

protein

A string of amino acids used by the body to build new cells and tissues

cell

The basic building block of the body from which all larger parts are formed

cell membrane

A thin covering which encloses the cell and regulates substances that pass through it.

cytoplasm

A jelly-like material which fills the cell

nucleus

The control center of a cell which directs its activities. It is surrounded by the nuclear membrane which separates it from the cytoplasm.

chromosomes

Long, threadlike strands of a substance called chromatin which is made up of DNA

DNA

proteins which make up genes which control the passing on of characteristics from parents to offspring

organelles

Small structures found in the cytoplasm which have particular jobs to do

mitochondria

The power plants of the cell which convert food into energy the cell uses to grow, divide, and do its work.

endoplasmic reticulum

A network of membranes with pouches that store proteins and help channel substances to various parts of the cell

Golgi apparatus

Flat membrane sacs that process proteins and other substances produced in the cell.

Lysosomes

Round bodies containing enzymes that can break down many substances

ribosomes

The cell's centers of protein production

replication

The process in which DNA makes a copy of itself before cell division

nucleotides

The molecules adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine which make up DNA

mitosis

Cell division which creates two daughter cells with nuclei identical to the parent cell

meiosis

Cell division which creates four daughter cells having half the genetic material of the parent cell

gametes

Sex cells, ova or sperm, resulting from meiosis which form a zygote after fertilization