

# Membranes

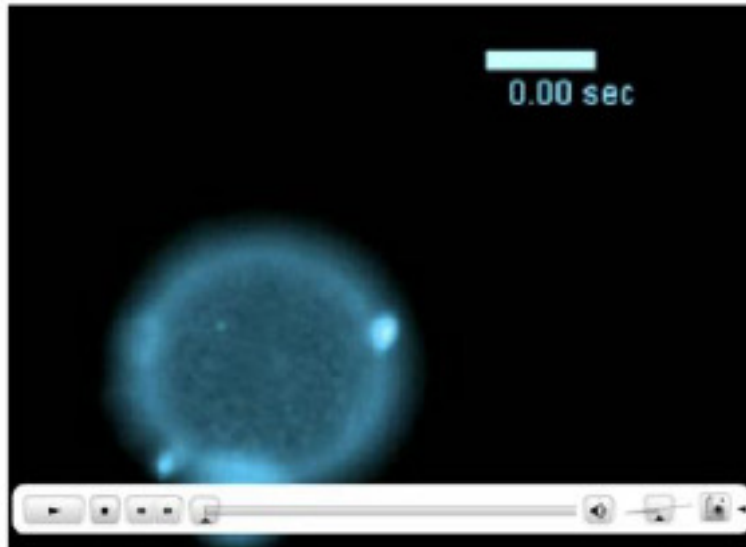
# Functions of a **plasma membrane**

1. Hold the cell together
2. Control what goes in and out  
(diffusion, osmosis, active transport)
3. Protect the cell
4. Allow the cell to recognise and be recognised  
(cell signalling and immunity)
5. Bind to other cells and molecules
6. A site for biochemical reactions  
(enzymes, areas for reactions)



Liver cells binding to one another  
<http://hplusclub.com/blog/files/2008/04/liver-cells.JPG>

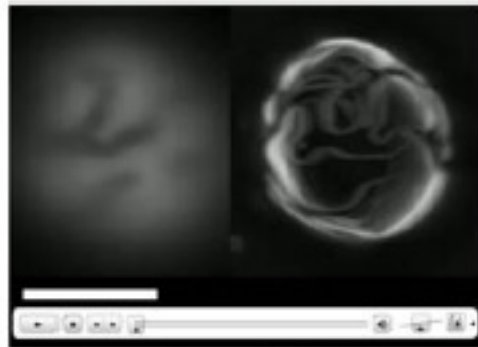
Lipids (fats) do not mix with water



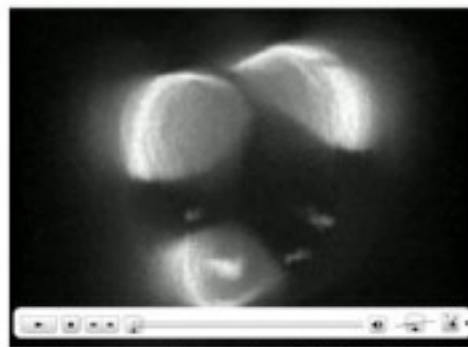
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDsFP67\\_ZSE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDsFP67_ZSE)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00PPPt7EJqo>



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JAsnuWFiY>



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmBZheG-bM0>

Try the oil-on-water  
calming effect in the lab!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00PPPt7EJqo>

# The phospholipid bilayer

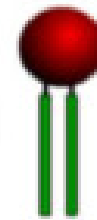
phosphates

fats

2

layers

A single  
phospholipid

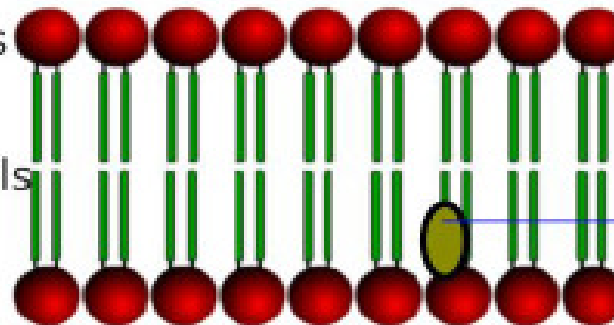


hydrophilic phosphate heads

water **attracted**

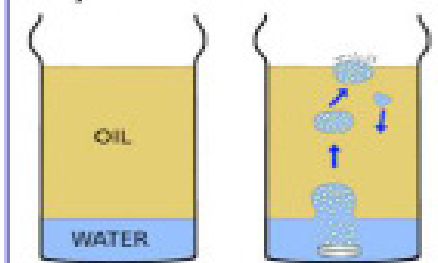
hydrophobic hydrocarbon tails

water **repelled**

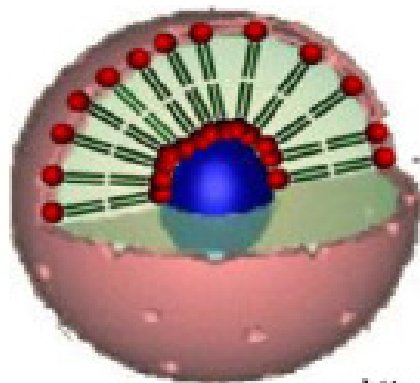


cholesterol strengthens the  
membrane

Try this:

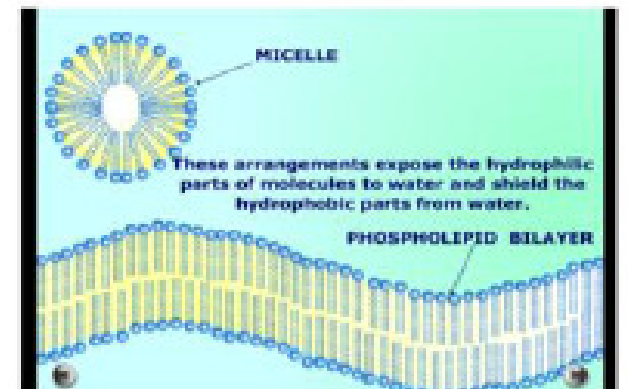


[http://www.planet-science.com/newsletters/planetscience/issue\\_290/images/lavalam.gif](http://www.planet-science.com/newsletters/planetscience/issue_290/images/lavalam.gif)

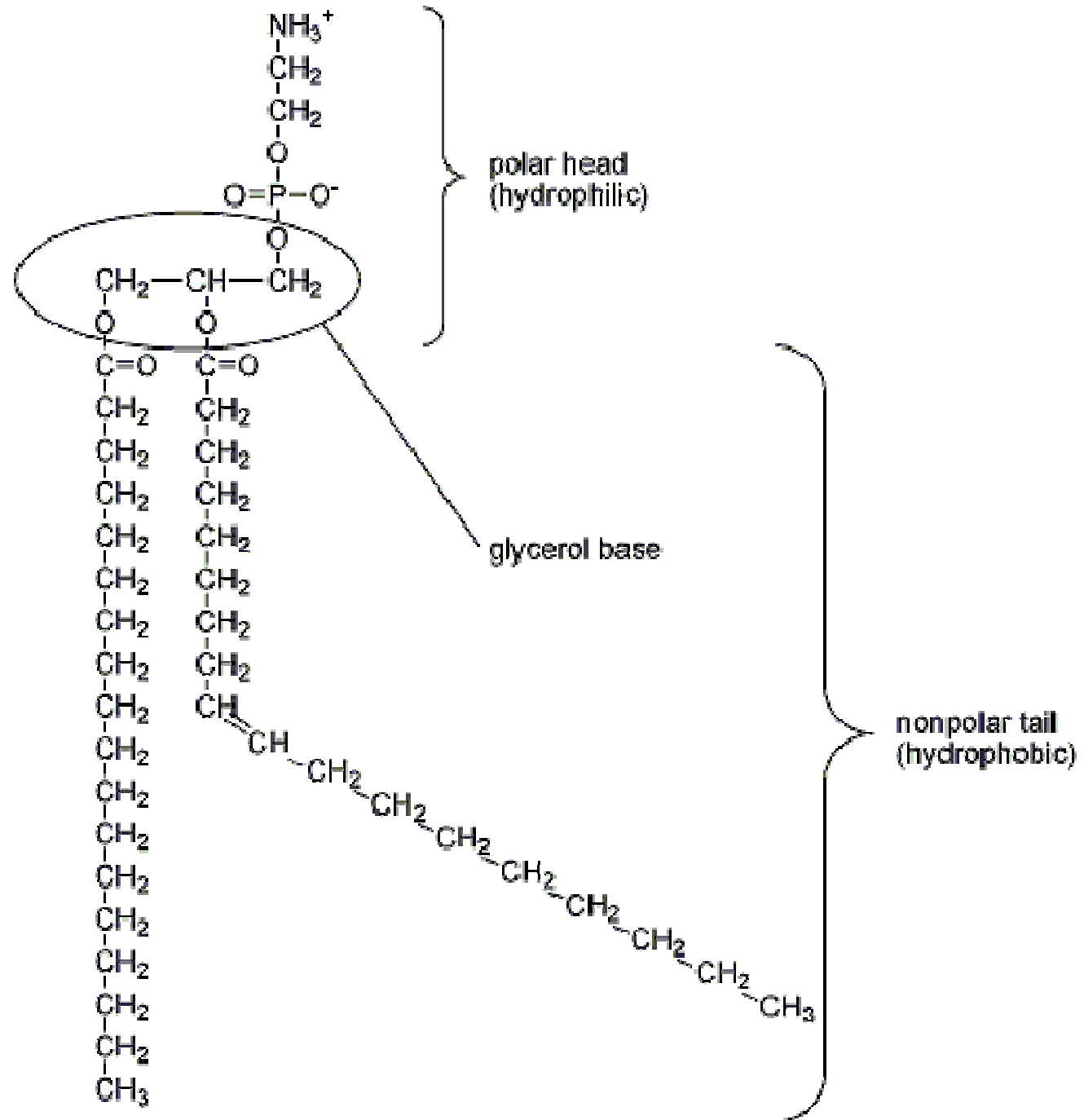


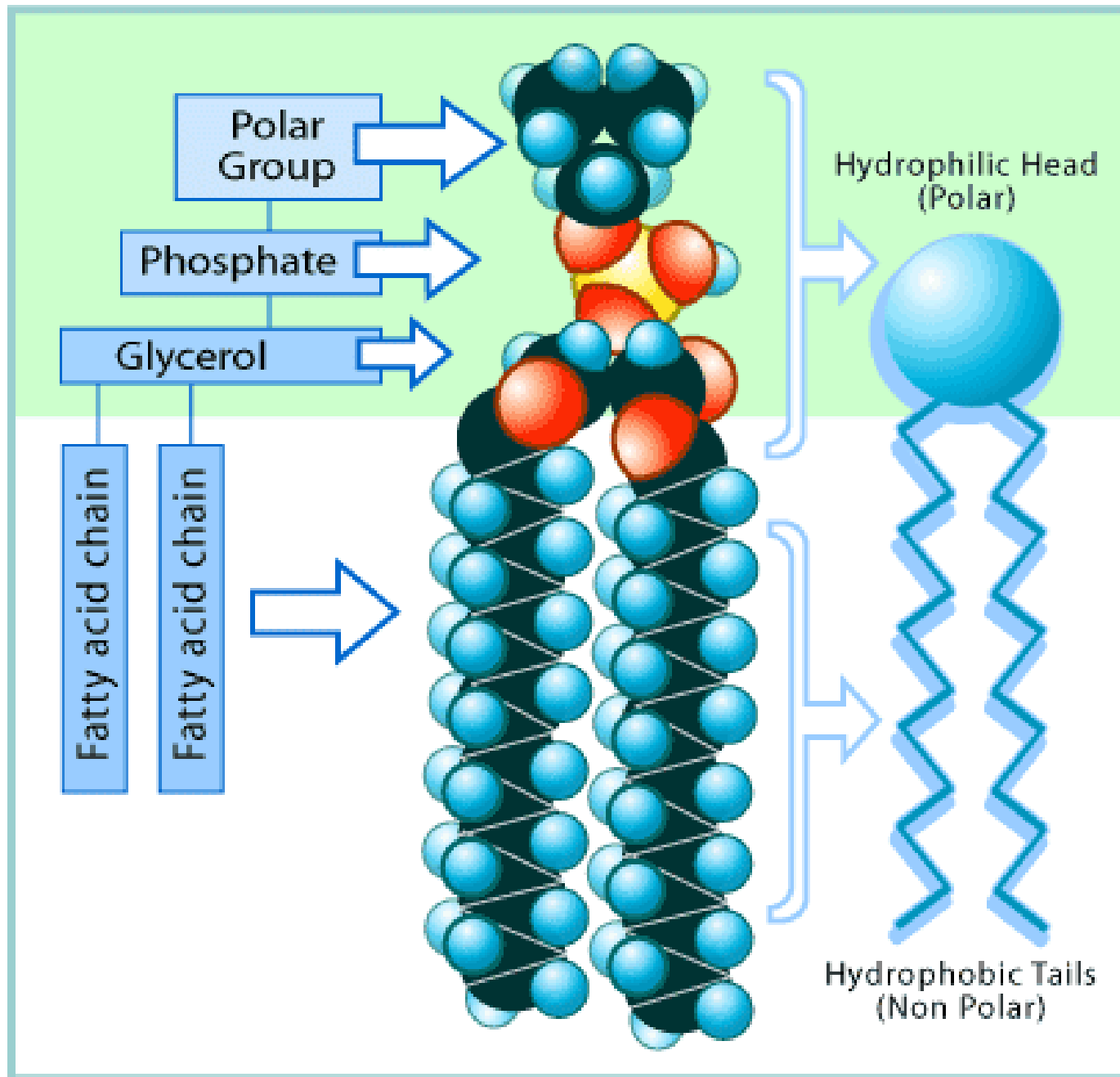
When surrounded by water, phospholipids will automatically form a **liposome** - an enclosed sphere. In this structure, none of the lipid tails are in contact with water.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~clt011/flash/samples/liposomes.swf>



<http://www.esnips.com/doc/45c10ddf-96a4-4731-a4d5-7455f682054/Phospholipid-Bilayer>





