

CELLS



The **cell** is the basic unit of structure and function of all living things. Cells work together to perform basic life processes that keep an organism alive; *movement, breathing, feeding, reproducing, excreting, and growth.*

All cells have similar parts. However, plants cells have a **cell wall** and **chloroplasts** which are not present in animal cells. The parts that are common to both plant and animal cells are the **nucleus, cell membrane, cytoplasm, mitochondria** and **vacuole**.

THE PARTS OF THE CELLS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS



Plant & Animal Cells

The **nucleus** controls the activities of the cell. The **cell membrane** holds the parts of the cell together. It also separates the cell from its surroundings and it controls what material enters and leaves the cell. The **cytoplasm** is a jellylike substance containing many chemicals to keep the cell functioning. The **vacuole** stores food, waste and water and the **mitochondria** provides energy to the cell. There is usually just one large vacuole in a plant cell.

Plant Cells Only

The **cell wall**, only found in plants, is a stiff outer layer that protects the cell and gives it shape. **Chloroplasts** contain **chlorophyll** which plants need to make food during a process called **photosynthesis**. Chloroplasts are green.

