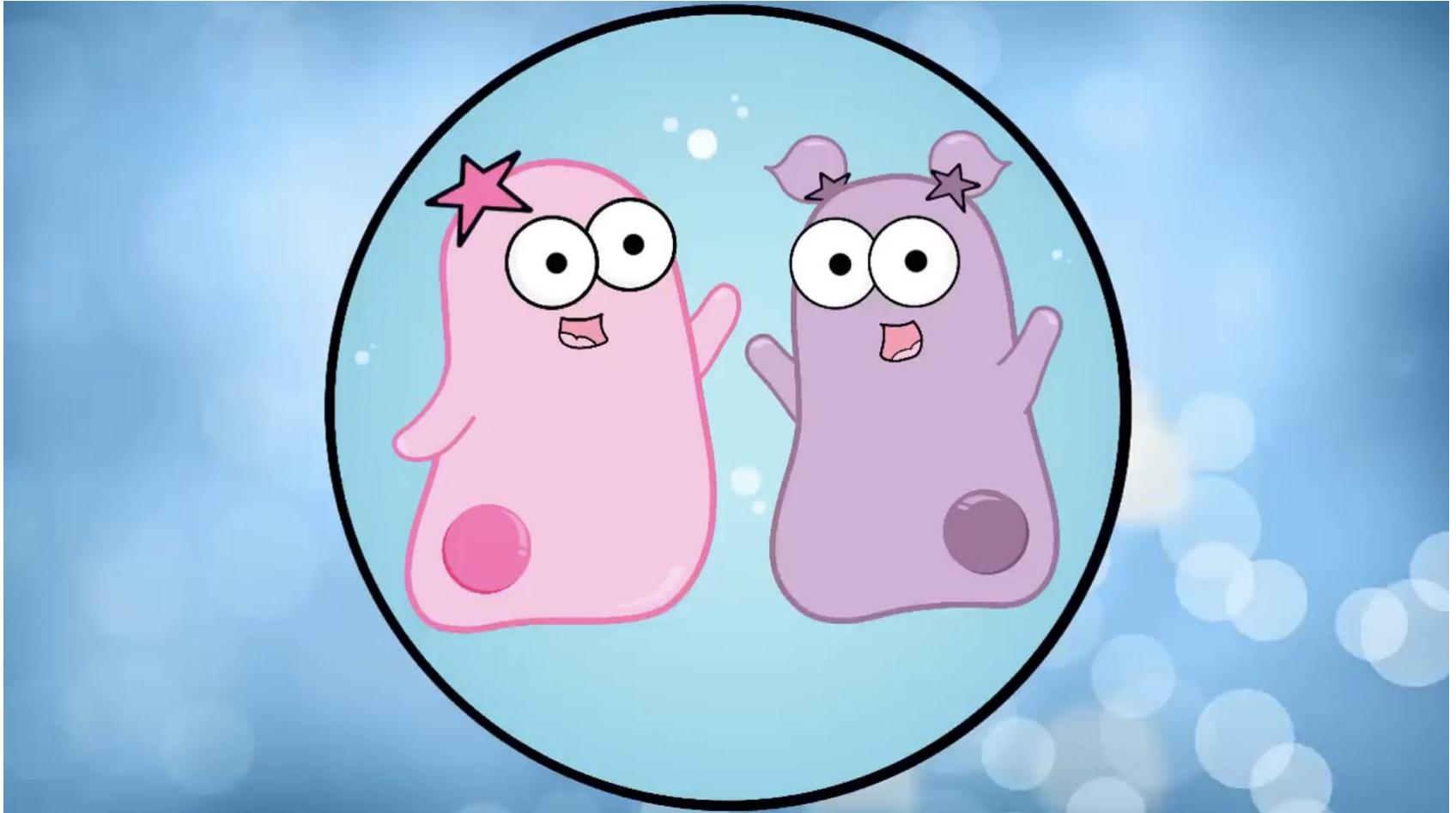
- **Protects** and **supports** the cell.
- Provides **rigidity** and gives the cell a **regular shape**.
- Prevents the cell from **bursting**.



Nucleus

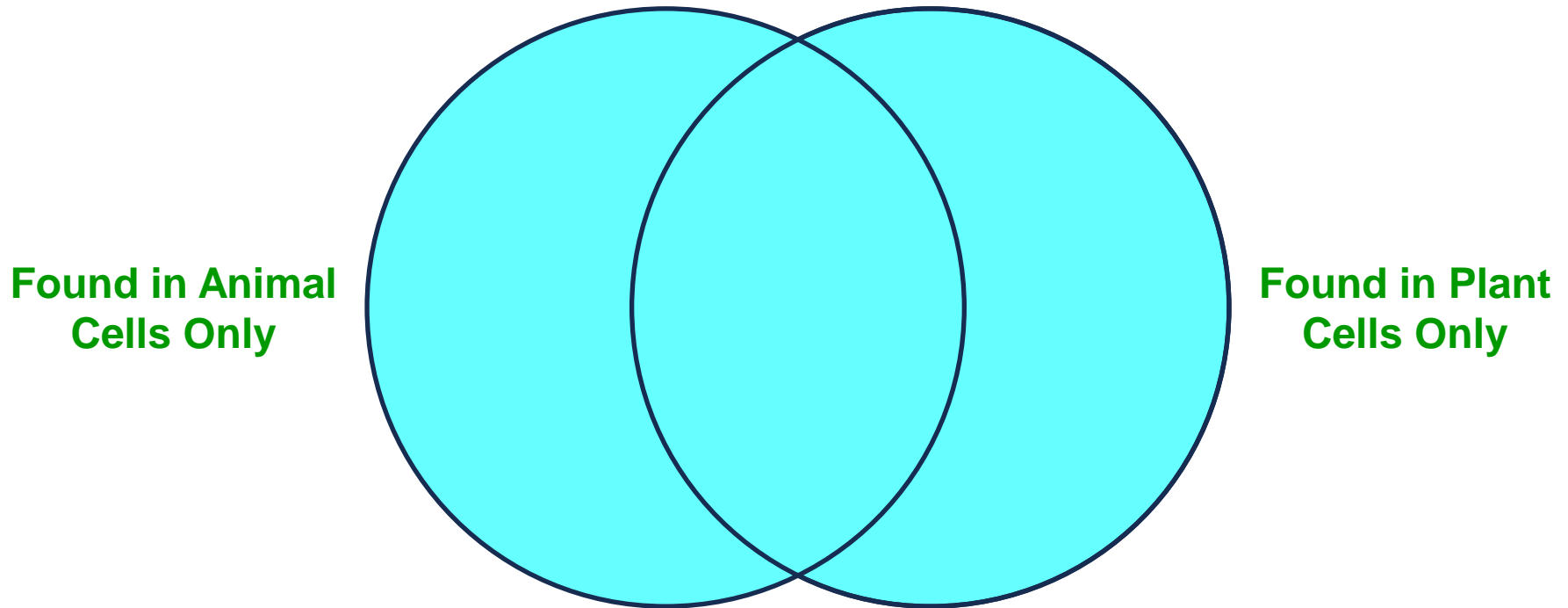
Cell Wall

The Grand Tour of Cells

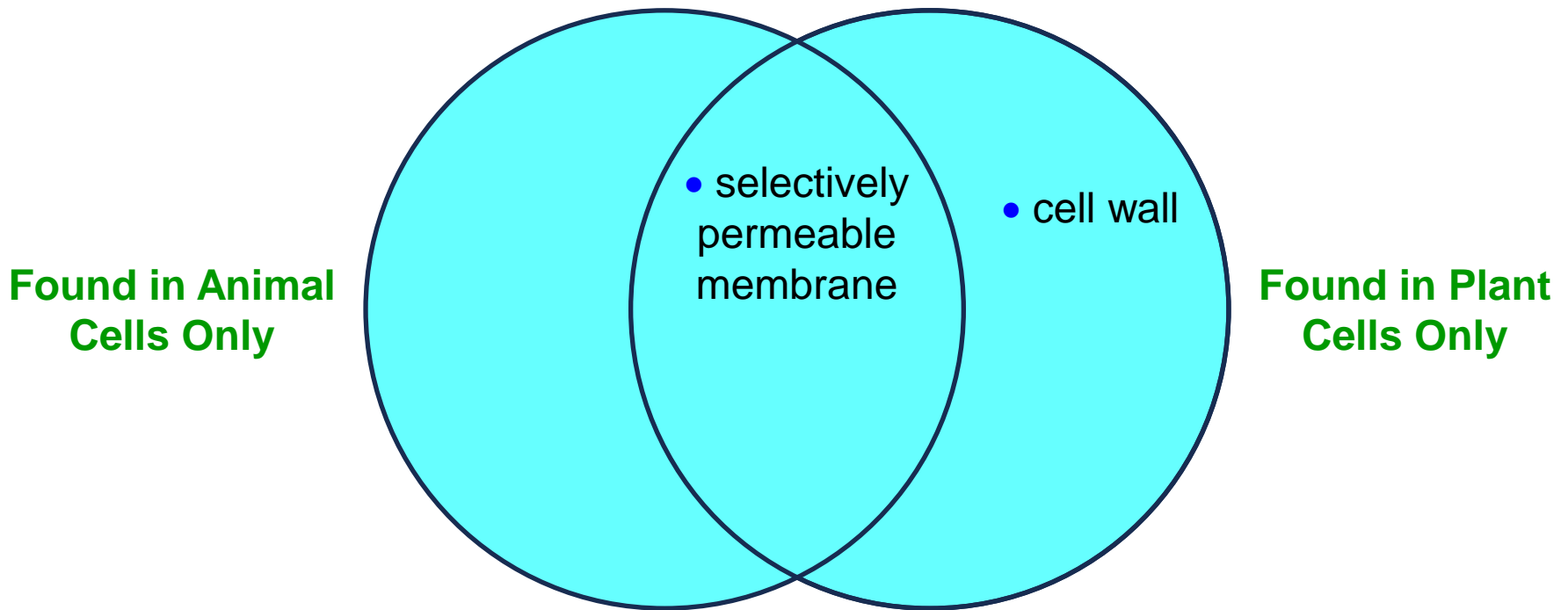


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8llzKri08kk>

Compare and Contrast Animal Cells and Plant Cells

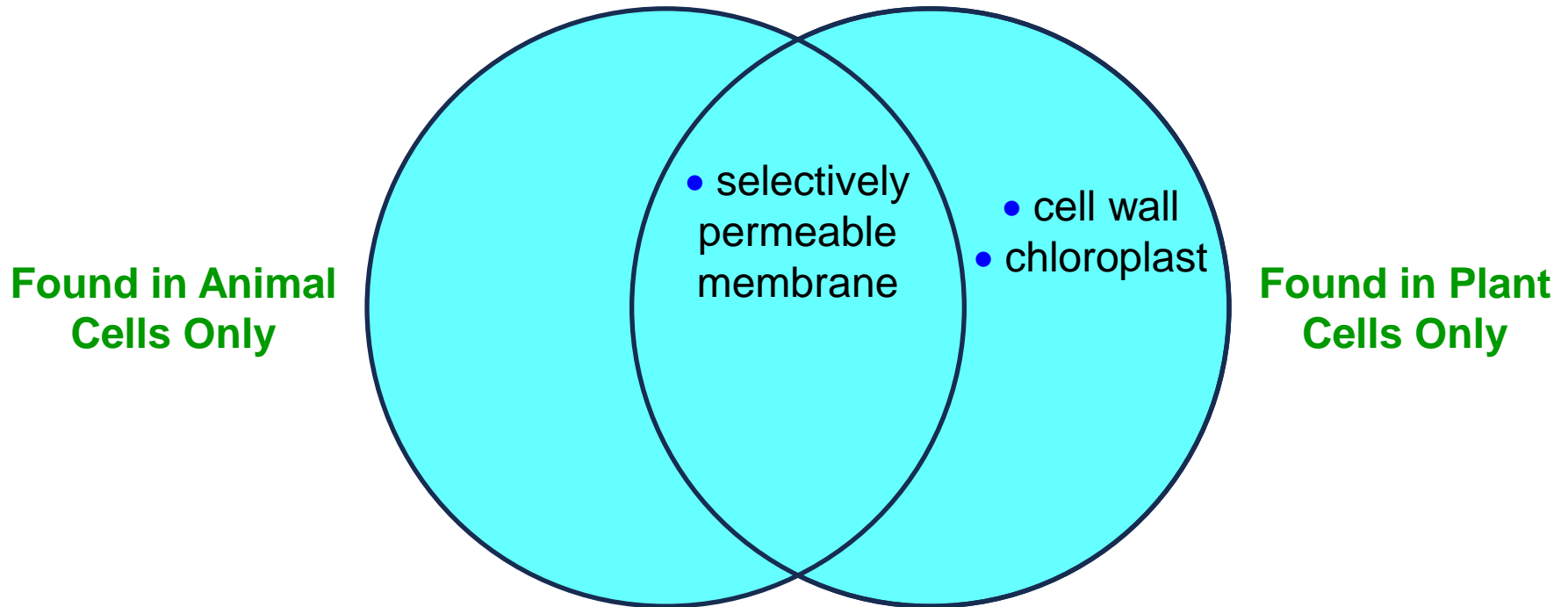


Compare and Contrast Animal Cells and Plant Cells



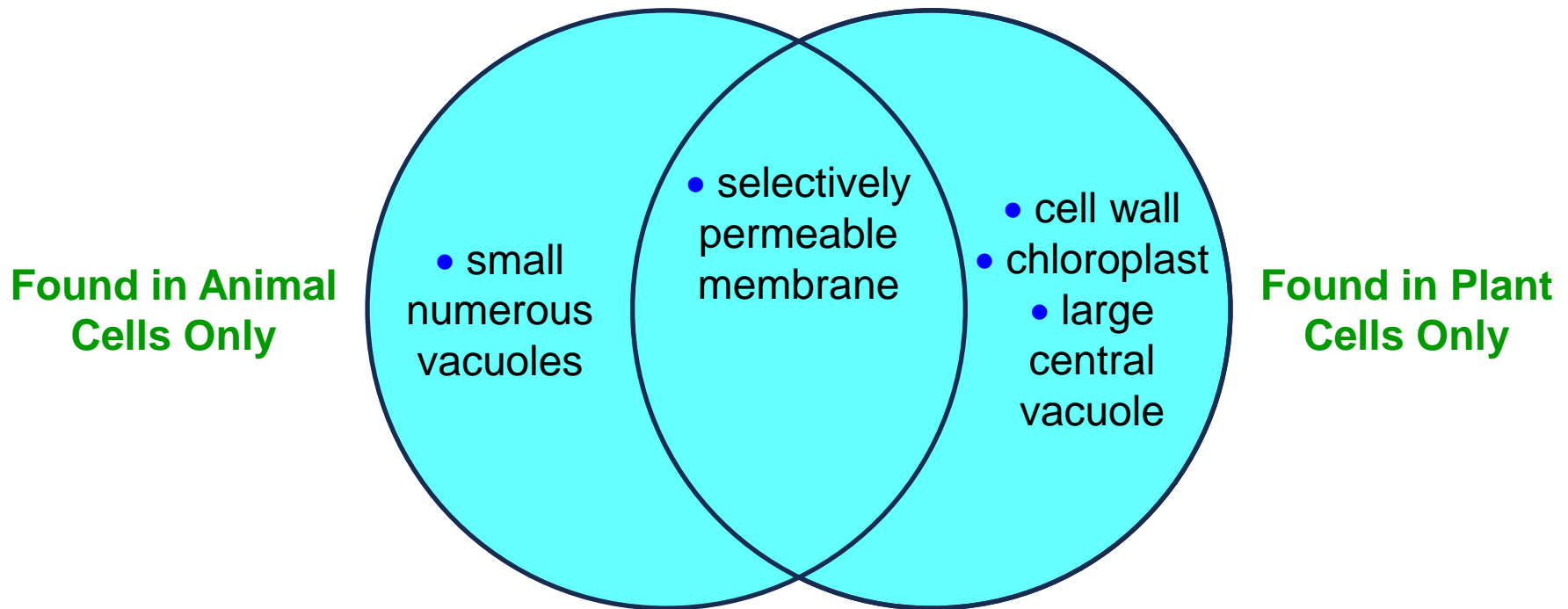
- Plant cells have a cell wall and a cell membrane, but animal cells only have a cell membrane. The cell wall provides the plant cell with strength, shape and rigidity, thereby contributing to the overall rigidity of the plant, helping to keep it upright.

Compare and Contrast Animal Cells and Plant Cells



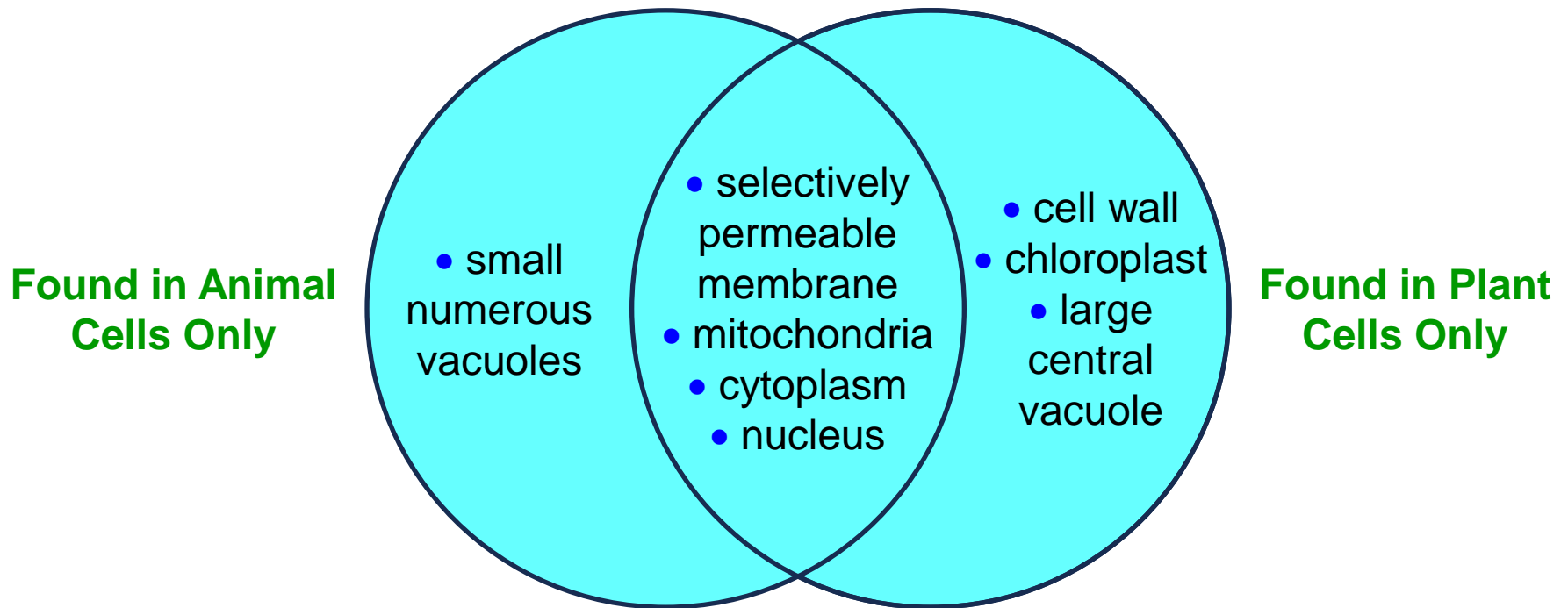
- Plant cells have chloroplasts, but not animal cells. Plants do not get their sugar (glucose) molecules from eating, unlike animals. To produce sugar molecules used in cellular respiration by the mitochondria to release energy, plants need chloroplasts to trap sunlight through the process of photosynthesis.

