

Cells: The building blocks of life



Introduction

Understanding the structure and function of cells is vital in understanding the biology of living things - from a single cell organism like a bacterium to the gigantic blue whale.

This resource looks at different types of cells and explores what is inside them, their functions and careers that make use of the knowledge of cells.

Understanding cells is the beginning of a journey to understanding how we grow, fight infections and illnesses such as cancer.



Watch the exciting 1 minute BBC mini video clips where the presenters build an animated animal cell [here](#) and a plant cell [here](#)



Watch the short 7 minute video on **cell structure** [here](#)



Make brief notes on the following learning points as you watch the videos or discuss them with someone else afterwards.

1. The difference between Prokaryotes and Eukaryotes.
2. The difference between plant and animal cells.
3. The functions of the different parts of the cells.

Your challenge

Take the quiz [here](#) to check you have mastered cells and their functions.

Careers that make use of cells

Watch the case study [here](#) and discover how a forensic scientist analyses cells to help solve crimes.

Find out [here](#) how a sports therapist uses his knowledge of specialised cells to help his clients.