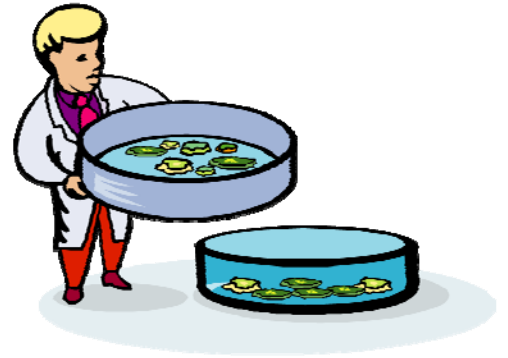


The Basic Parts of all Living Things

What are plants made up of? What are animals made up of? Every living thing is made up of smaller parts. The smaller parts have different functions, but all of the parts work together to allow the individual to live and survive in its environment. The smaller parts are made of even smaller parts, until you reach the smallest part of all, the Cell. Cells are the basic building blocks of all living things.



Most living things are made up of more than one cell. You are a multi-celled organism, along with animals, and plants. Multi-Celled organisms are visible with a naked eye. However, some living things in the world have just one cell. These organisms are called Single-Celled Organisms. These types of organisms are not visible with only our eyes. In order to see single-celled organisms, we need a microscope. In single-celled organisms, the single cell must work alone, so it has to do everything to make sure that the organism survives. Bacteria is an example of a single celled organism. Single-celled organisms can still eat, rid themselves of waste and reproduce.

Multi-celled organisms are more complex. Different parts have different functions, each part sharing the work and cooperating to make sure that the organism survives. In a plant (multi-celled organism), for example, the cells working together in the roots make sure that the plant gets the water and nutrients from the soil that the plant needs to survive. The cells working together in the leaves make sure that the plant exchanges oxygen for the carbon dioxide that the plant needs to survive. The roots and the leaves work together as a system for the plant to survive.

Therefore, we can conclude that Cells are the basic units of life. They are the smallest parts of a living organism that can lead an independent existence. Individually, or in association with other cells, they make up the bodies of all living things.



The Basic Parts of all Living Things Writing Activity

1. What are multi-celled organisms?

2. What are single-celled organisms?

3. What is the building block of all living things? Why is it called a building block?

4. Why are single-celled organisms not visible with a naked eye? What do we need to see these organisms?