Compare and Contrast Animal Cells and Plant Cells



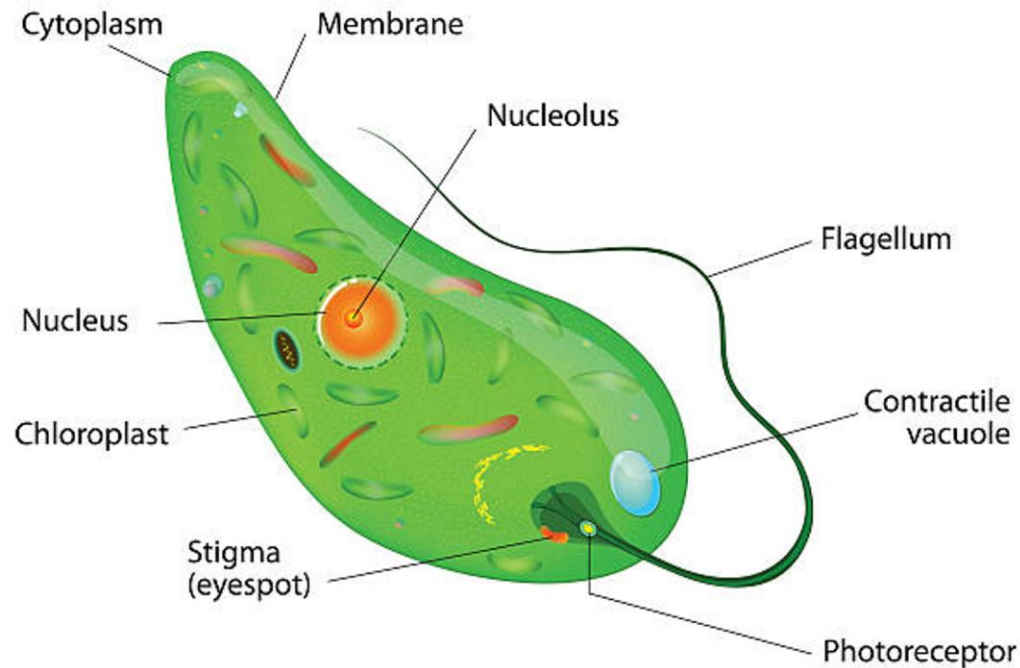
- Plant cells have a large permanent central vacuole, whereas animal cells have numerous small vacuoles. Its primary role is to maintain pressure against the inside of the cell wall, giving the cell shape and helping to support the plant.

Compare and Contrast Animal Cells and Plant Cells



- Animal cells and plant cells both have mitochondria (release energy), cytoplasm (location of cellular activities) and a nucleus (control cellular activities).

Based on your understanding of typical animal and plant cells, study the unicellular organism shown in the diagram below:



Do you think the organism is an animal cell or a plant cell?
Suggest reasons for your answer.

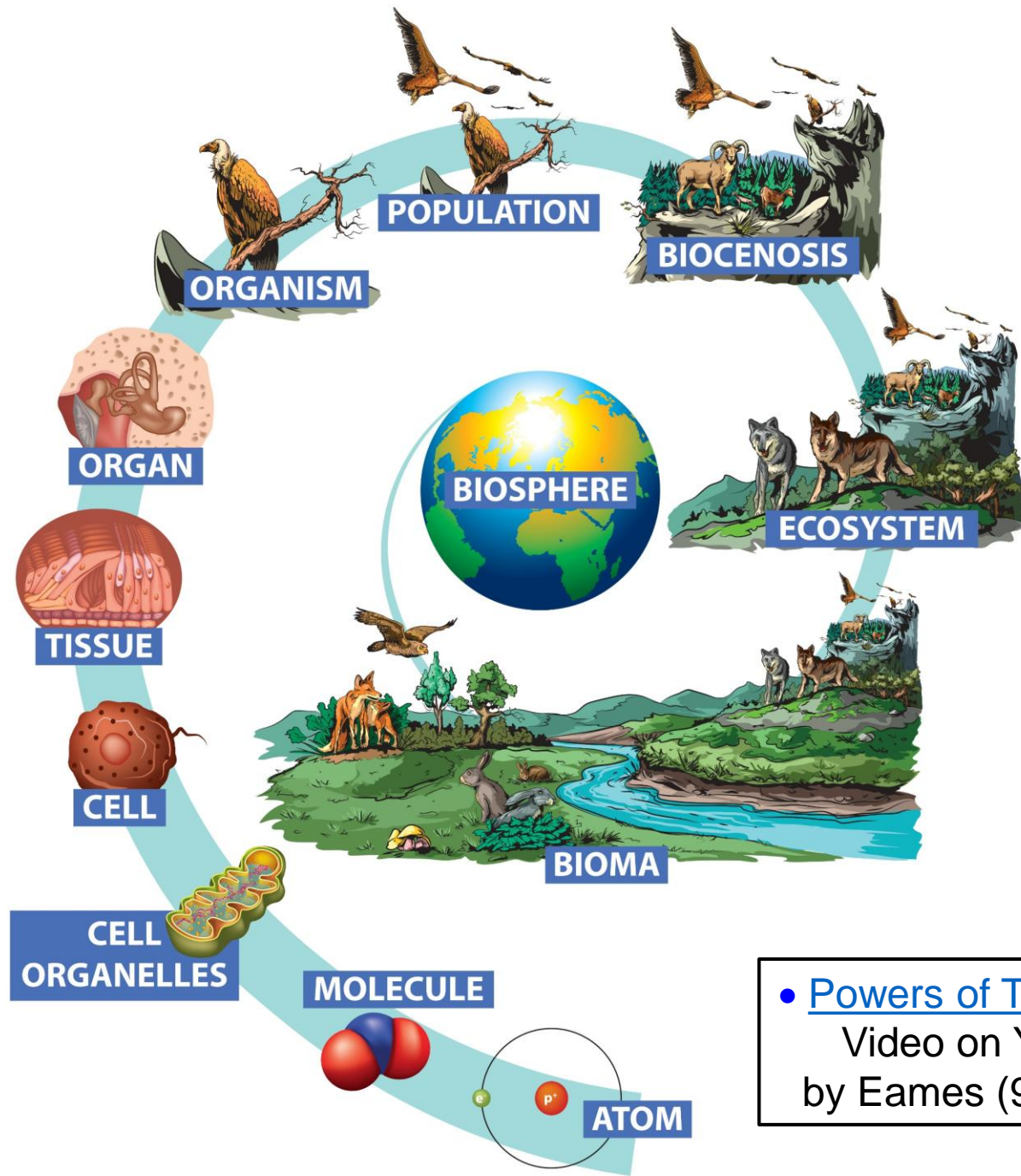
Answer

- The organism is neither an animal cell nor a plant cell.
- It has parts that can only be found in plant cells such as chloroplast and a single large (contractile) vacuole.
- However, it does not have a cell wall. Hence, it cannot be classified as a plant cell.
 - The organism shown is a **Euglena**.



- The organism shown is a **Euglena**.

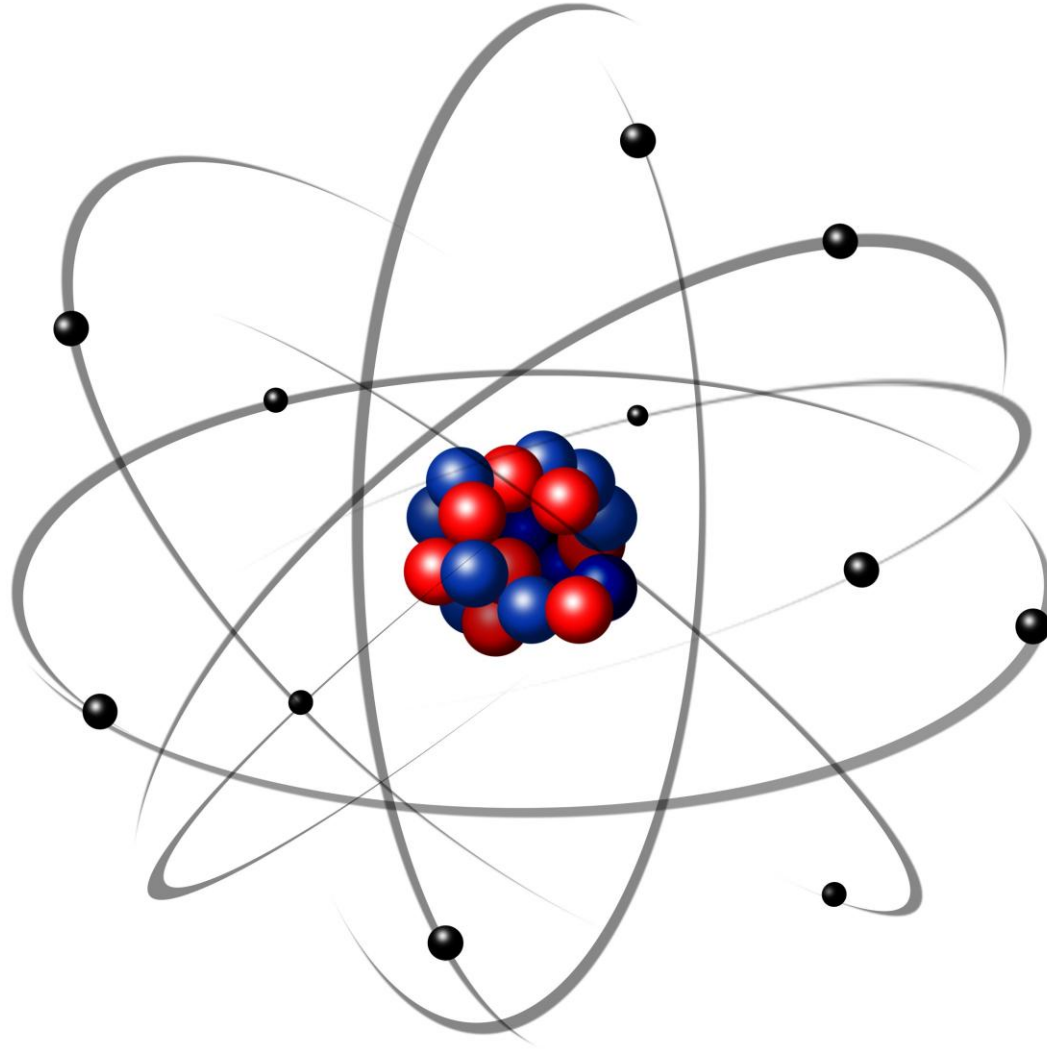
- How are cells organised to form organisms?



• [Powers of Ten™ \(1977\)](#)
Video on YouTube
by Eames (9 minutes).

- Atoms

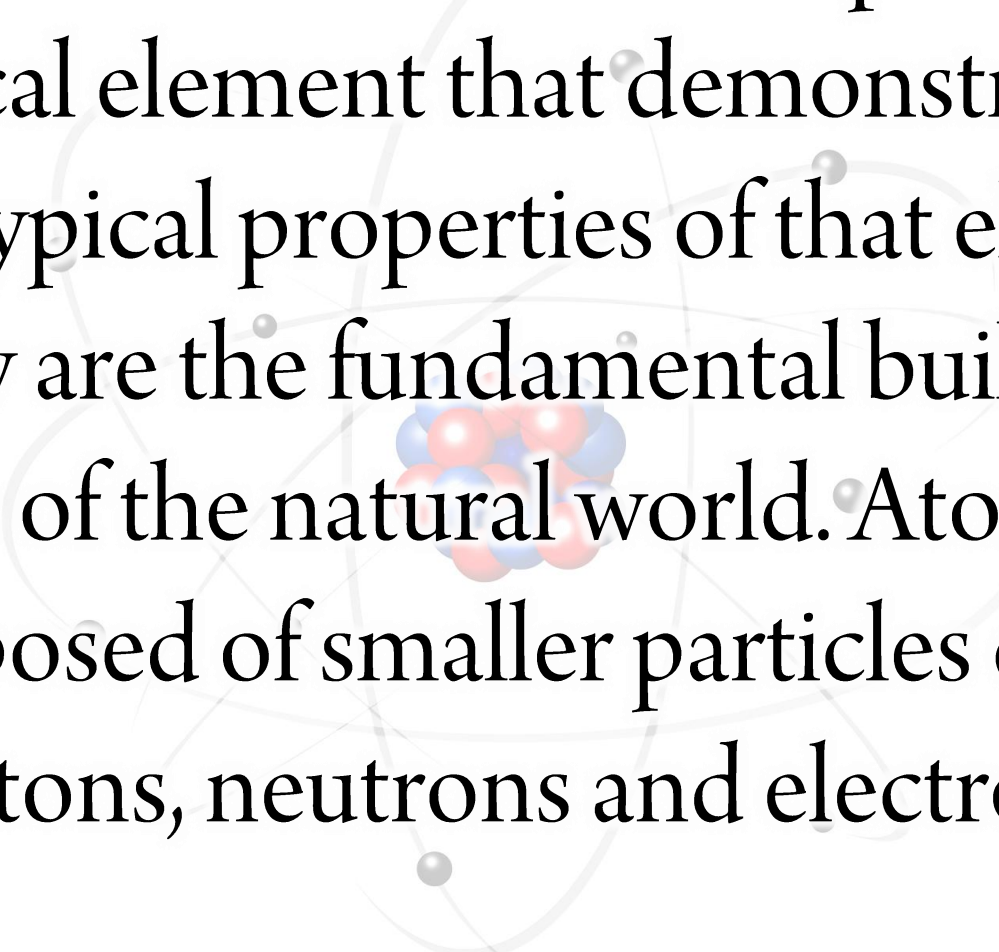
● Atoms



● Atoms

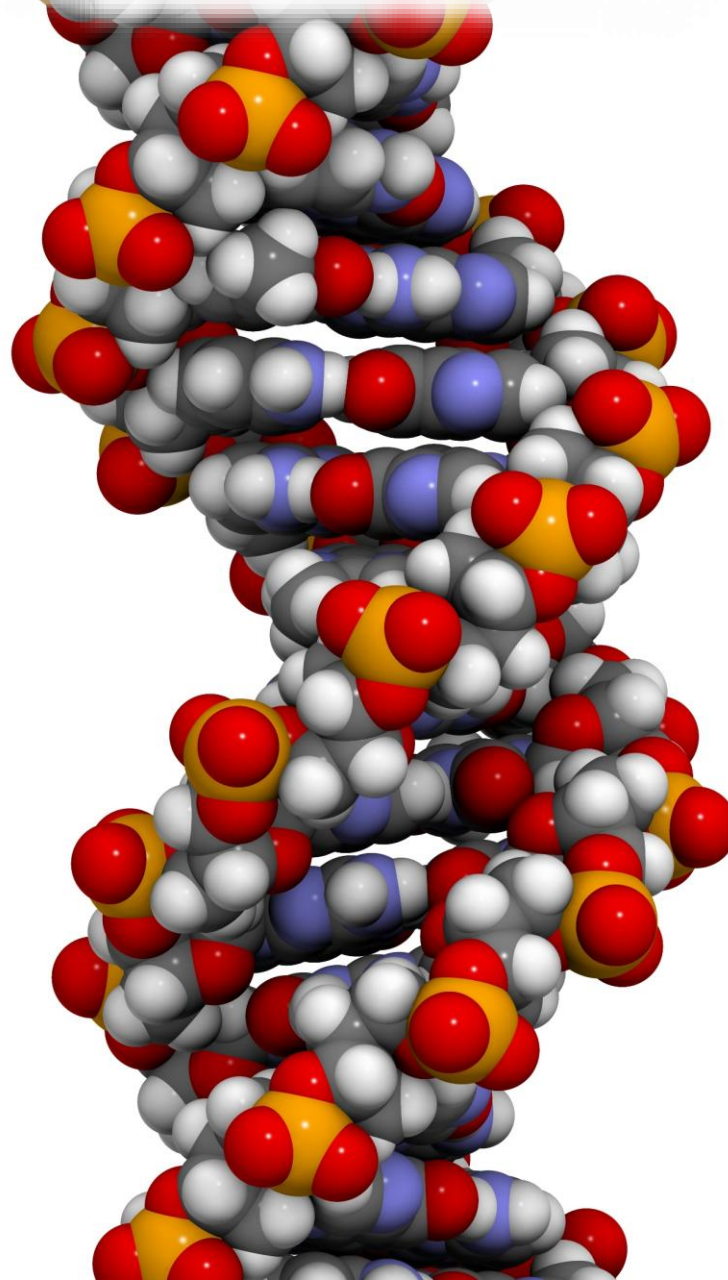
- An **atom** is the smallest part of a chemical element that demonstrates all of the typical properties of that element.

They are the fundamental building blocks of the natural world. Atoms are composed of smaller particles called protons, neutrons and electrons.



- Molecules

● Molecules



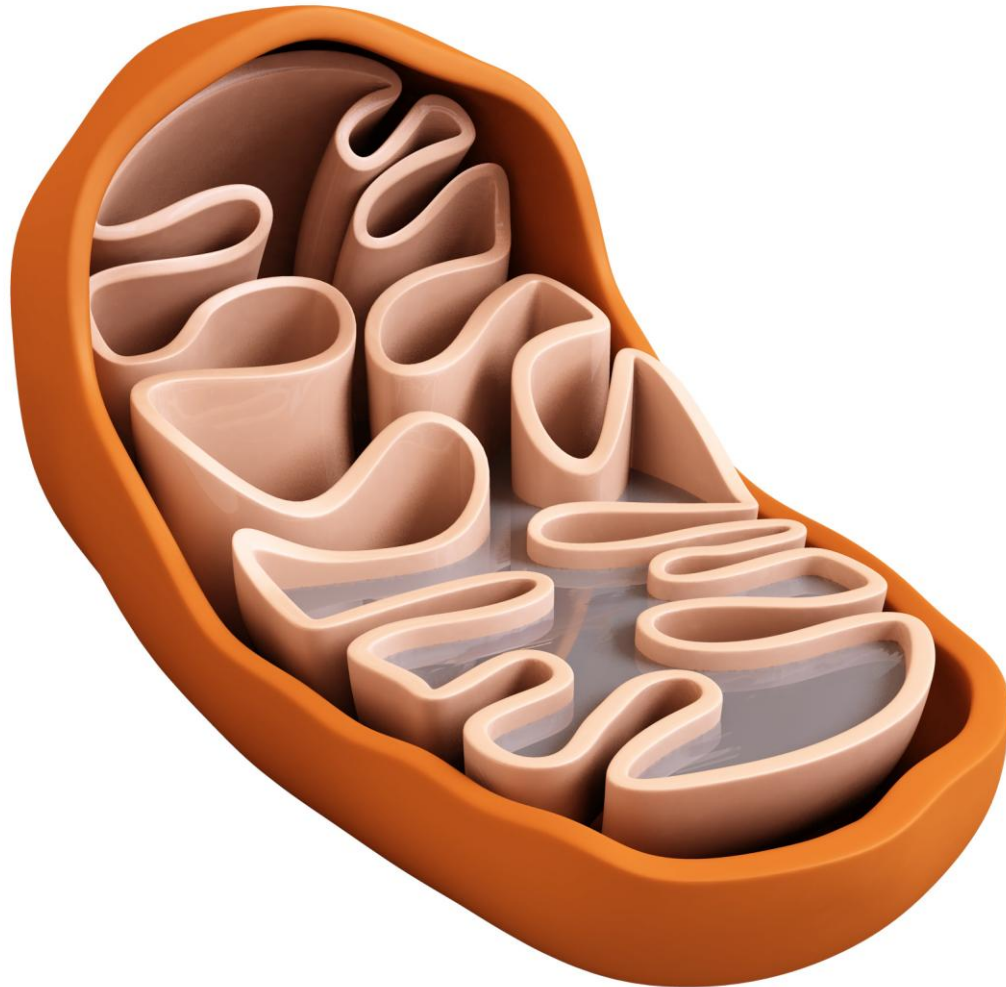


- # Molecules

- A **molecule** is a group of two or more atoms that are chemically bonded together. Simple molecules include molecules of water, H_2O , and molecules of carbon dioxide, CO_2 . Molecules that are much more complex include **deoxyribonucleic acid – DNA** (shown).