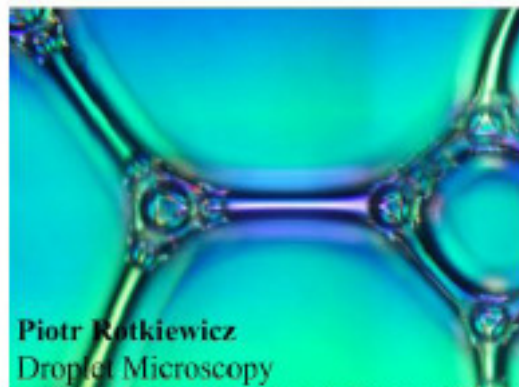
# Modeling Membranes: Bubble Magic

## Tasks to try:

- Observe the **fluid lateral movement** in the membrane.
- Make a model **prokaryote** (a bubble).
- Make an opening in a flat membrane without breaking it.
- Make a model **eukaryote** (bubble inside a bubble).
- Demonstrate **membrane fusion** by joining two bubbles into one.

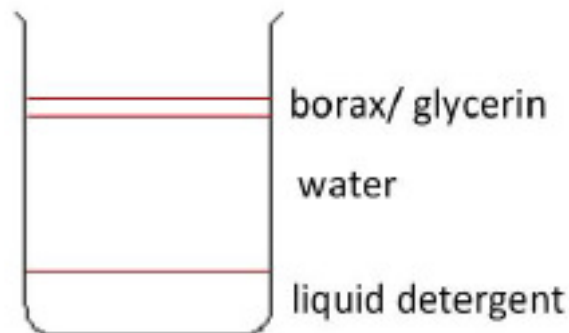


## Bubble mix:



Piotr Rotkiewicz  
Droplet Microscopy

<http://www.nikonsmallworld.com/gallery/year/2005/81>



Use wire loops, string and straws to complete the challenges.

