



CELLS

The cell is the smallest unit of living matter. Many living things are made up of millions and millions of cells. Cells come in all different sizes, shapes, and forms. They each have different jobs to perform as well. There are three main parts to a cell. Each cell has a cell membrane, a nucleus, and cytoplasm.

The cell membrane is found along the outer edge of the cell. It works like a filter or a sieve. It lets the good things like nutrients in, and it gets rid of all the bad stuff. It serves as a protection to the cell.

The nucleus of a cell is like the brain of the cell. It is dark and is usually located in the center of the cell. It controls all the actions of the cell. The nucleus also contains the DNA. The DNA is a like a blueprint or a plan that the cell will use to reproduce.

The cytoplasm is located inside the cell membrane and around the nucleus. It is a jelly-like substance. This is where all the action takes place. The cytoplasm responds to the nucleus. This is where the cell uses the nutrients. It is made of water and other chemicals. Cells can live for different amounts of time. Cells are constantly reproducing.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are the three parts of a cell?
 - a. cell membrane, shell, cytoplasm
 - b. cell membrane, brain, cytoplasm
 - c. cell membrane, nutrients, cytoplasm
 - d. cell membrane, nucleus, cytoplasm
2. What does the word *sieve* mean as used in the passage?
 - a. strainer
 - b. proof
 - c. instruction
 - d. plan
3. What role does DNA play in the cell?
 - a. It depends on the amount of cytoplasm in the cell.
 - b. It carries the information to the brain.
 - c. It carries the overall plan or blueprint of the cell's reproduction.
 - d. It depends on how many years it has been a cell.
4. Which paragraph helps answer the previous question?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. fifth paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. fourth paragraph