- Organelles

- Organelles



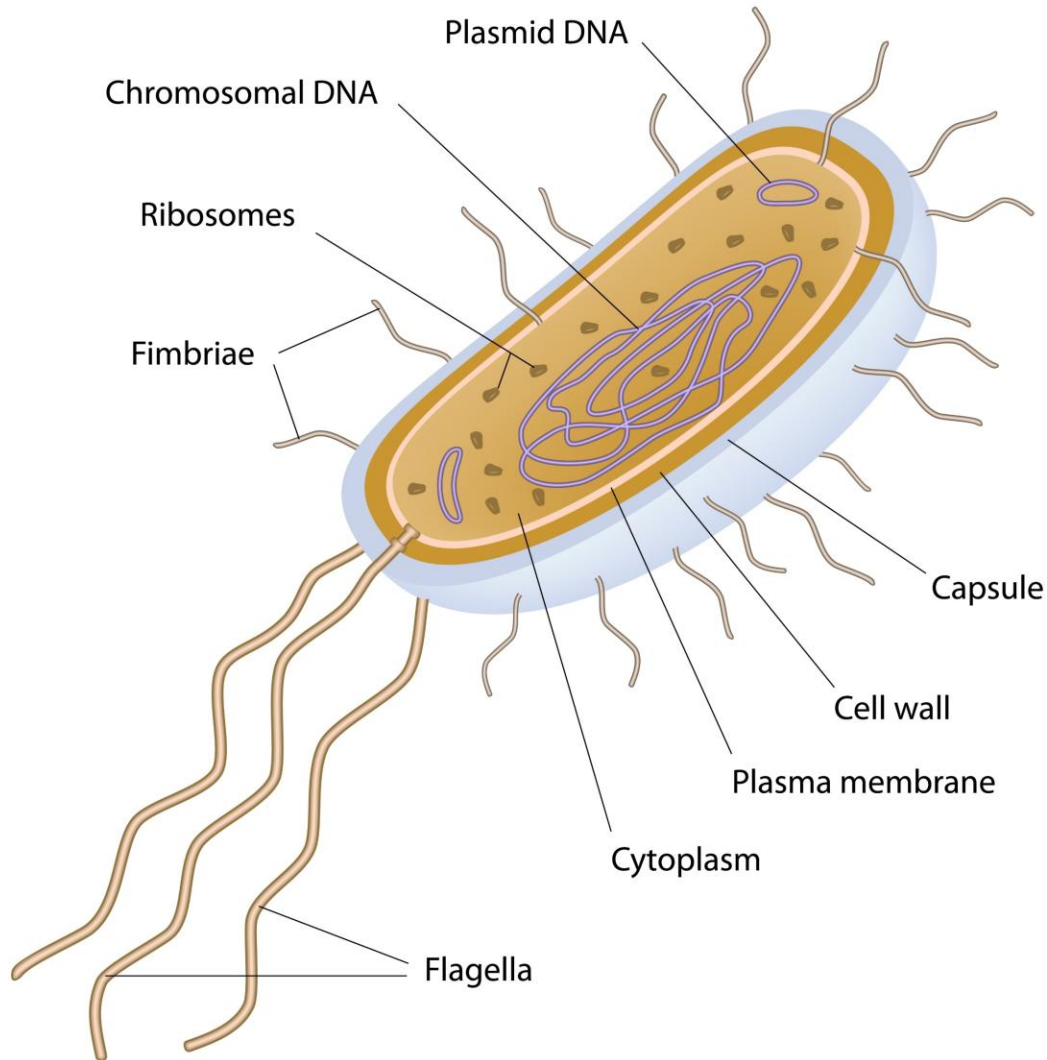
● Organelles

- Complex molecules, such as proteins and fatty acids, are arranged together to form **organelles**. Organelles are tiny cellular structures that are embedded within the cytoplasm of the cell. Organelles perform specific functions within the cell. For example, **mitochondria** (shown) release energy.

- Cells

● Cells

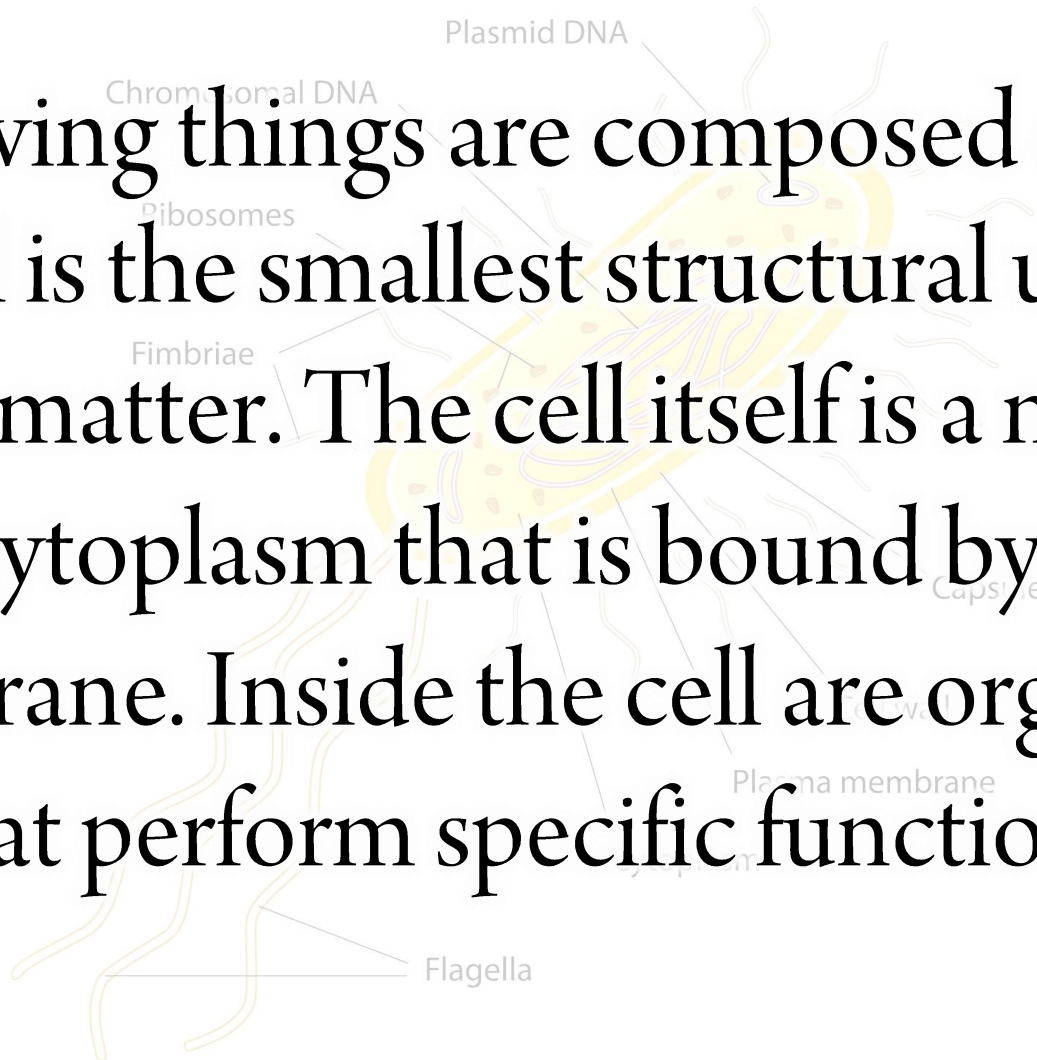
Bacteria – Unicellular – Prokaryotic



● Cells

Bacteria – Unicellular – Prokaryotic

- All living things are composed of **cells**.
A cell is the smallest structural unit of living matter. The cell itself is a mass of cytoplasm that is bound by a membrane. Inside the cell are organelles that perform specific functions.



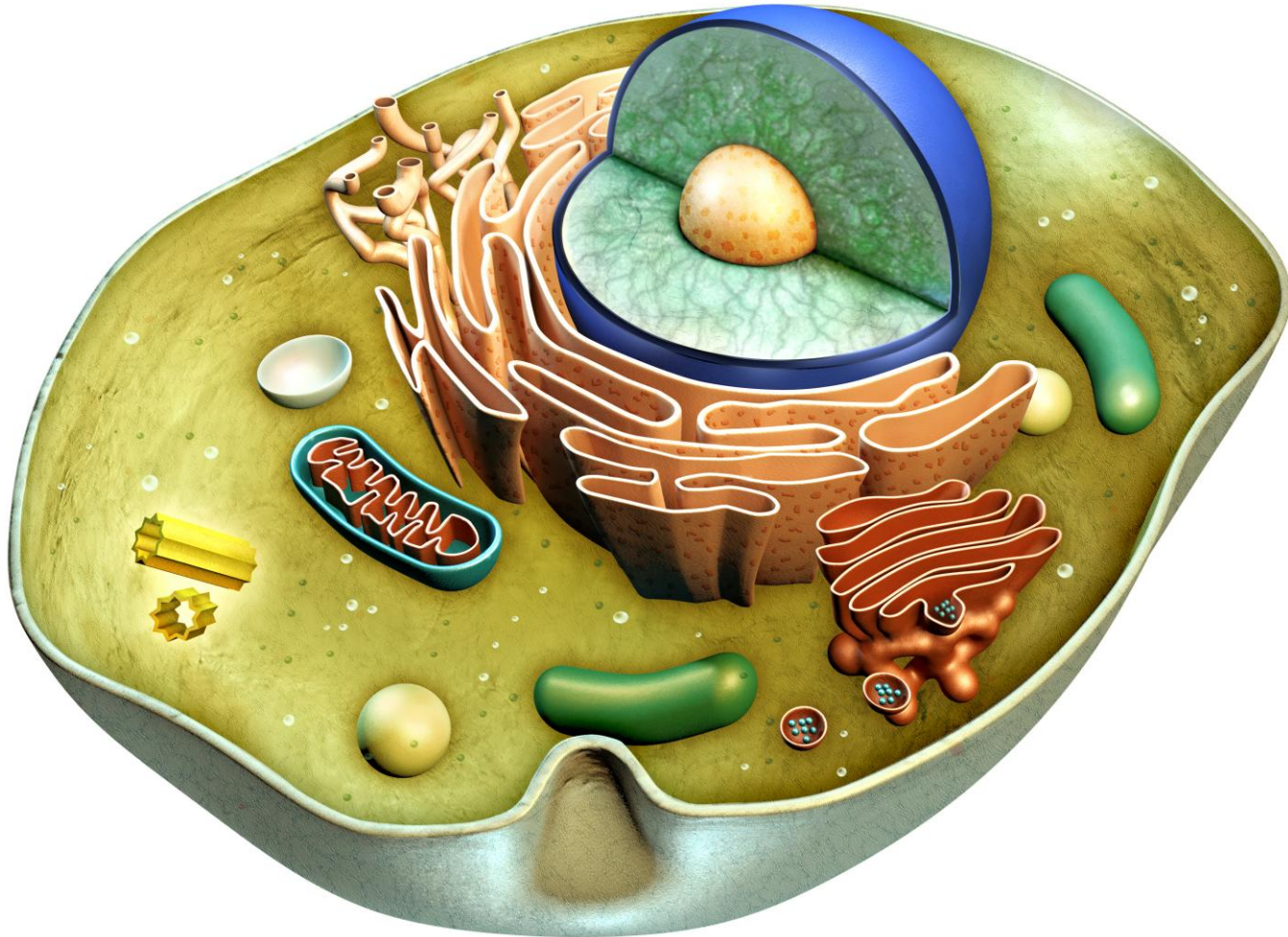
● Cells

Plants – Multicellular – Eukaryotic



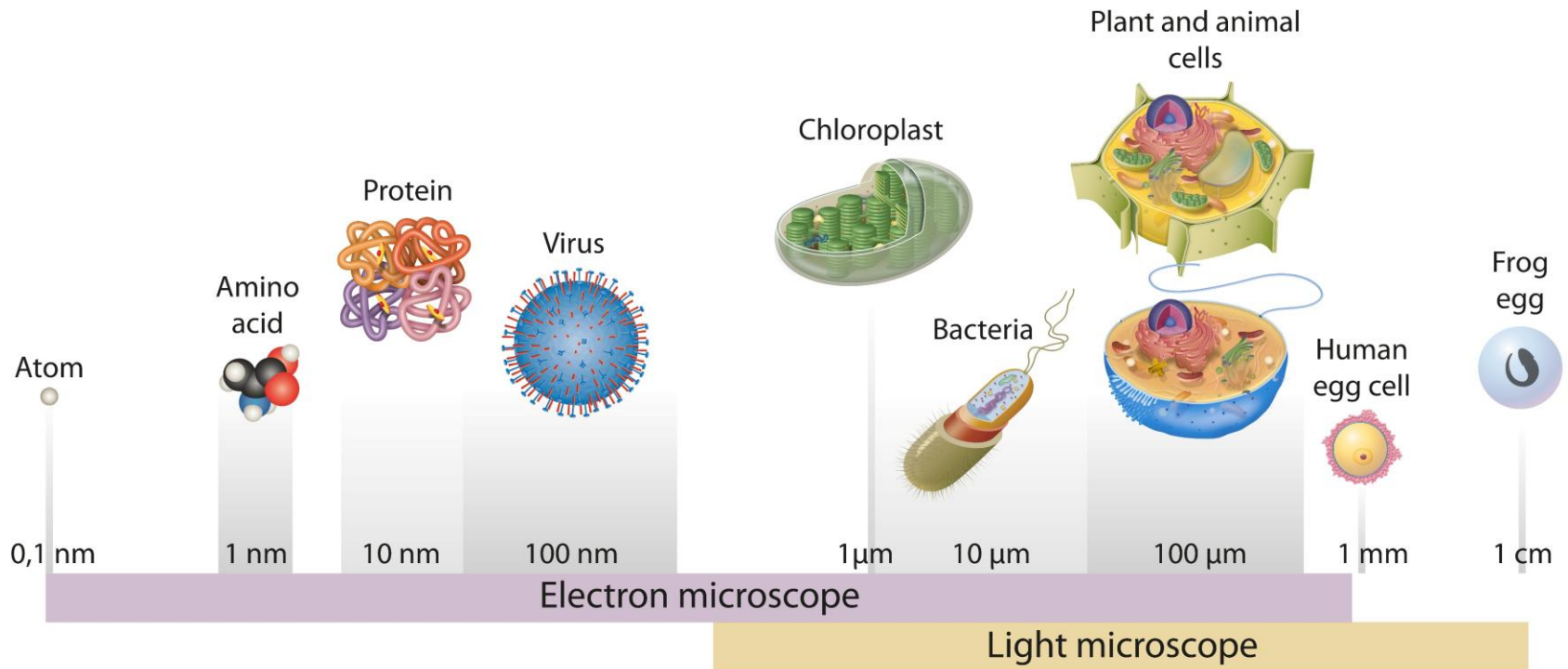
• Cells

Animals – Multicellular – Eukaryotic



● Concept of Scale

→ from single atoms to single cells →



- Tissue

● Tissue



A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white lab coat, is looking through a microscope. The background is a bright, clean laboratory with various pieces of equipment and a computer monitor visible. The overall scene is well-lit and professional.

- Tissue

- A collection of cells with similar structures that are grouped together to perform a shared function is called a **tissue.**

● Tissue



A scientist in a white lab coat is looking at a microscope in a laboratory setting. The background is slightly blurred, showing various lab equipment and a clean, professional environment.

● Tissue

- **Simple tissues** are made up of cells of the same kind, for example, muscle tissue.



● Tissue

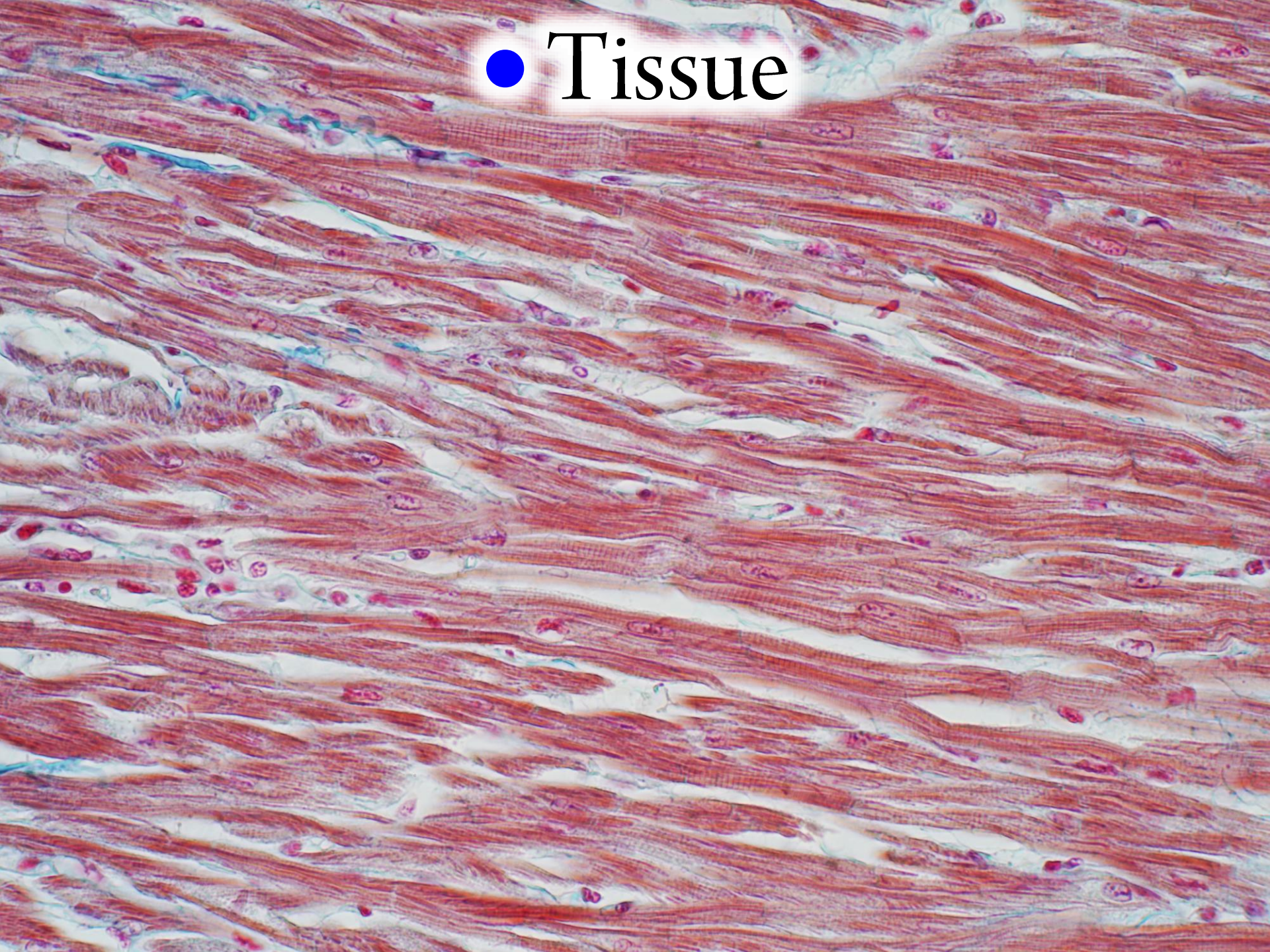
- **Simple tissues** are made up of cells of the same kind, for example, muscle tissue.
- **Complex tissues** are made-up of more than one type of cell, for example, blood consists of red blood cells (**erythrocytes**), white blood cells (**leucocytes**) and platelets.