More bubble model ideas from:

[http://www.accessexcellence.org/AE/AEC/AEF/1995/wardell\\_membranes.php](http://www.accessexcellence.org/AE/AEC/AEF/1995/wardell_membranes.php)



# The Fluid

always moving,  
not solid

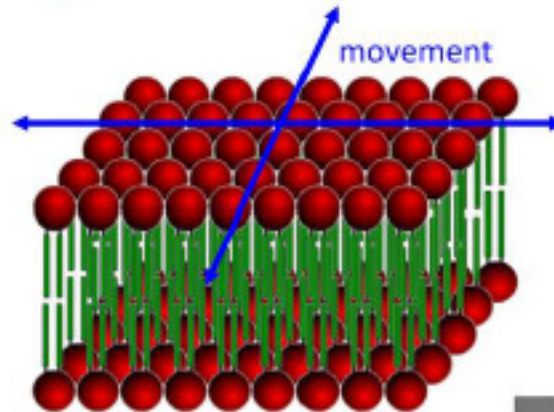
The fluid mosaic model tells us that **the structure of the membrane is flexible, adaptable and in motion**. It is not solid, or fragile like the skin of a balloon.

The phospholipids have **freedom of movement** in the 'horizontal' plane: they can move around each other, and can flow with pressure, yet do not allow the membrane to break.

It is actually pretty difficult to 'burst' or 'tear' a plasma membrane as the fluid properties of the phospholipid bilayer allow the membrane to reform very easily!

# Mosaic

collection of  
things stuck  
together



# Model

representation  
of real life

The individual phospholipids are attached to each other by weak attractions, the **cumulative effect** of which is a very strong membrane.

Why doesn't this egg cell rupture when the pipette drills in through the membrane?



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hypoJgGJtNc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hypoJgGJtNc>



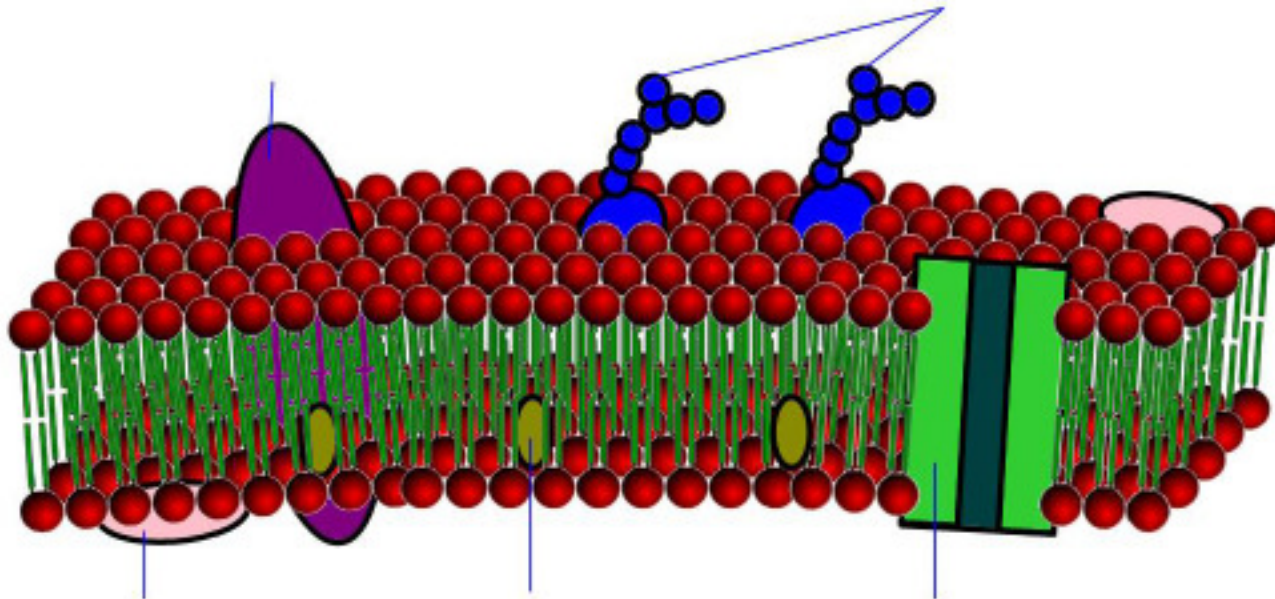
# The Fluid Mosaic Model

always moving,  
not solid

collection of  
things stuck  
together

representation  
of real life

What are the names and functions of these parts of the plasma membrane?



## The Mosaic:

What are the names and functions of these parts of the plasma membrane?

