

Living Organisms Study Guide

Cells: the basic building blocks of living organisms; cells can carry out all processes necessary for life

Unicellular Organisms: made of only one cell; can carry out all basic life processes (move, find food, grow, reproduce)

Examples: Bacteria, Paramecium, Amoeba, Euglena

Multicellular Organisms: a living thing made of more than one cell; cells have different jobs

Unicellular Organisms can take in materials directly from their environment, while Multicellular Organisms have to have complex systems for moving materials from cell to cell.

Human Body Systems: groups of body parts that work together to carry out all the body's functions

- **Skeletal System:** the basic framework of the body; made of bones: provides protection and makes up the structure of our body
- **Muscular System:** made of the muscles that are attached to bones; create movement
- **Digestive System:** breaks down food into nutrients so it can be used by the body; involves the mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large intestine
- **Circulatory and Cardiovascular system:** carries oxygen, nutrients, and wastes (carbon dioxide) throughout the body; involves the heart, blood vessels, and blood
- **Respiratory System:** takes in oxygen from the air we breathe; involves the nose/mouth, trachea, lungs, and diaphragm: removes waste gas carbon dioxide
- **Nervous System:** controls all body systems by transmitting electrical messages from the brain to other parts of the body; involves the brain, spinal cord, and nerve cells

Genetics: the scientific study of how genes control the characteristics of plants and animals

Trait: a quality or characteristic of a living thing

Behavior: how a living thing responds to its surroundings

Inherited Trait: a characteristic a living thing gets from its parents

Examples: eye color, hair color, dimples, height

Acquired (Learned) Trait: a characteristic that a living thing develops after it is born

Examples: ability to talk, walk, getting scars, learning to read, language, music ability