● Tissue

● Heart Muscle Tissue

● Tissue

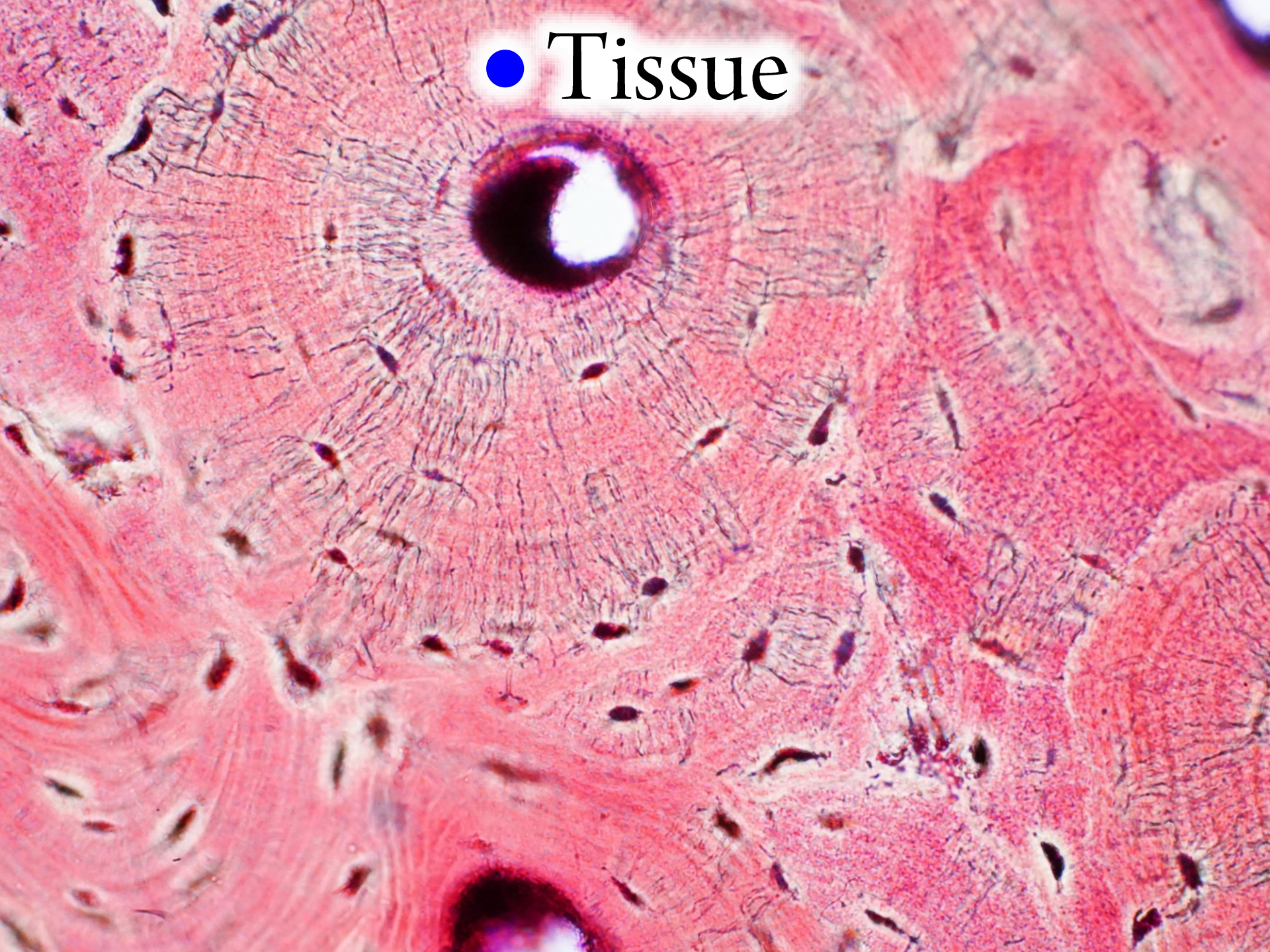


A microscopic image of bone tissue, showing several osteons. Each osteon is a circular structure with a central canal. The tissue is stained pink and purple, highlighting the cellular structure and the arrangement of the osteons.

- Tissue

- Bone Tissue

● Tissue

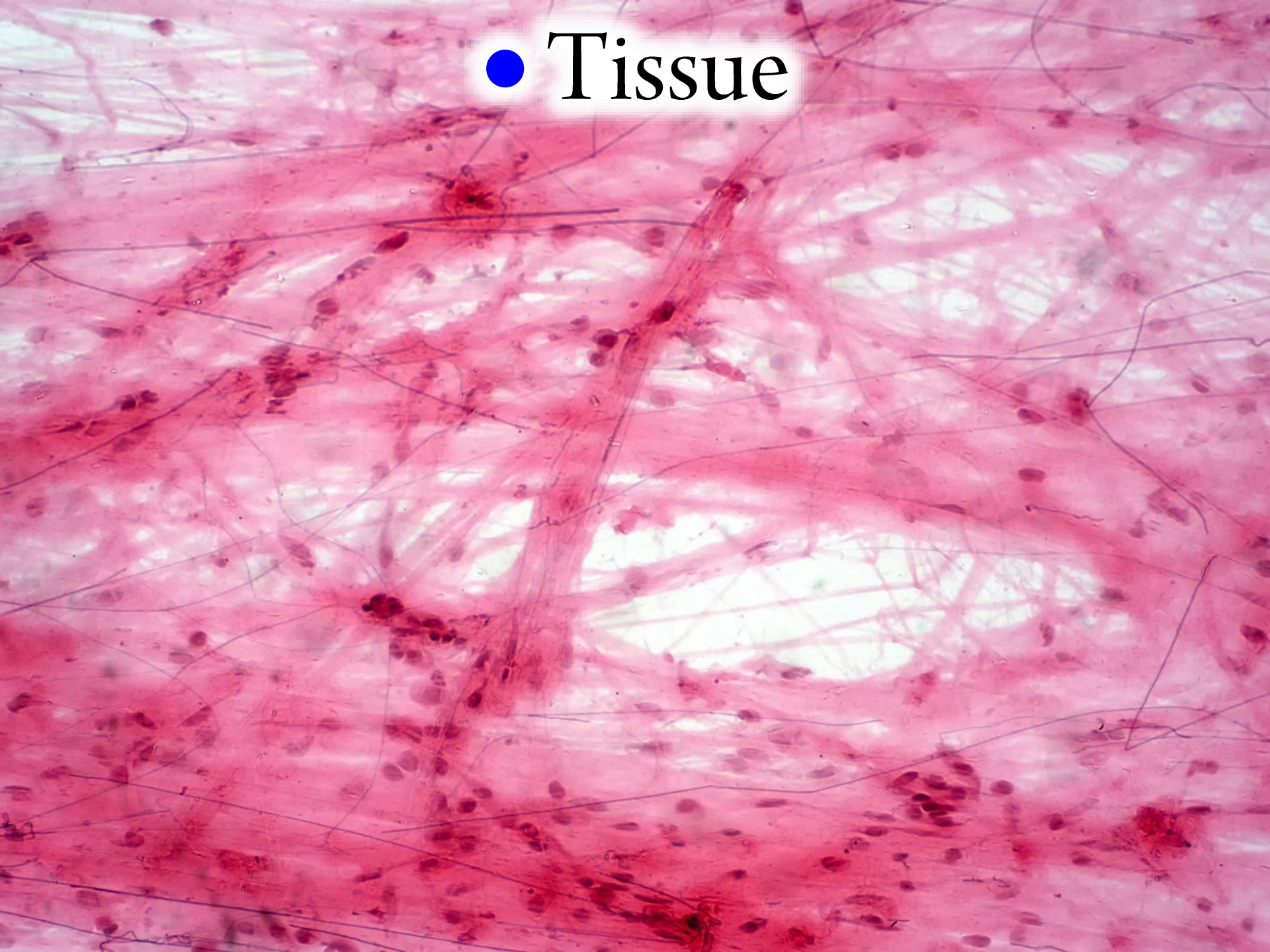


The background of the slide is a microscopic image of connective tissue, showing a network of pink-stained fibers and scattered cells. The fibers are thin and wavy, creating a mesh-like structure. The cells are small and dark, interspersed among the fibers.

- Tissue

- Connective Tissue

● Tissue

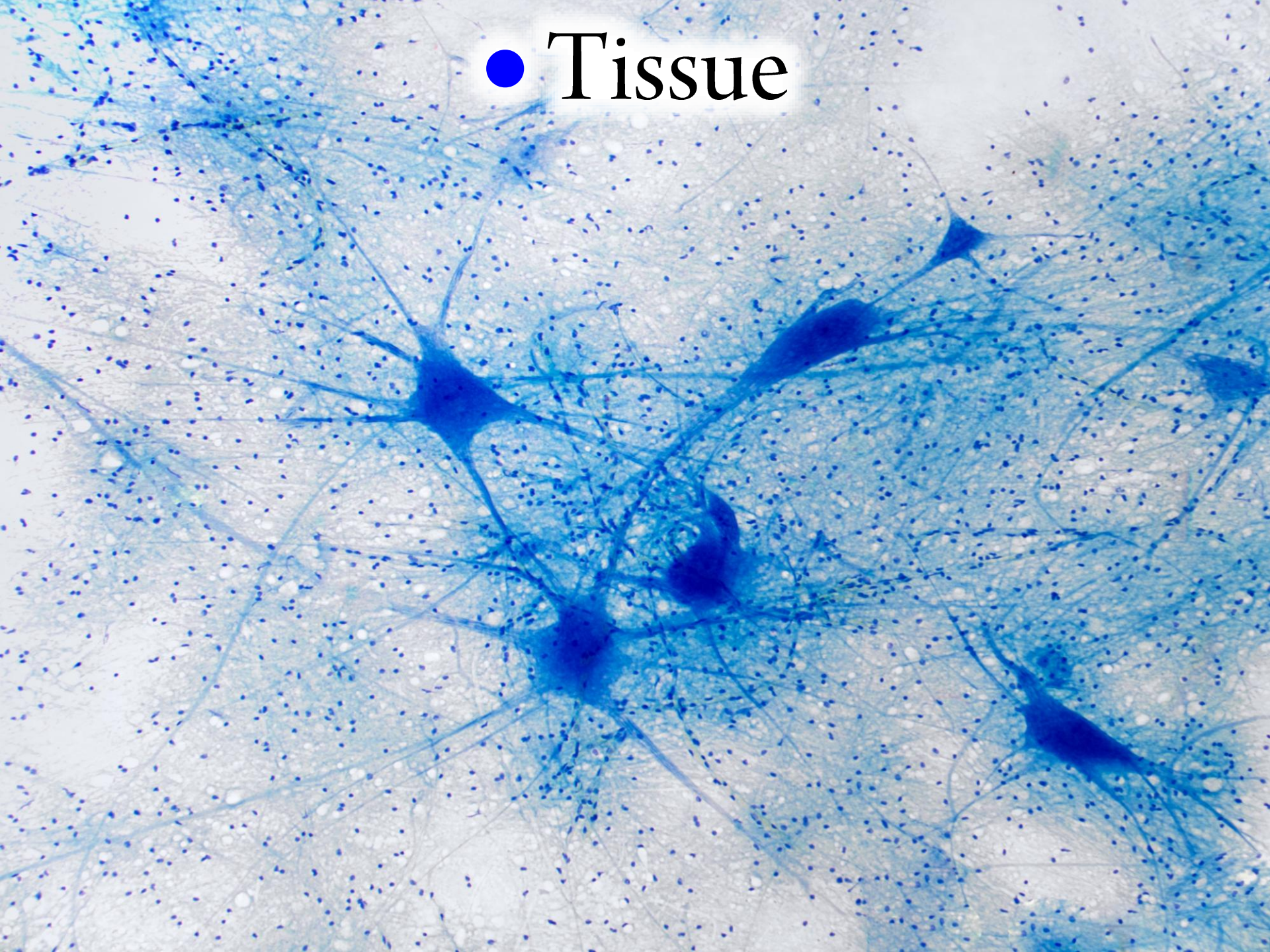


A microscopic image of neural tissue, showing several large, multipolar neurons with prominent cell bodies and numerous fine, radiating processes. The neurons are stained in shades of blue and purple, set against a lighter, fibrous background.

- Tissue

- Neural Tissue

● Tissue

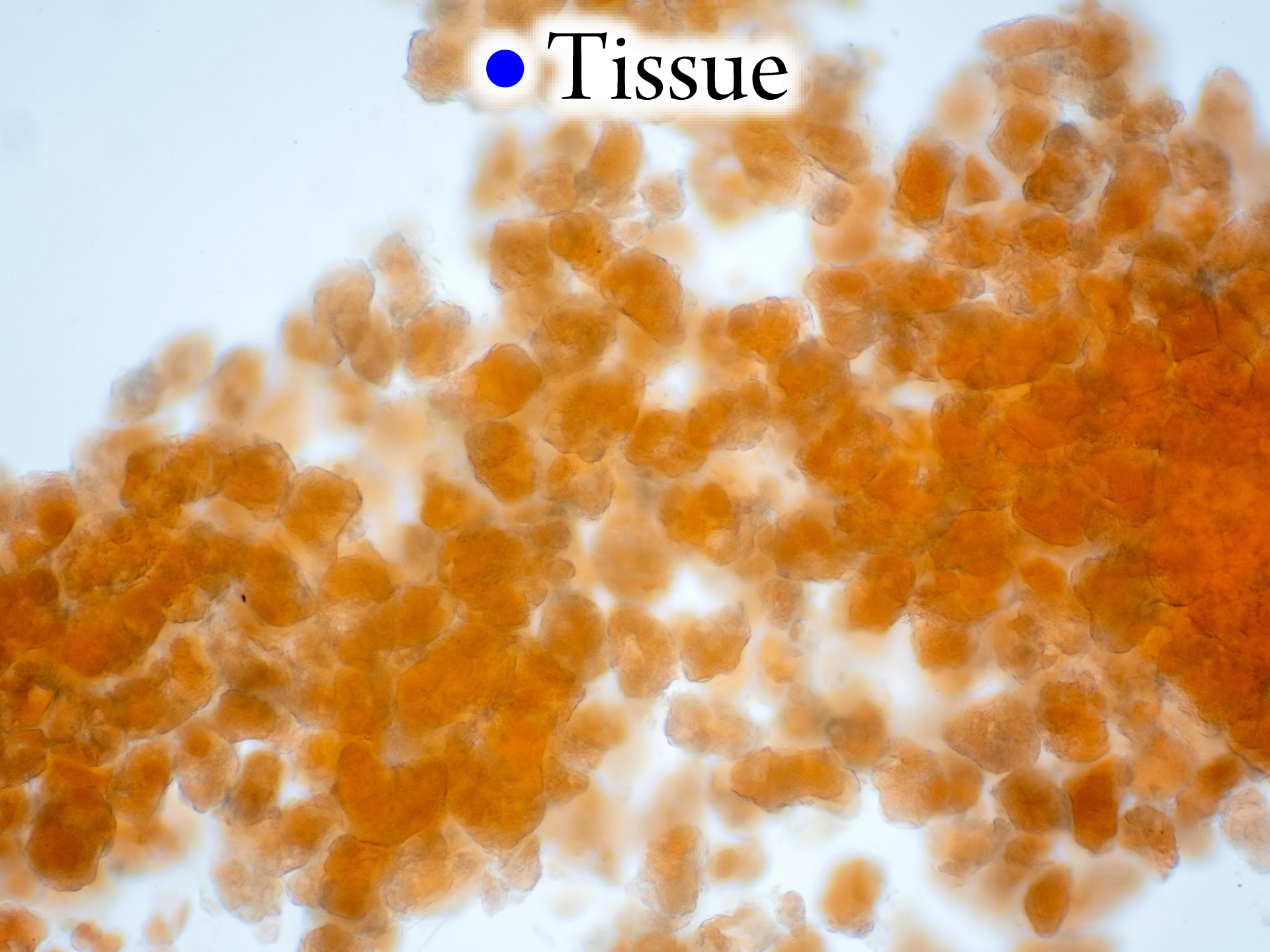


A microscopic image of adipose tissue, showing numerous large, clear, rounded cells (adipocytes) with thin, pink-stained cell walls. The cells are arranged in a honeycomb-like pattern. The background is a light, warm tone.