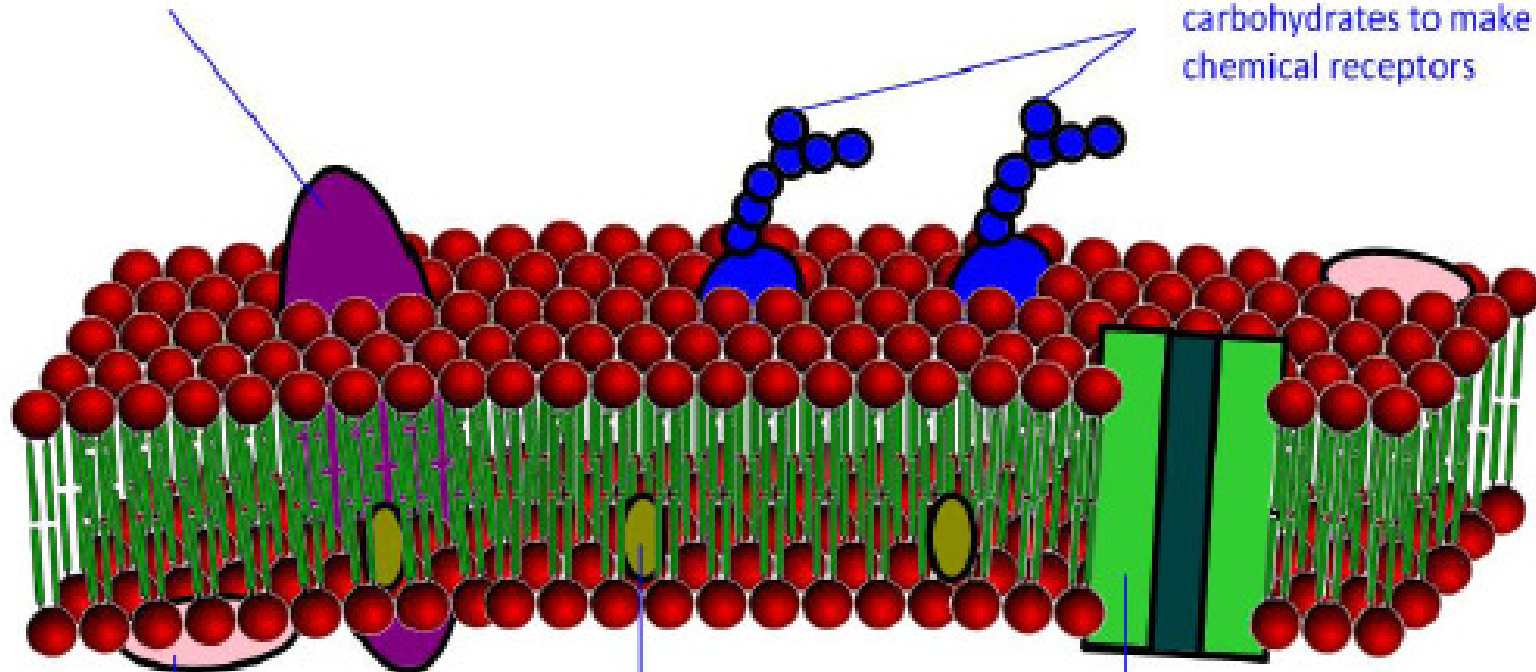
integral proteins

enzymes - sites for chemical reactions

pumps - for active transport of molecules

glycoproteins

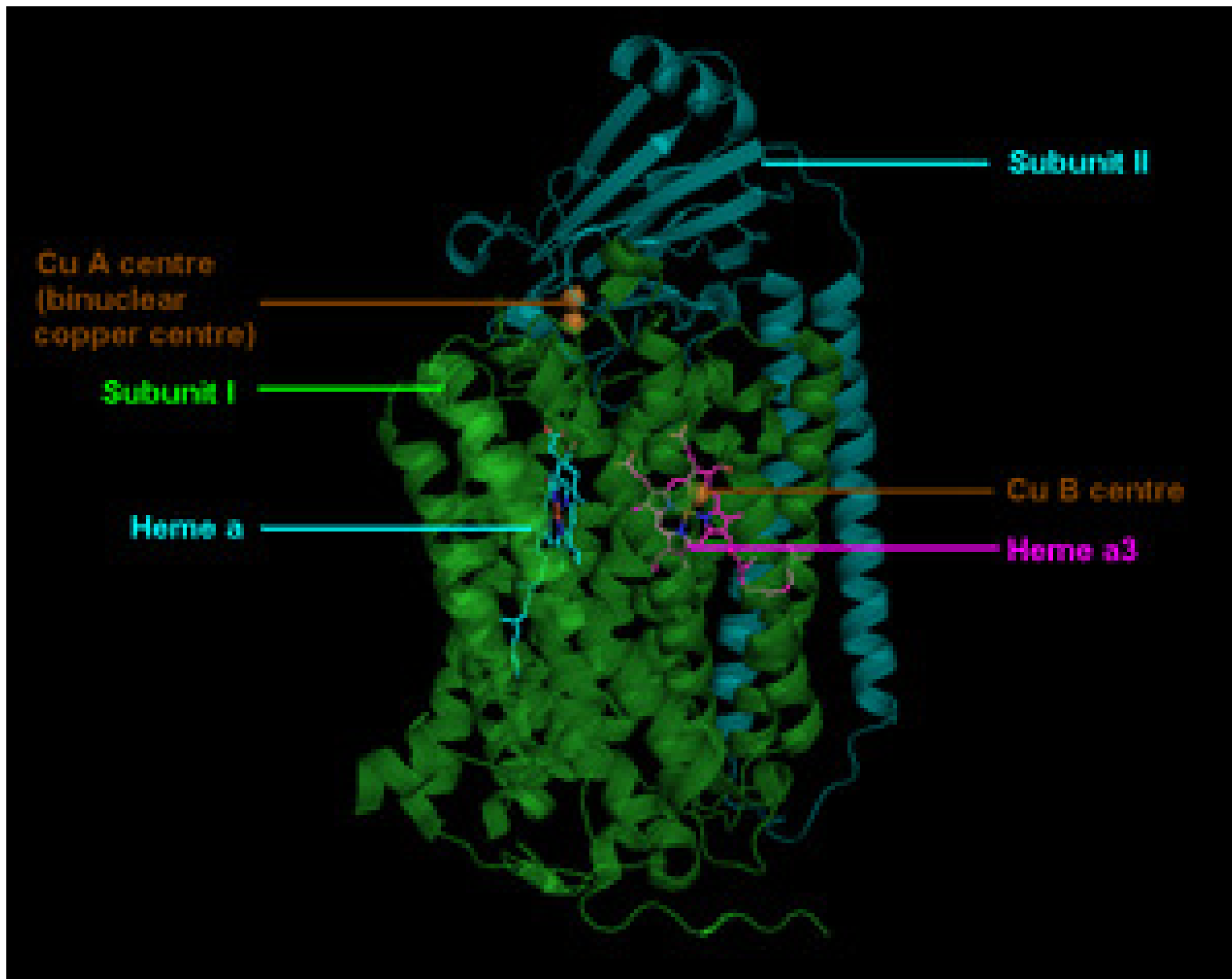
combine with  
carbohydrates to make  
chemical receptors