- Tissue

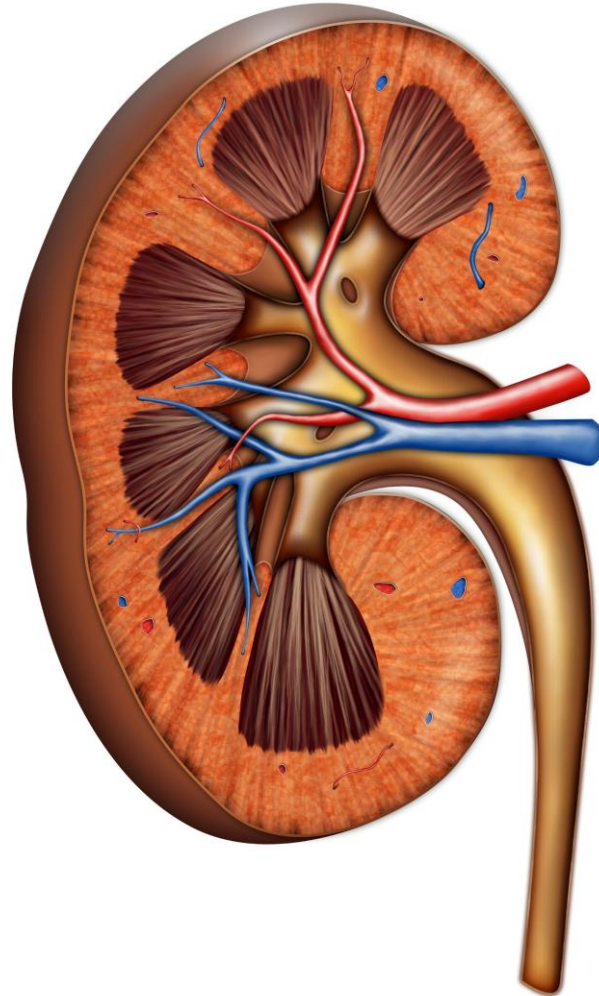
- Adipose Tissue

● Tissue



- Organs

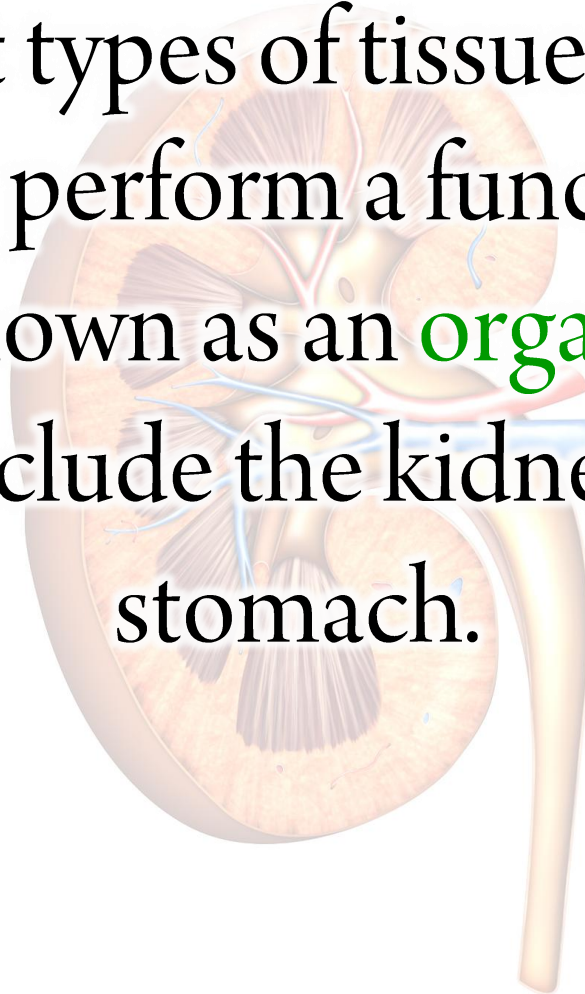
- Organs
Kidney



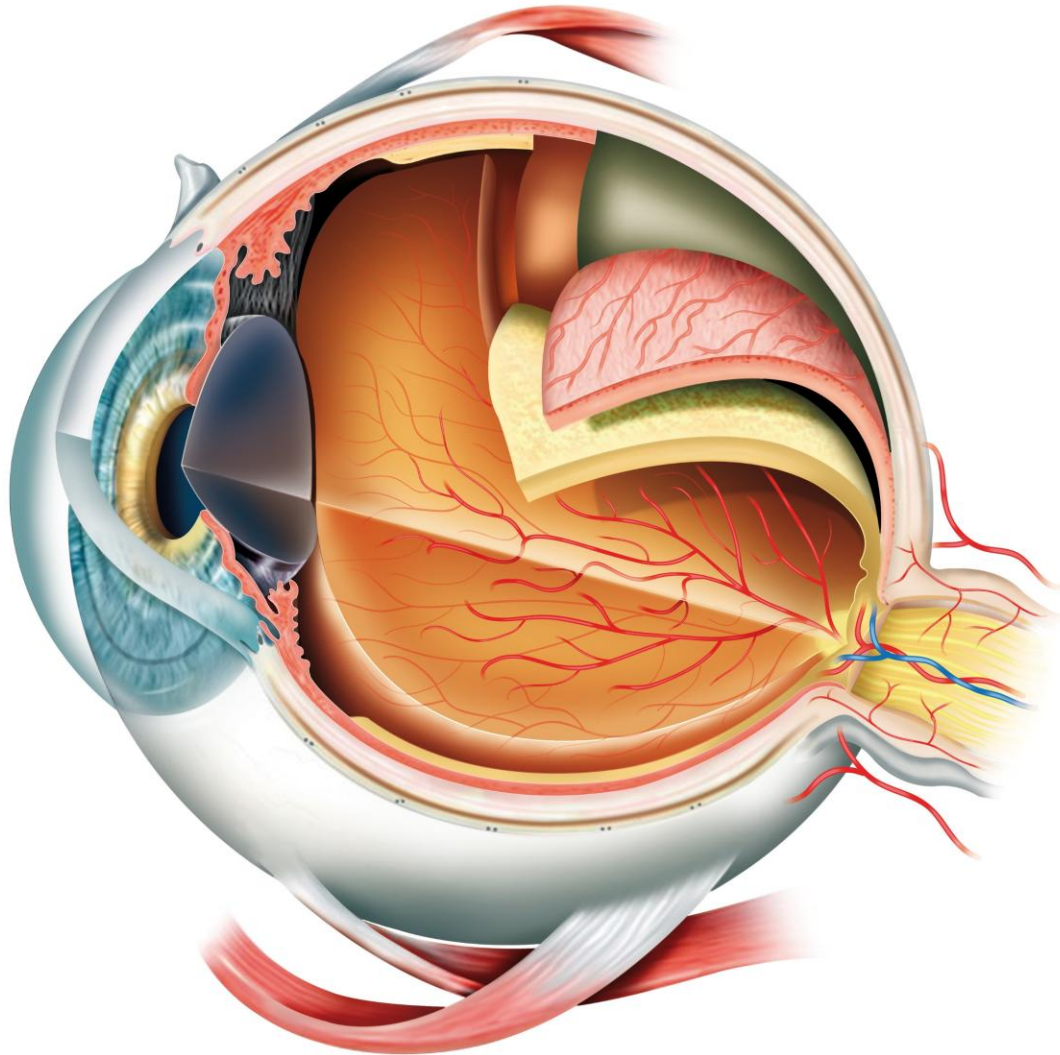
- # Organs

Kidney

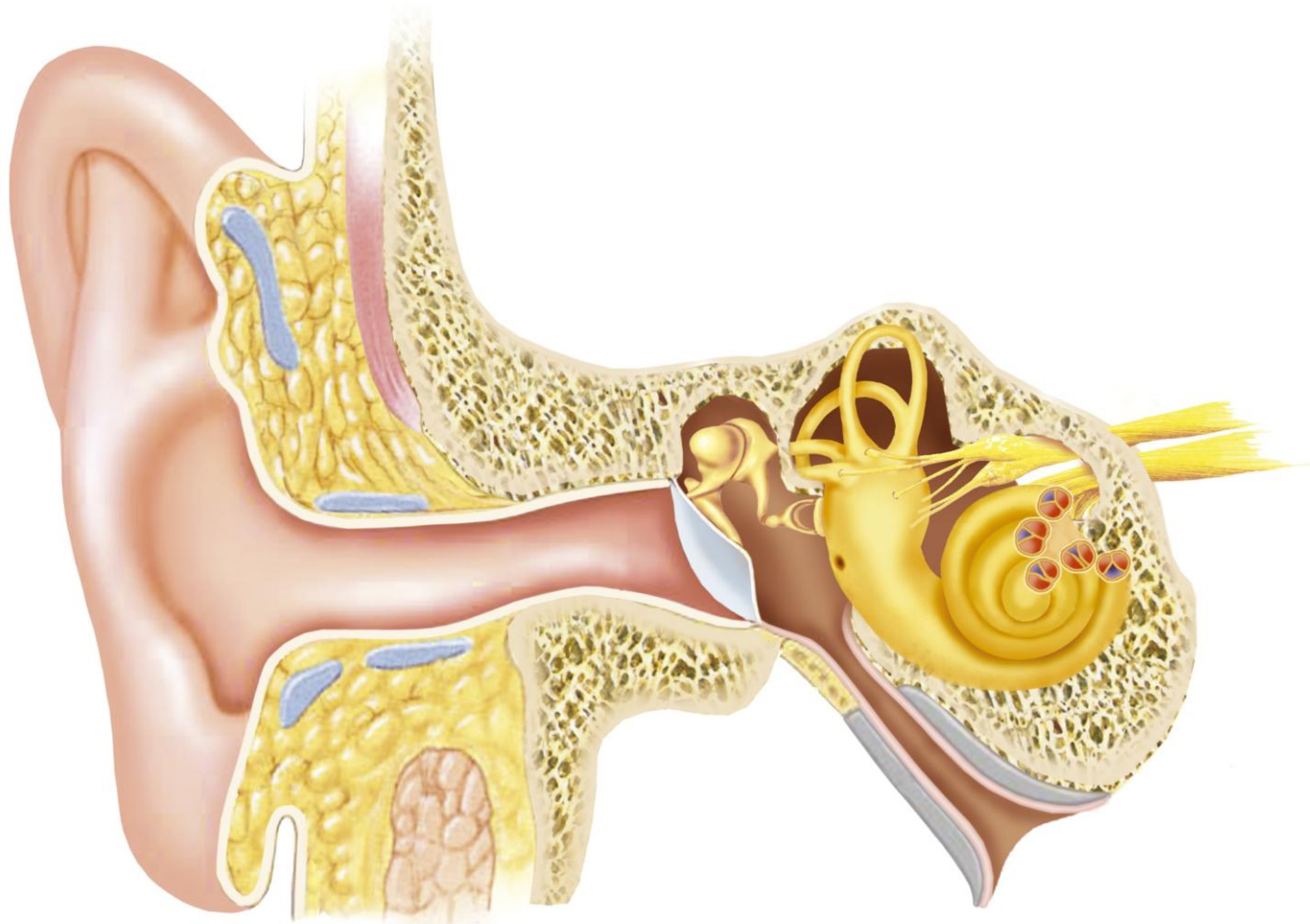
- Different types of tissues that work together to perform a function form a structure known as an **organ**. Examples of organs include the kidney, heart and stomach.



- Organs
Eye



- Organs
Ear



A cartoon illustration of a woman's face from the nose up. She has brown hair, large brown eyes, and pink lips. She is holding a magnifying glass over her right eye. The background is a light blue gradient.

What is the largest organ in
the human body?

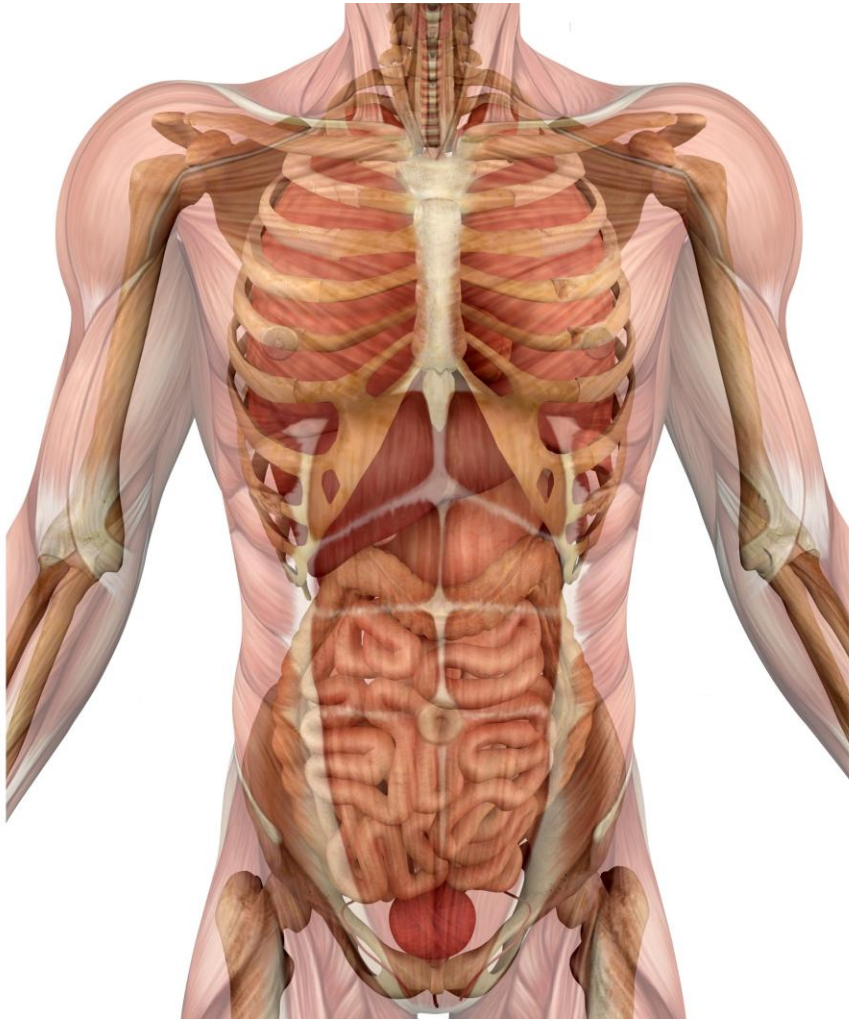


the
skin

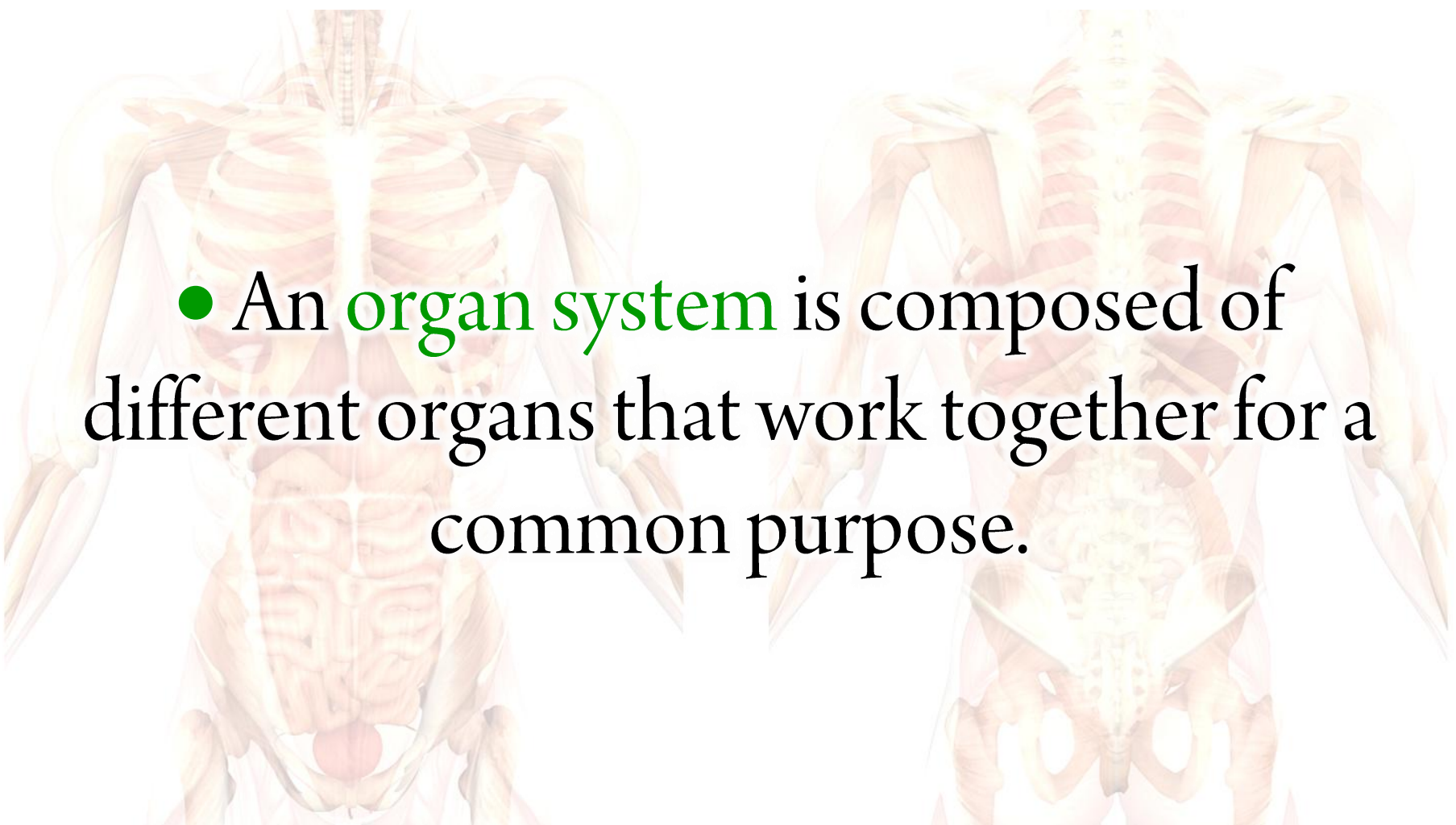
What is the largest organ in
the human body?

- Organ Systems

- Organ Systems in the Human Body

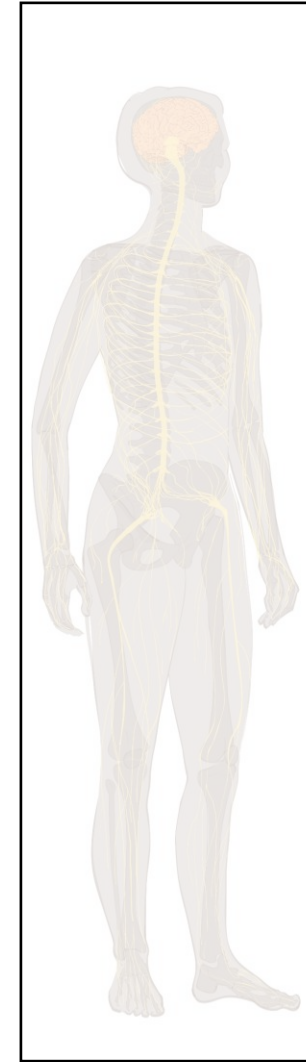
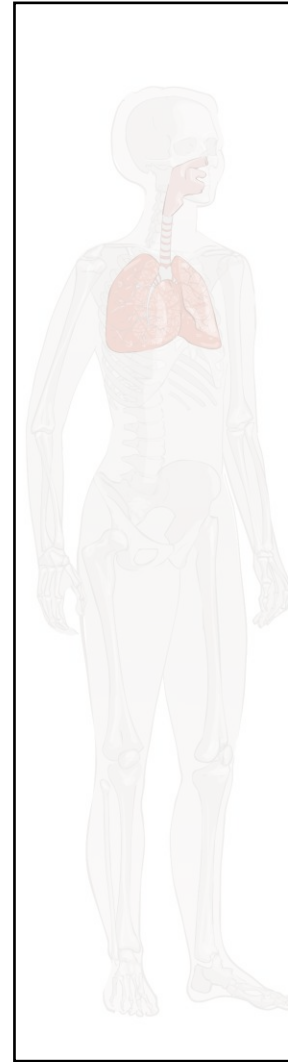
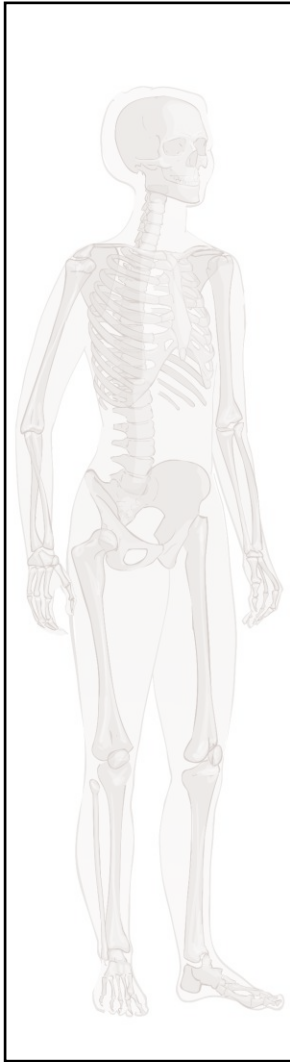
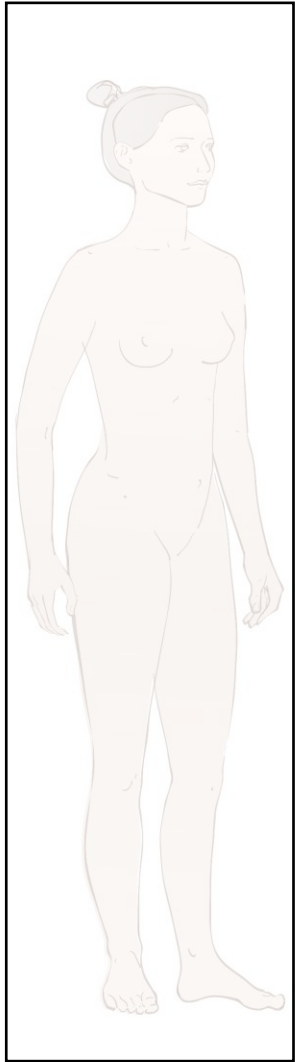


- Organ Systems in the Human Body

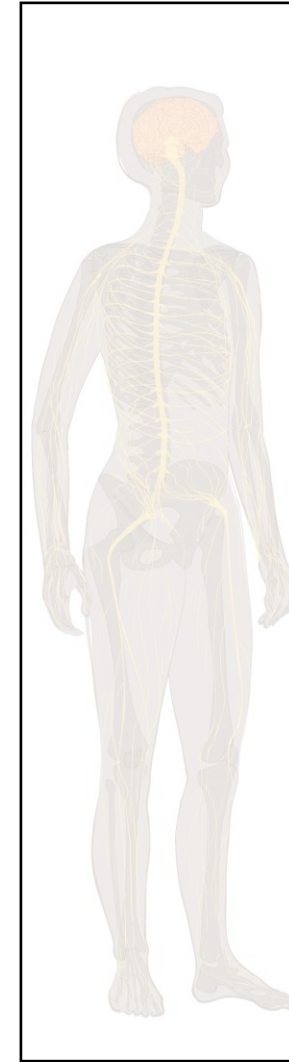
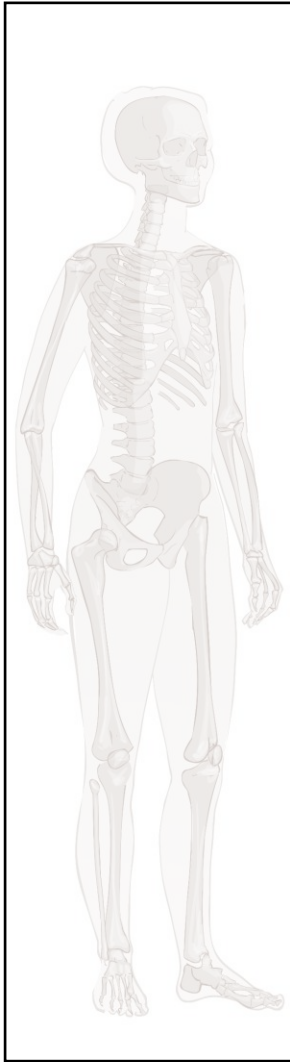
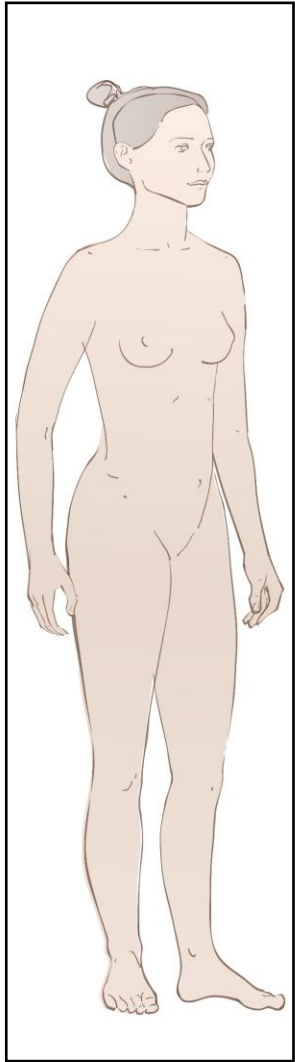


- An **organ system** is composed of different organs that work together for a common purpose.

● Organ Systems in the Human Body

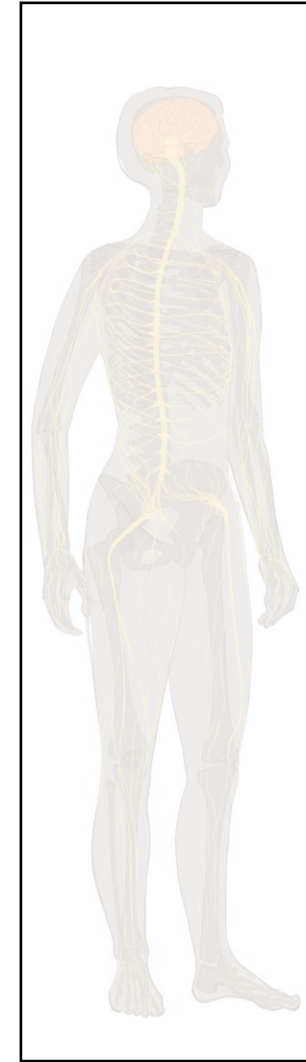
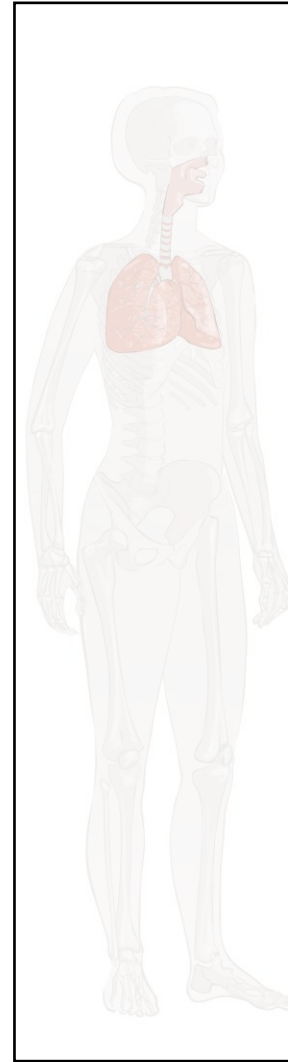
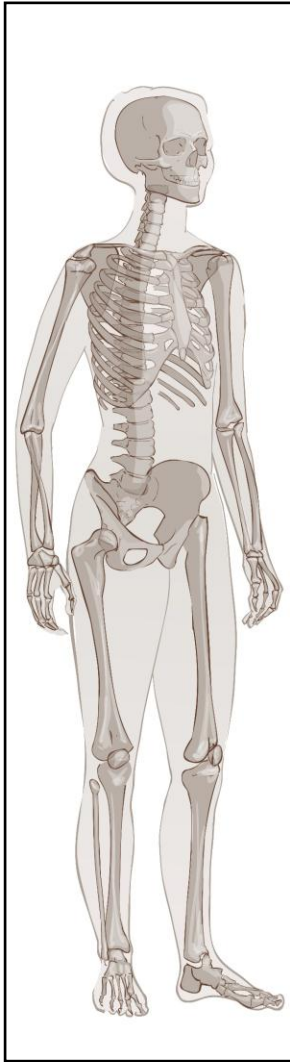
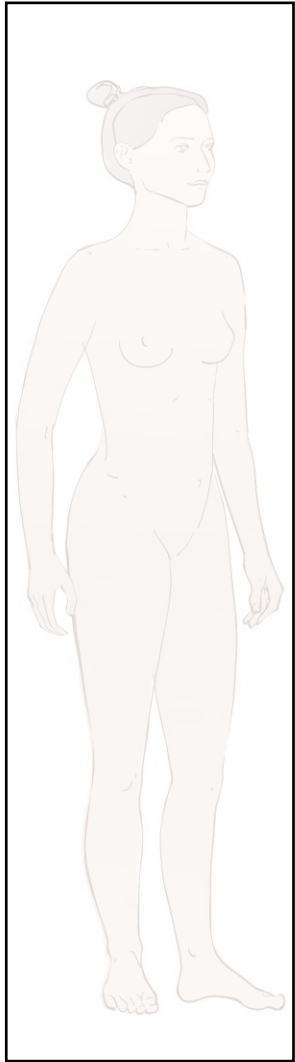


● Organ Systems in the Human Body



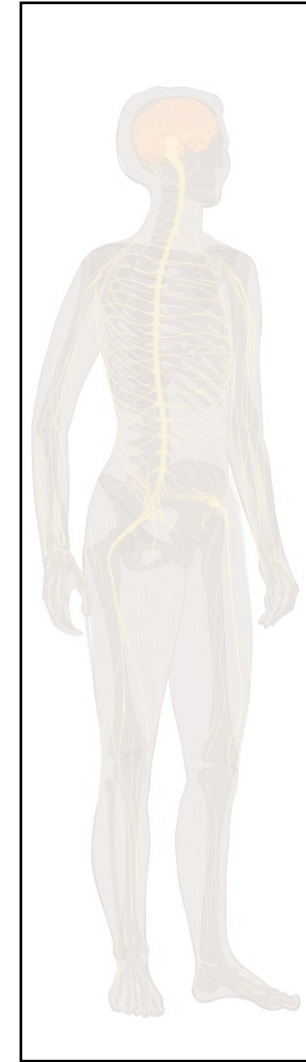
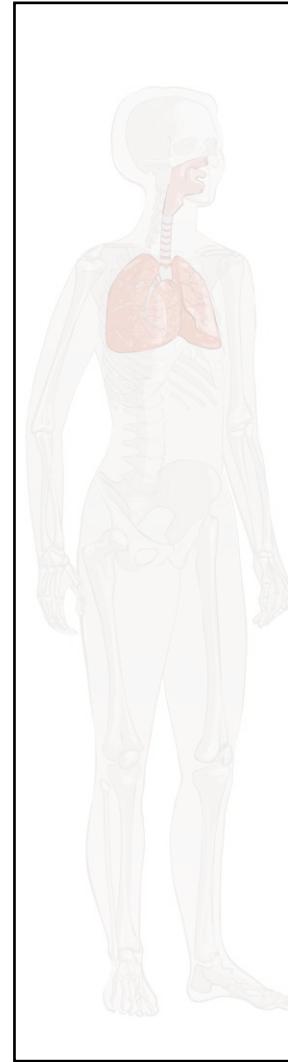
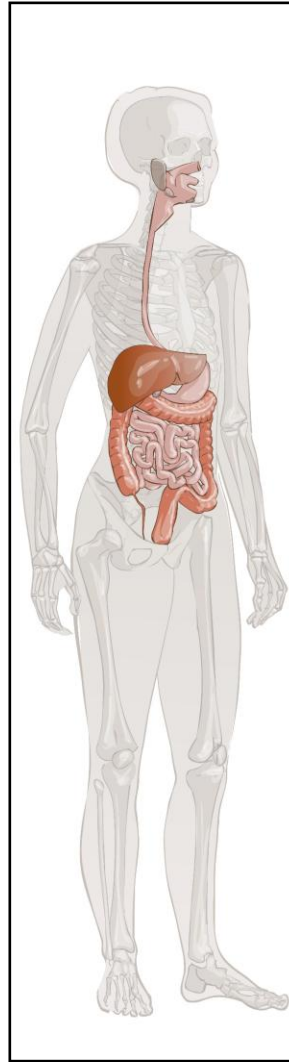
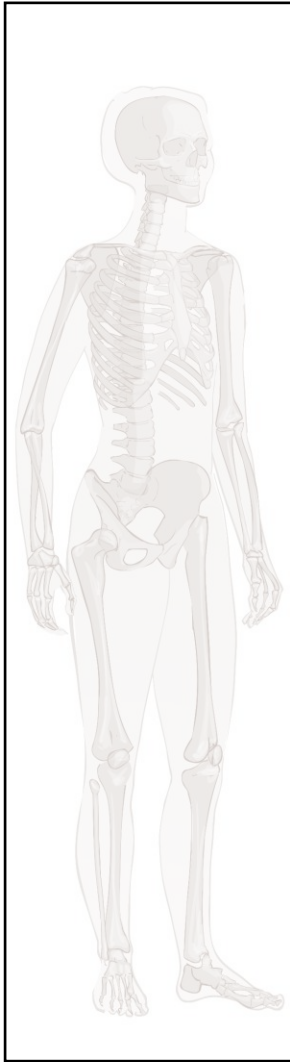
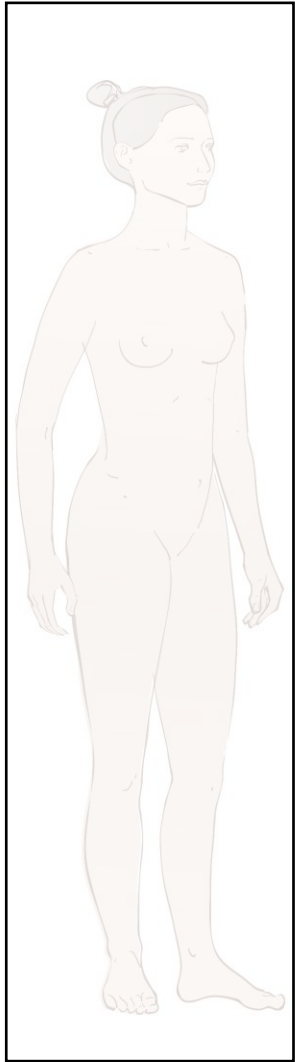
● Human Body

● Organ Systems in the Human Body



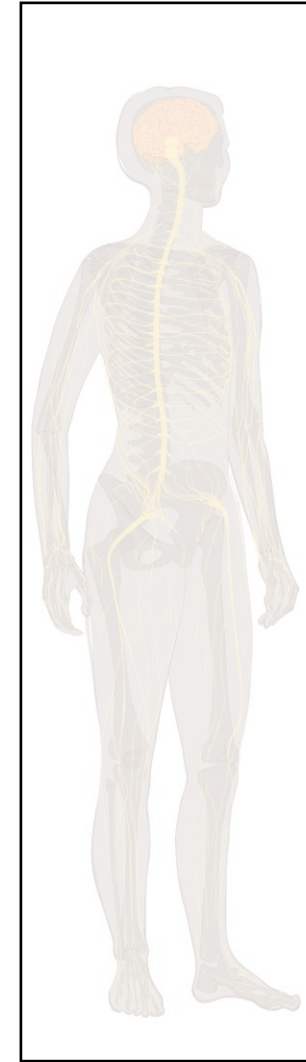
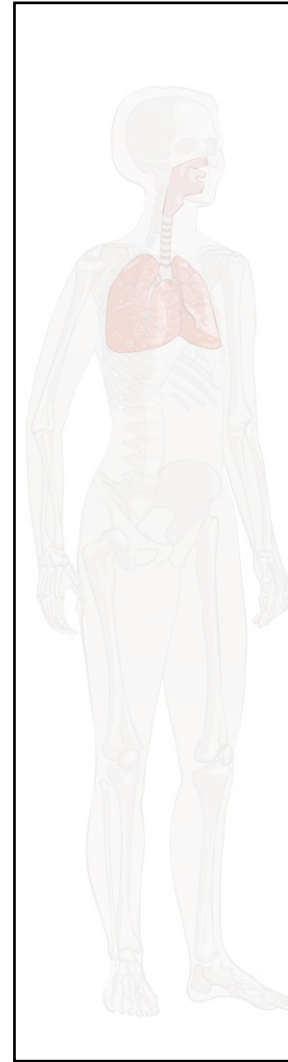
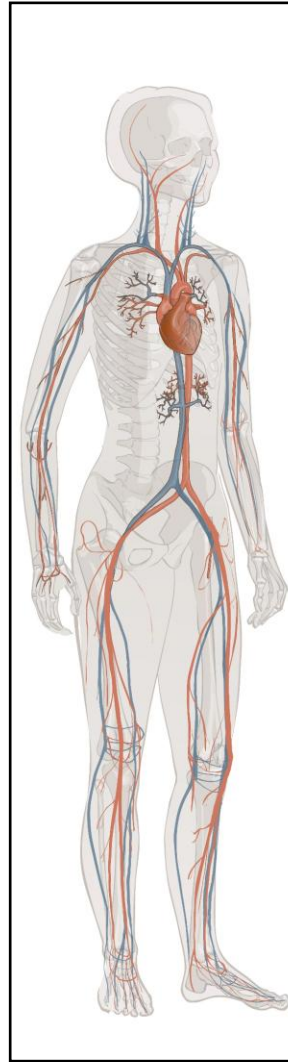
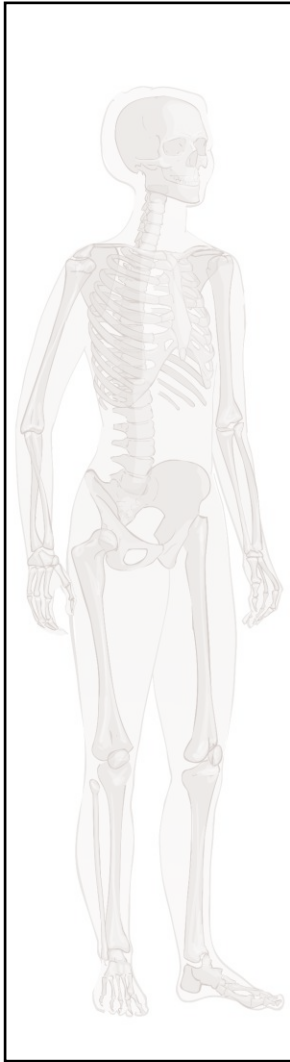
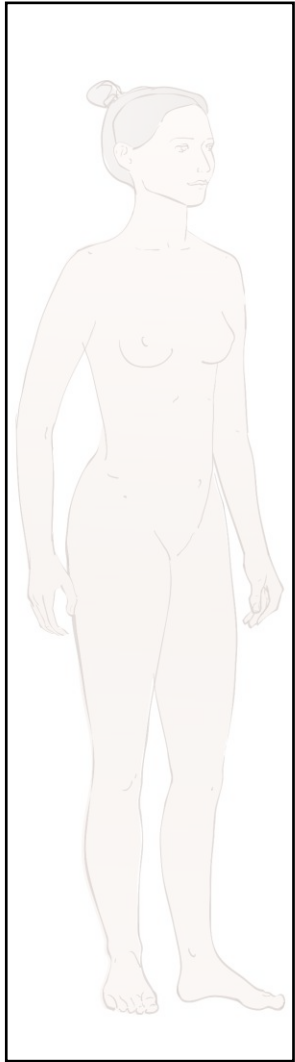
- Skeletal System