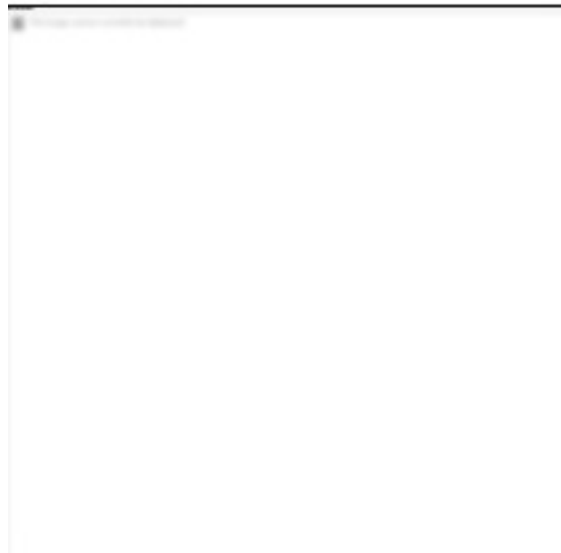


peripheral proteins  
act as receptors and  
'recognise' other cells

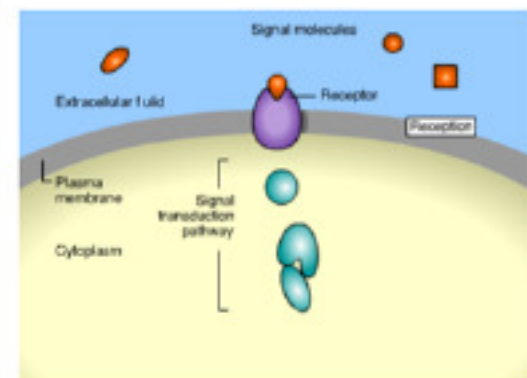
cholesterol  
affects membrane  
fluidity at different  
temperatures

channel proteins  
carry molecules through the  
plasma membrane



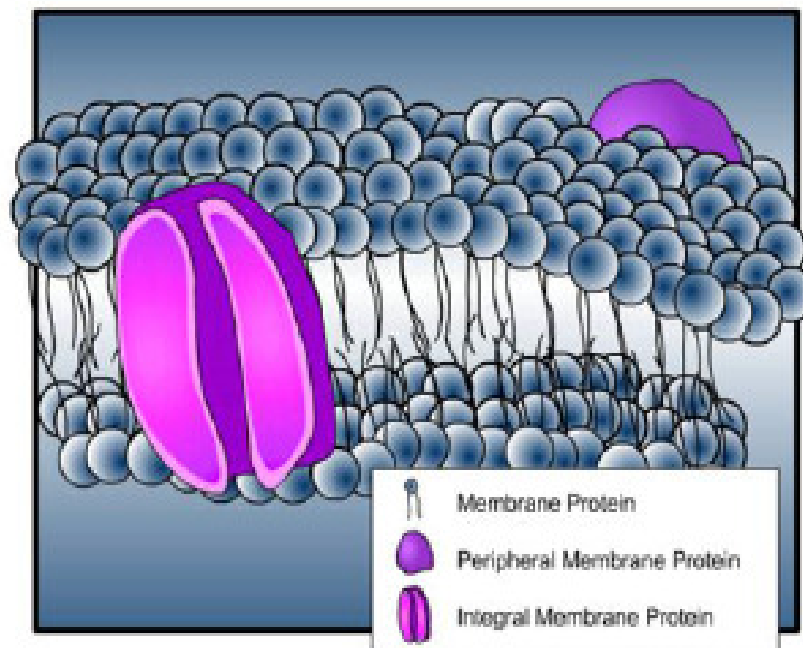


Membrane proteins in cell signaling:



[http://bio1151.nicerweb.com/med/Vid/Campbell7e/ch11/11\\_05CellSignaling\\_A.swf](http://bio1151.nicerweb.com/med/Vid/Campbell7e/ch11/11_05CellSignaling_A.swf)

# Membrane Structure Tutorials



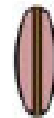
<http://www.bio.davidson.edu/people/macampbell/111/memb-swf/membranes.swf>

Construction of the Cell Membrane

Page 13 of 23

Question 1 of 10 Now that you have reviewed the structure of a cell membrane, it's your turn to identify and build your own cell membrane.

Drag the term to the graphic.