● Organ Systems in the Human Body



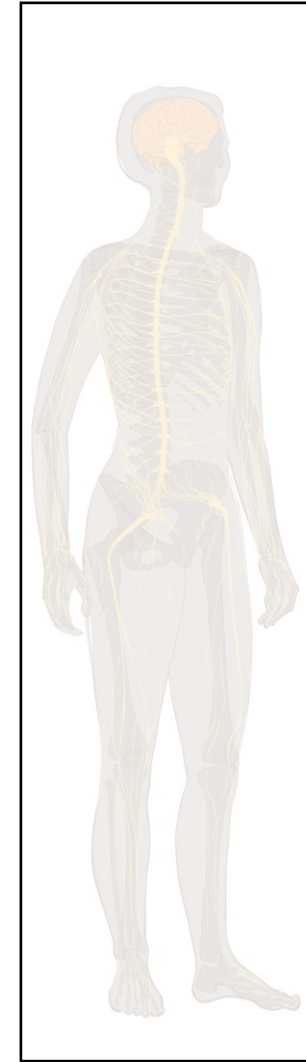
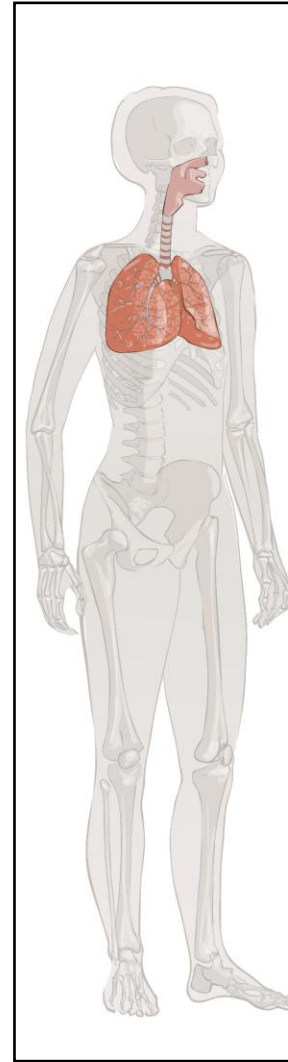
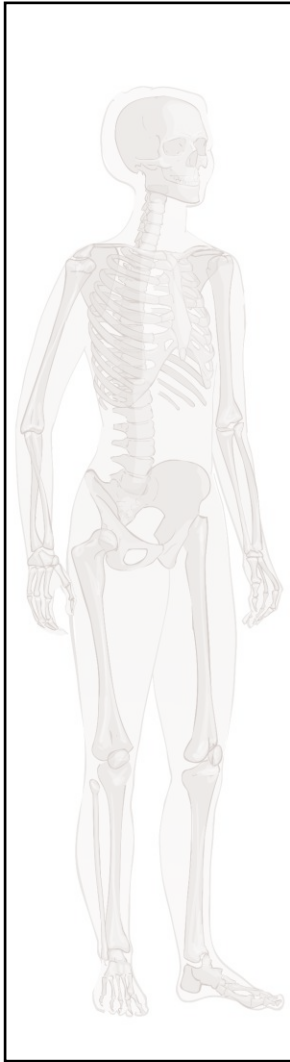
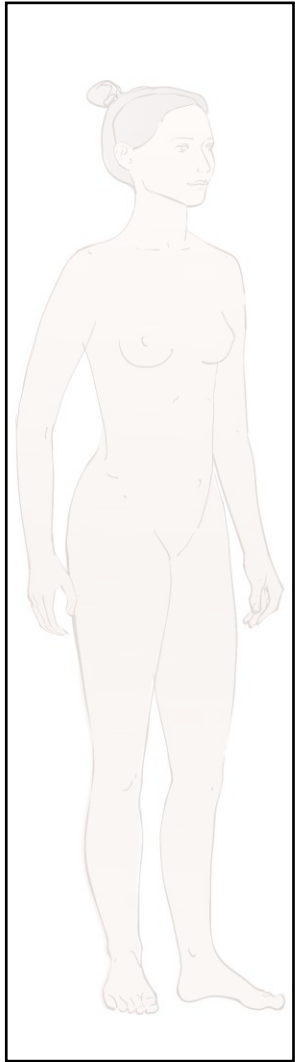
- Digestive System

● Organ Systems in the Human Body



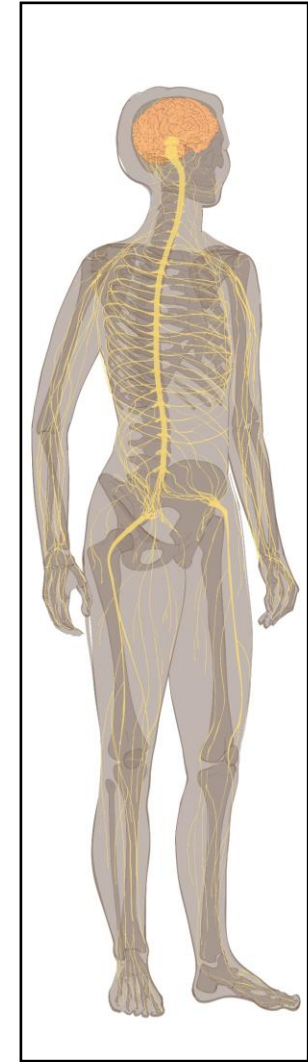
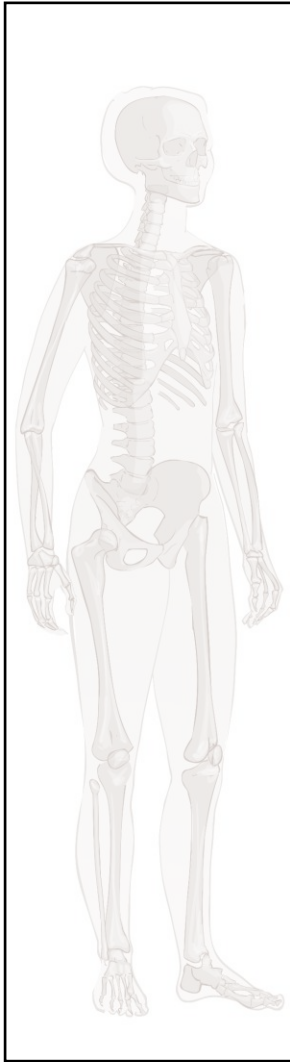
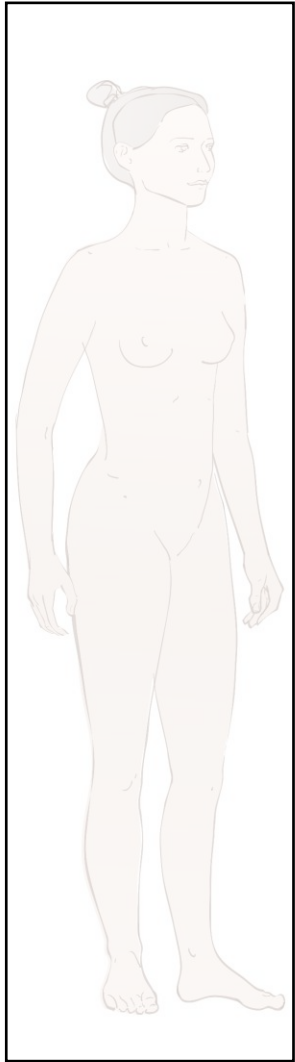
- Circulatory System

● Organ Systems in the Human Body



● Respiratory System

● Organ Systems in the Human Body



● Nervous System

From Cells to Systems in Plants

Cell

Tissue

- A group of similar cells working together to perform a specific function is called a tissue

Organ

- A group of different tissues working together to perform a specific function

System

- A group of different organs working together to perform one or more functions

Organism

- Many different systems work together to enable life of an organism

Mesophyll cell

Mesophyll tissue made up of a group of mesophyll cells

- Carries out photosynthesis to make glucose

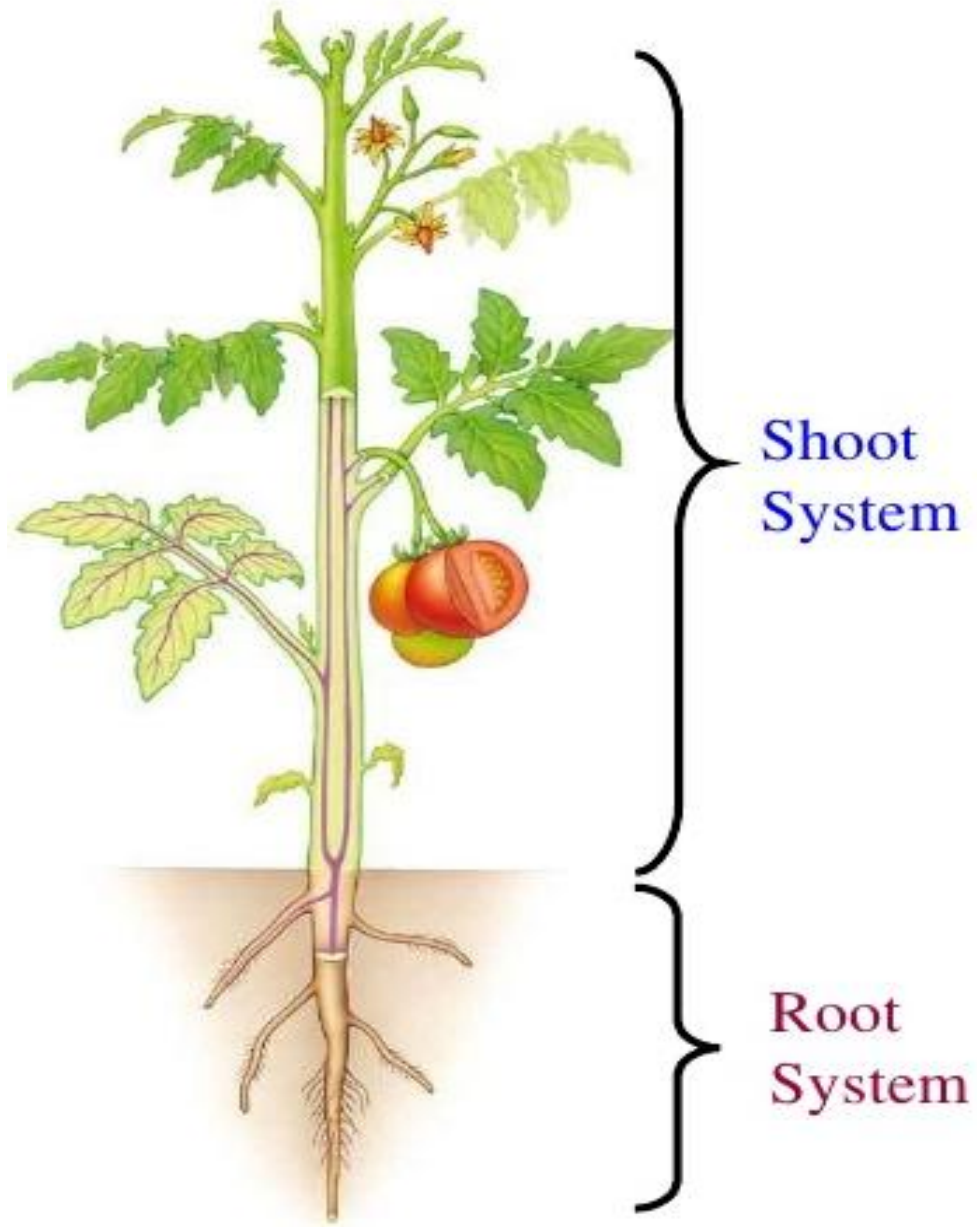
Leaf made up of mesophyll, vascular and epidermal tissues

- Carries out photosynthesis to make glucose and protects plant against pathogens

Shoot system made up of the stem, leaves and flowers

- Photosynthesis, transport of substances, reproduction

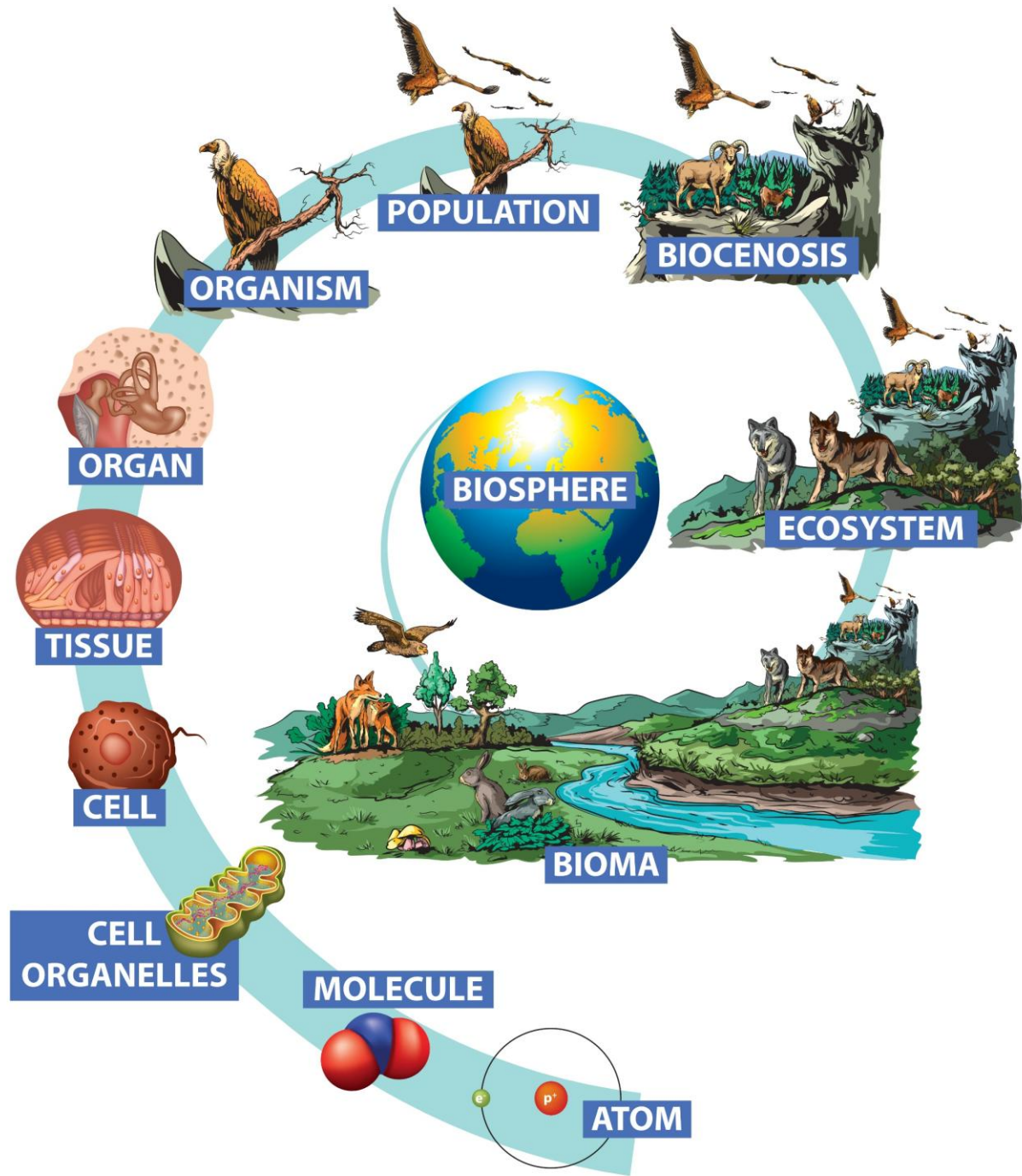
Plant made up of shoot and root systems



Shoot
System

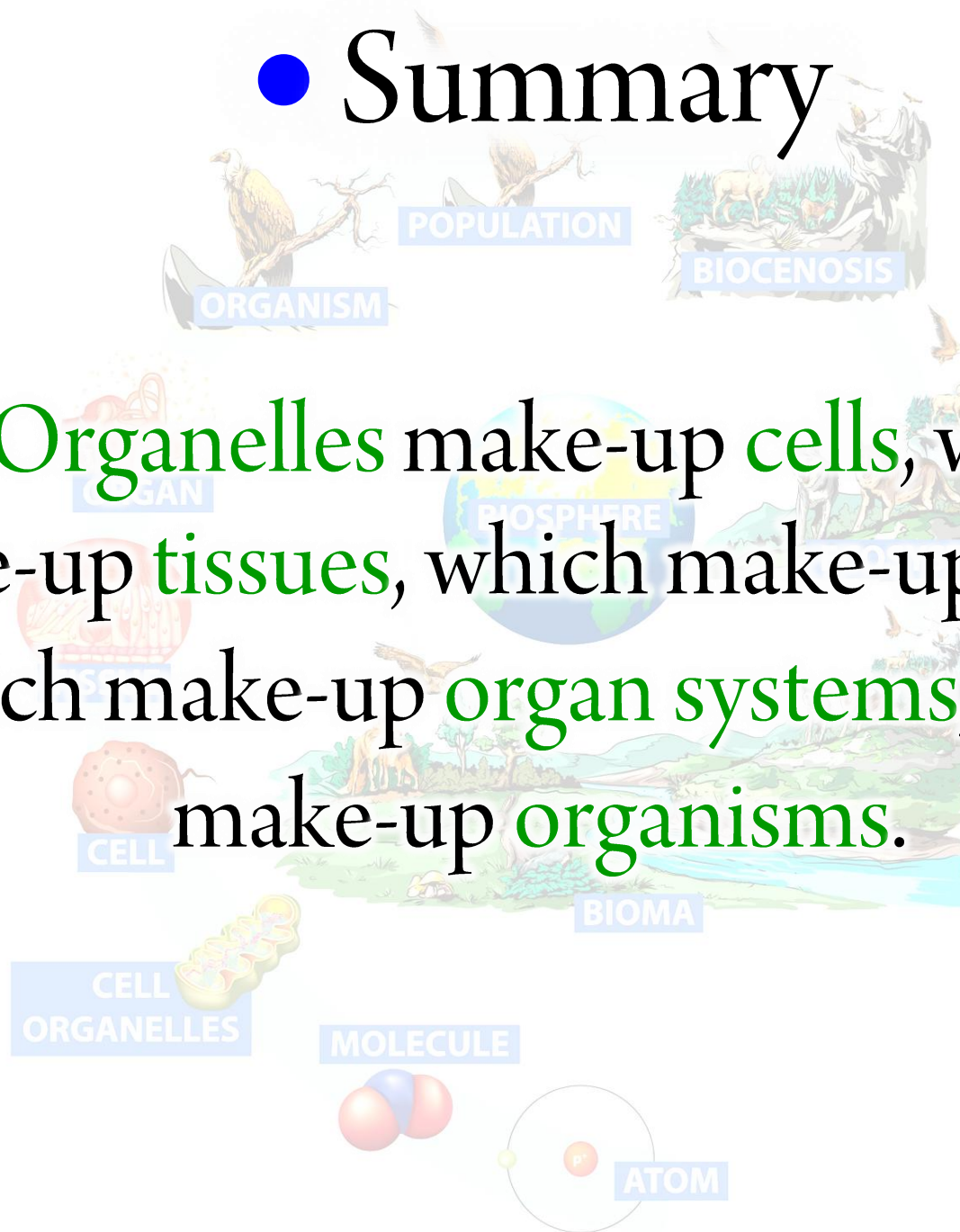
Root
System

- Summary



● Summary

- Organelles make-up cells, which make-up tissues, which make-up organs, which make-up organ systems, which make-up organisms.