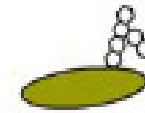
Phospholipid



Fibrous protein



Pore protein



Glycoprotein



Channel protein



Back



Next

[http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/index\\_tj.asp?objID=AP1101](http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/index_tj.asp?objID=AP1101)

<http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/ViewObject.aspx?ID=AP1101>

<http://www.johnkyrk.com/cellmembrane.html>

# The phospholipid bilayer is selectively permeable

controlled

entry/ exit of molecules

Some molecules pass through easily (**diffusion**), or go through a 'tunnel' (**facilitated diffusion**)

Others **need energy** to get them through (**active transport**)

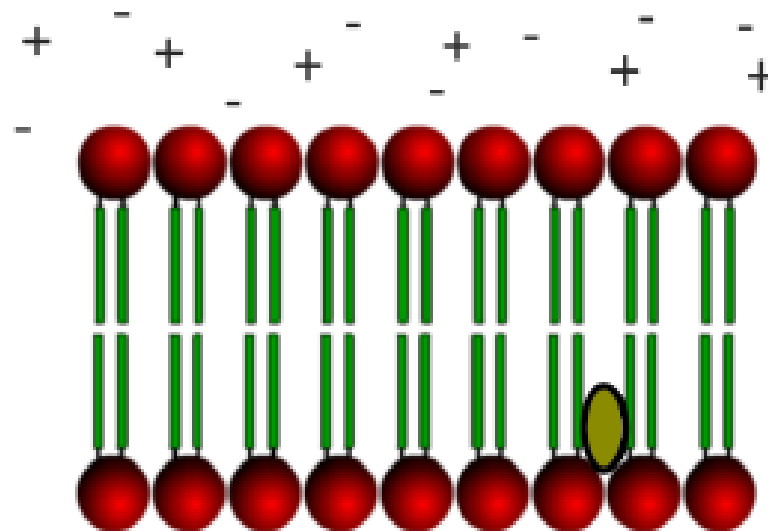
Large molecules **use their own membrane** to get them through (**endo-/exo-cytosis**)

polar heads:

attracted to other polar  
(charged) molecules

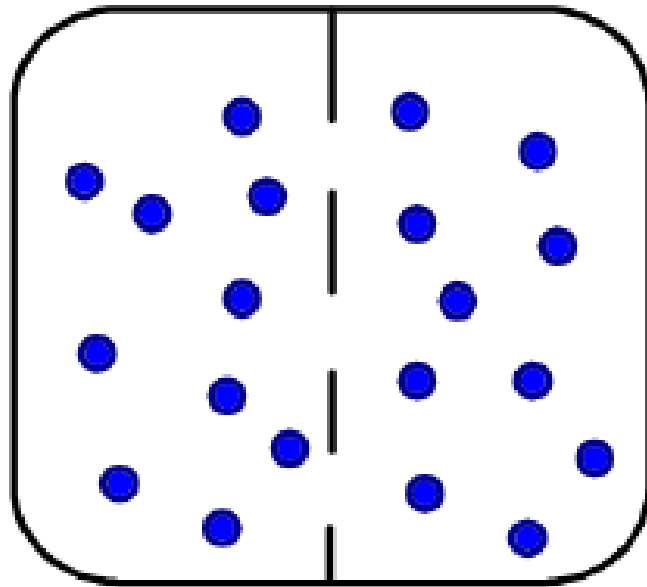
non-polar tails:

will repel any charged molecule,  
therefore preventing passage of ions  
through the membrane.

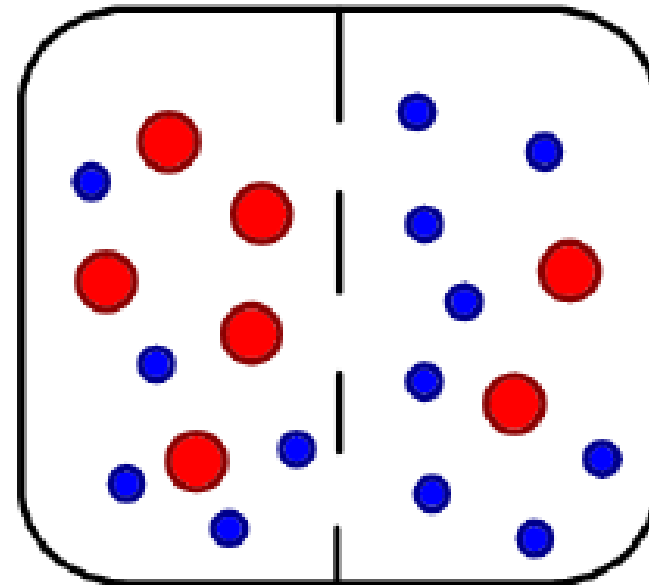


**Solutions** consist of **solutes** dissolved in a **solvent**.

*Concentration* is a measure of the amount of solute in the solution.