● Summary

● The Division of Labour:

In multicellular organisms, although different cells / tissues / organs / systems perform different functions, they all work together to ensure that the whole organism functions efficiently and effectively.



- Questions

• **Question:**

- a)** Arrange these structures in order of size, beginning with the smallest first:
stomach, mitochondrion, nucleus, muscle cell.

• **Question:**

a) Arrange these structures in order of size, beginning with the smallest first:

stomach, mitochondrion, nucleus, muscle cell.

• **Answer:**

mitochondrion → nucleus → muscle cell → stomach

• **Question:**

b) For each of the following, state whether it is an organelle, cell, tissue, organ, organ system or organism:
heart, bacterium, chloroplast, xylem, nucleus, blood,
onion plant, kidney.

• Question:

b) For each of the following, state whether it is an organelle, cell, tissue, organ, organ system or organism:
heart, bacterium, chloroplast, xylem, nucleus, blood,
onion plant, kidney.

• Answer:

heart	→	organ	nucleus	→	organelle
bacterium	→	organism	blood	→	tissue
chloroplast	→	organelle	onion plant	→	organism
xylem	→	tissue	kidney	→	organ

- **Question:**

c) How can the concept of *division of labour* be applied in your everyday life?

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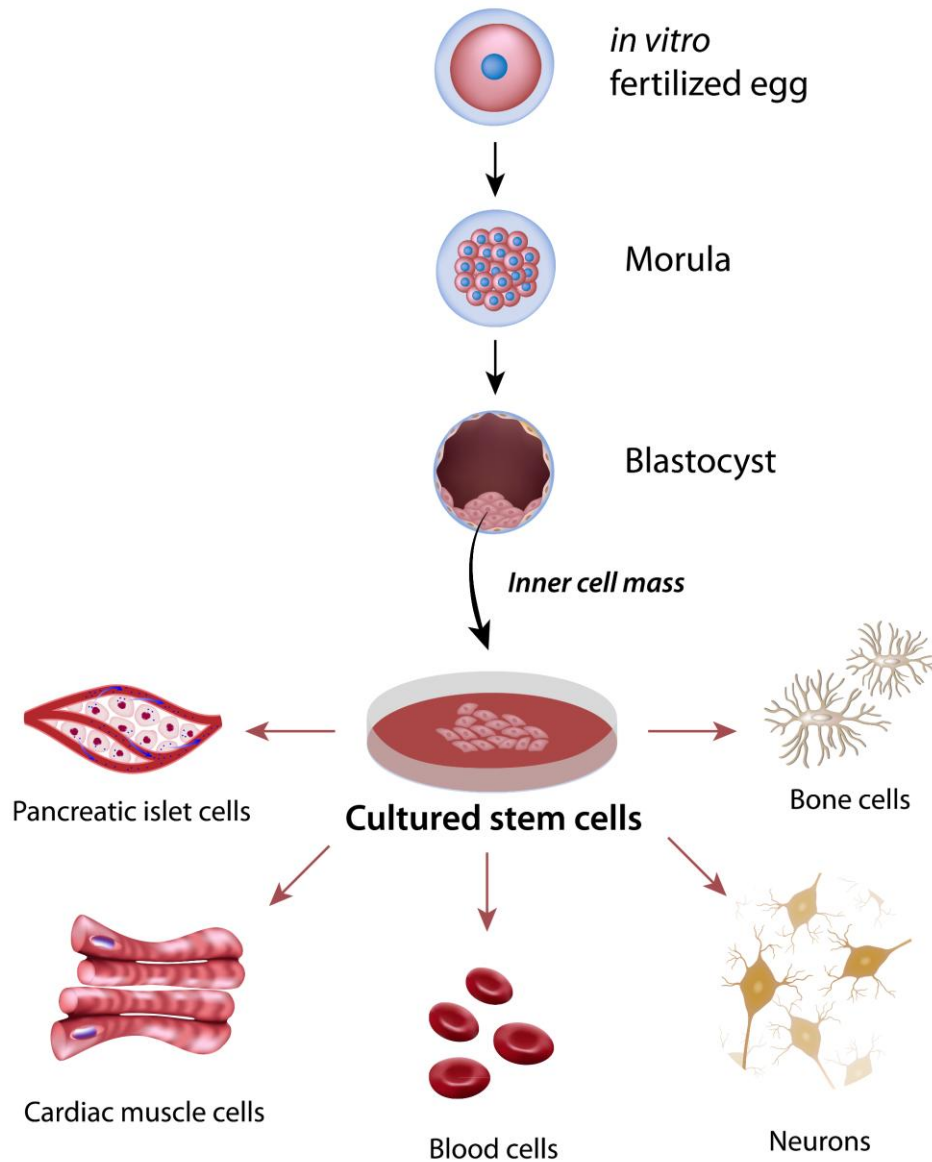
- **Answer:**

An example might be the class committee. There is a division of labour in the tasks that must be completed, such as empty the bin, sweep the floor and clean the whiteboard.

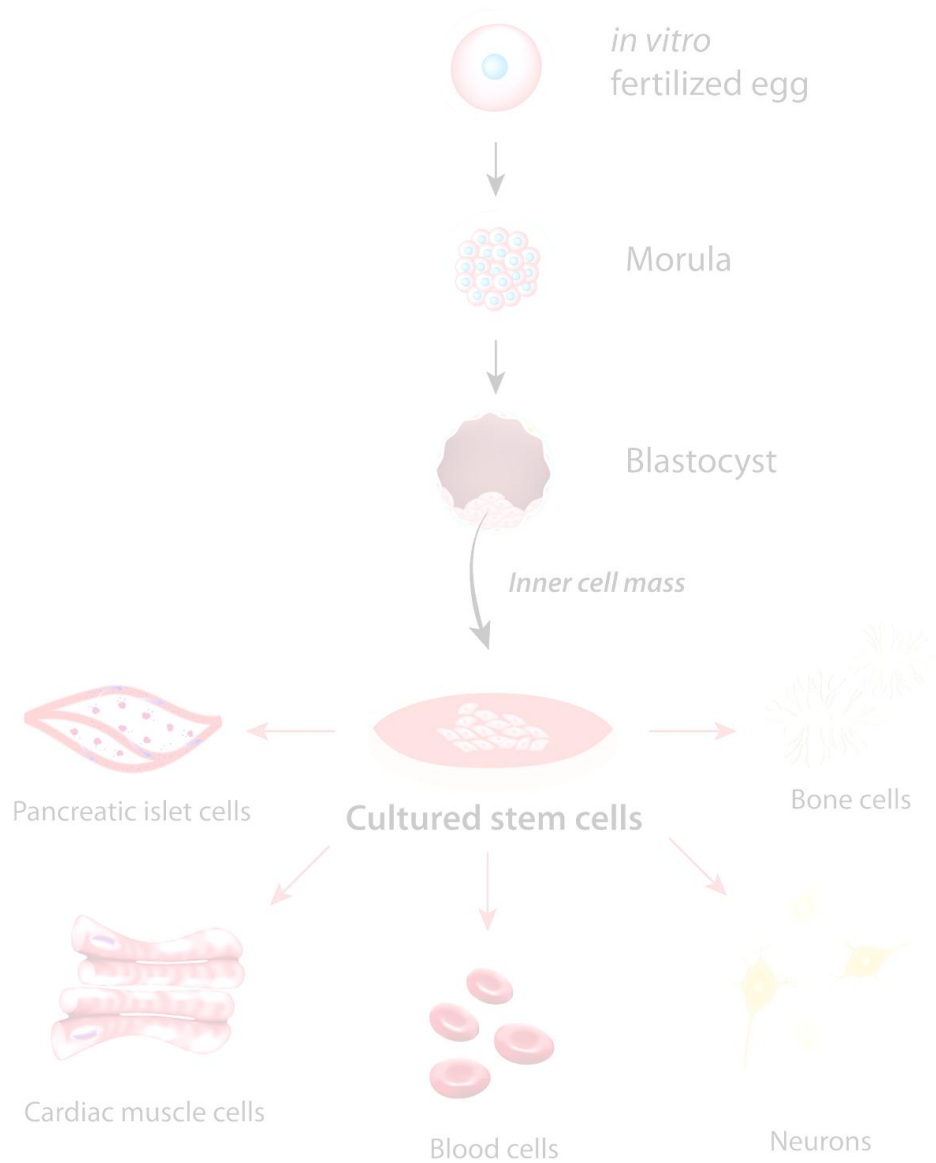
- Stem Cells

- What are stem cells?
- How can research into stem cells help in the treatment of certain medical conditions?

● Stem Cells

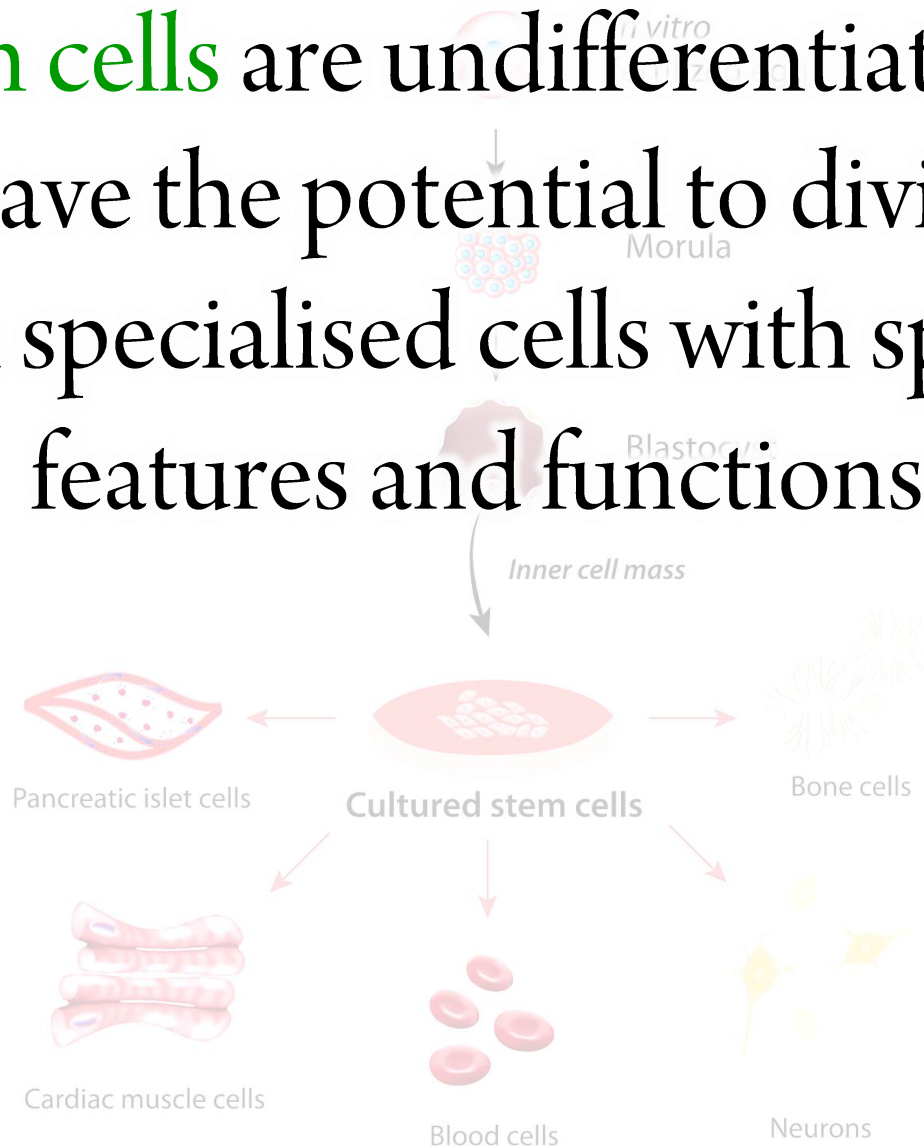


● Stem Cells



● Stem Cells

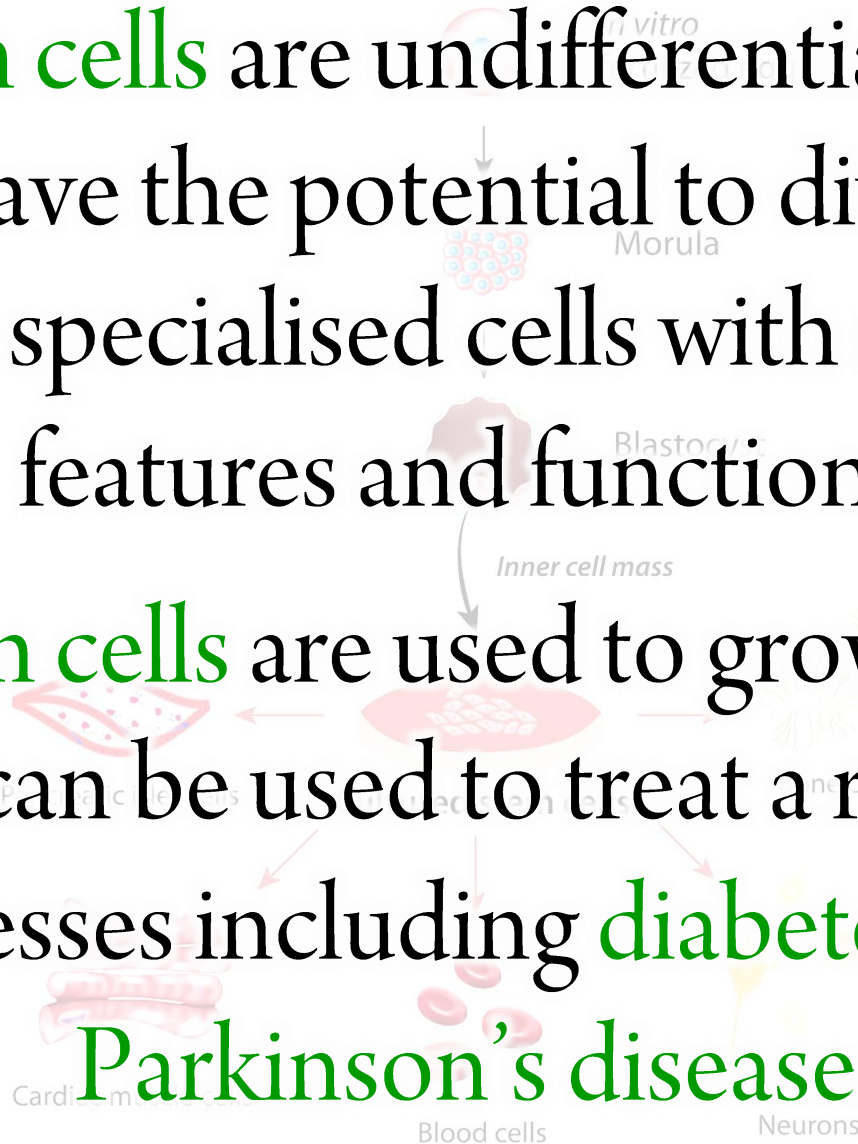
- **Stem cells** are undifferentiated cells that have the potential to divide and form specialised cells with specific features and functions.



● Stem Cells

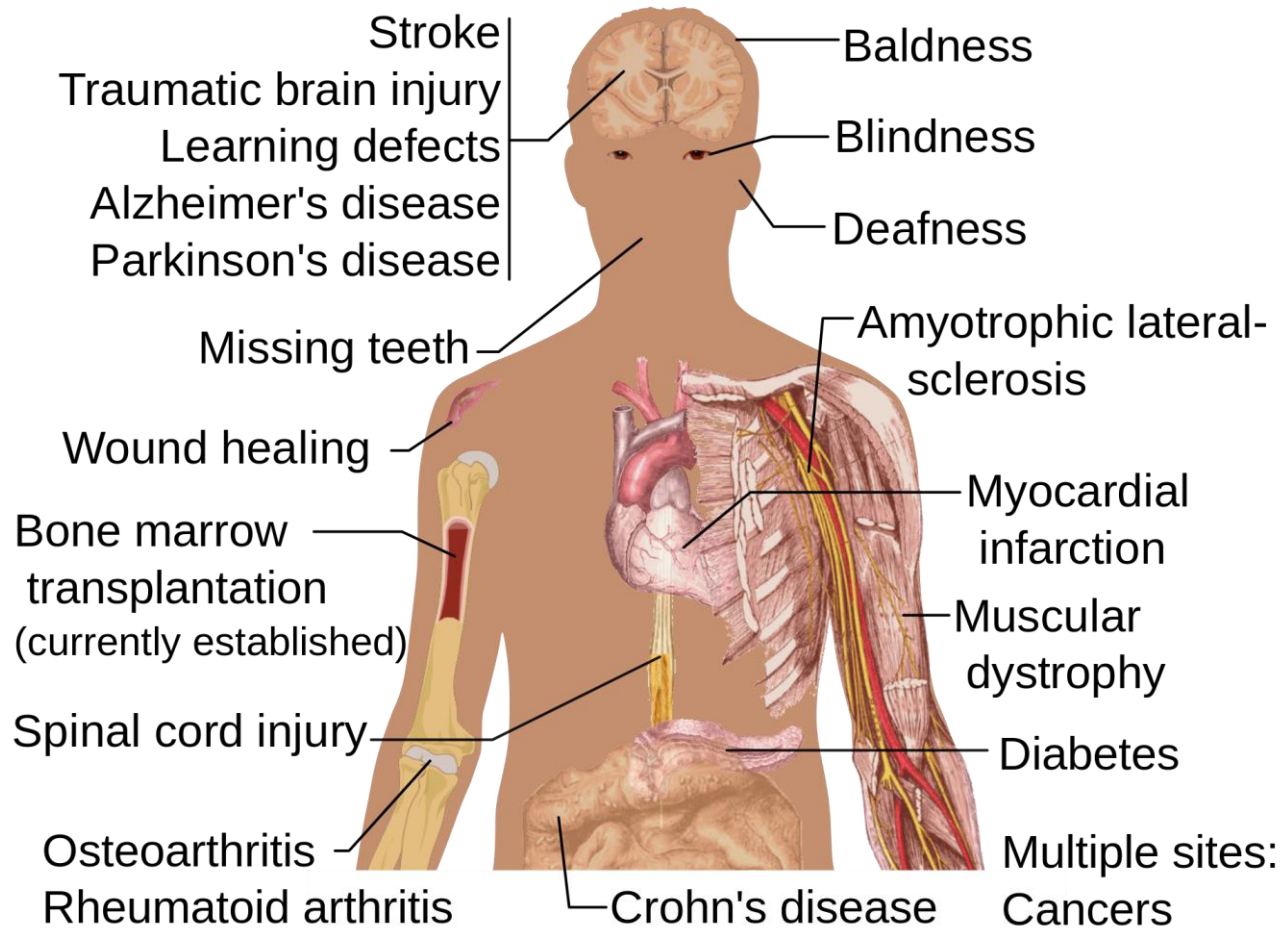
● **Stem cells** are undifferentiated cells that have the potential to divide and form specialised cells with specific features and functions.

● **Stem cells** are used to grow tissues that can be used to treat a range of illnesses including **diabetes** and **Parkinson's disease**.



● Stem Cells

Potential uses of **Stem cells**



- Graphic by Mikael Häggström, used with permission.

Presentation on
Cells → Tissues → Organs

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23rd April 2020