Pure water (no solute)



50% salt solution    20% salt solution

● water (solvent)

● salt (solute)



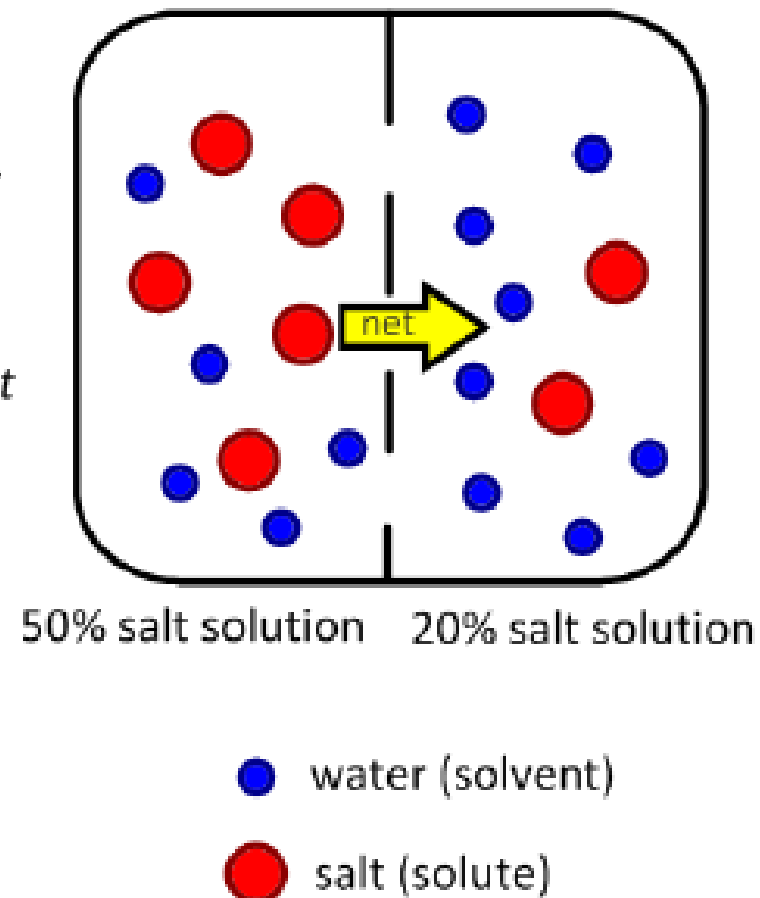
Diffusion is the **passive net movement** of **molecules** from regions of **high concentration** to **low concentration**.

**passive** = requires no energy

**net** = overall movement (remember that all molecules are moving all the time in all directions)

**high to low** = **down** a *concentration gradient*

Diffusion can occur through a partially or selectively permeable membrane or from regions of high to low concentration in a solution or environment.



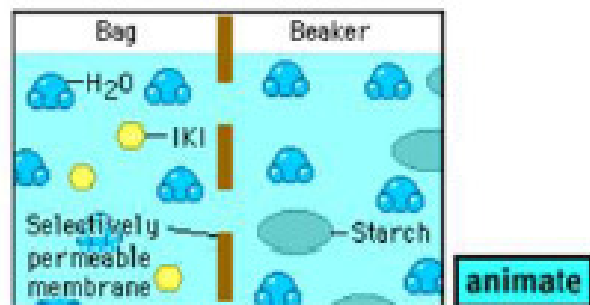
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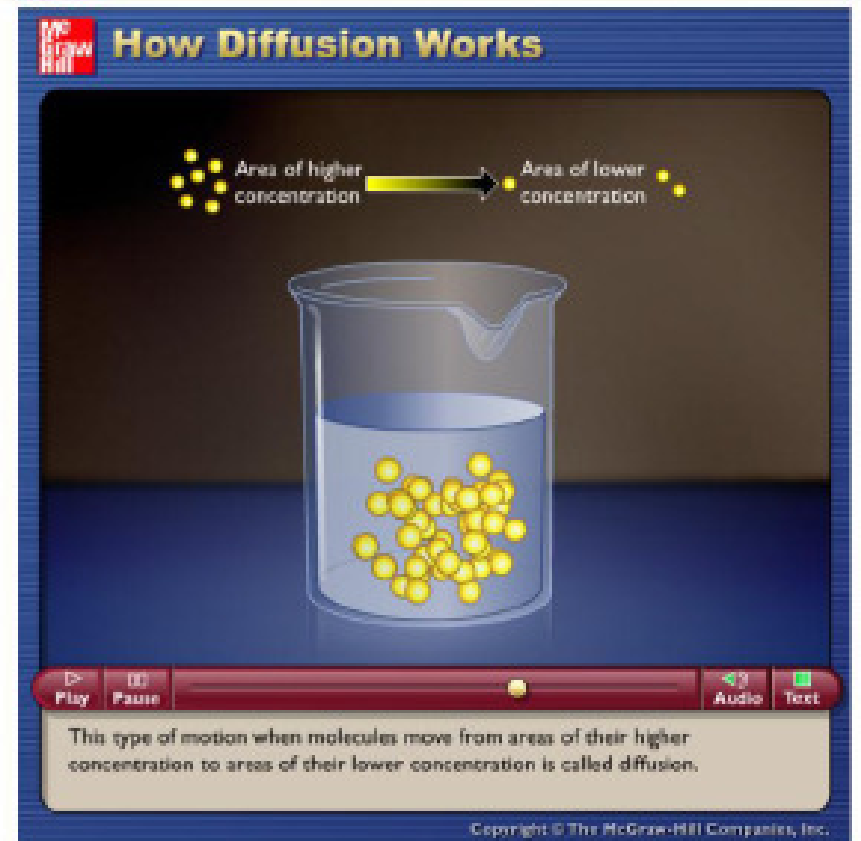
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Try the tutorials here:



[http://www.phschool.com/science/biology\\_place/labbench/lab1/concepts.html](http://www.phschool.com/science/biology_place/labbench/lab1/concepts.html)



[http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student\\_view0/chapter2/animation\\_how\\_diffusion\\_works.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student_view0/chapter2/animation_how_diffusion_works.html)

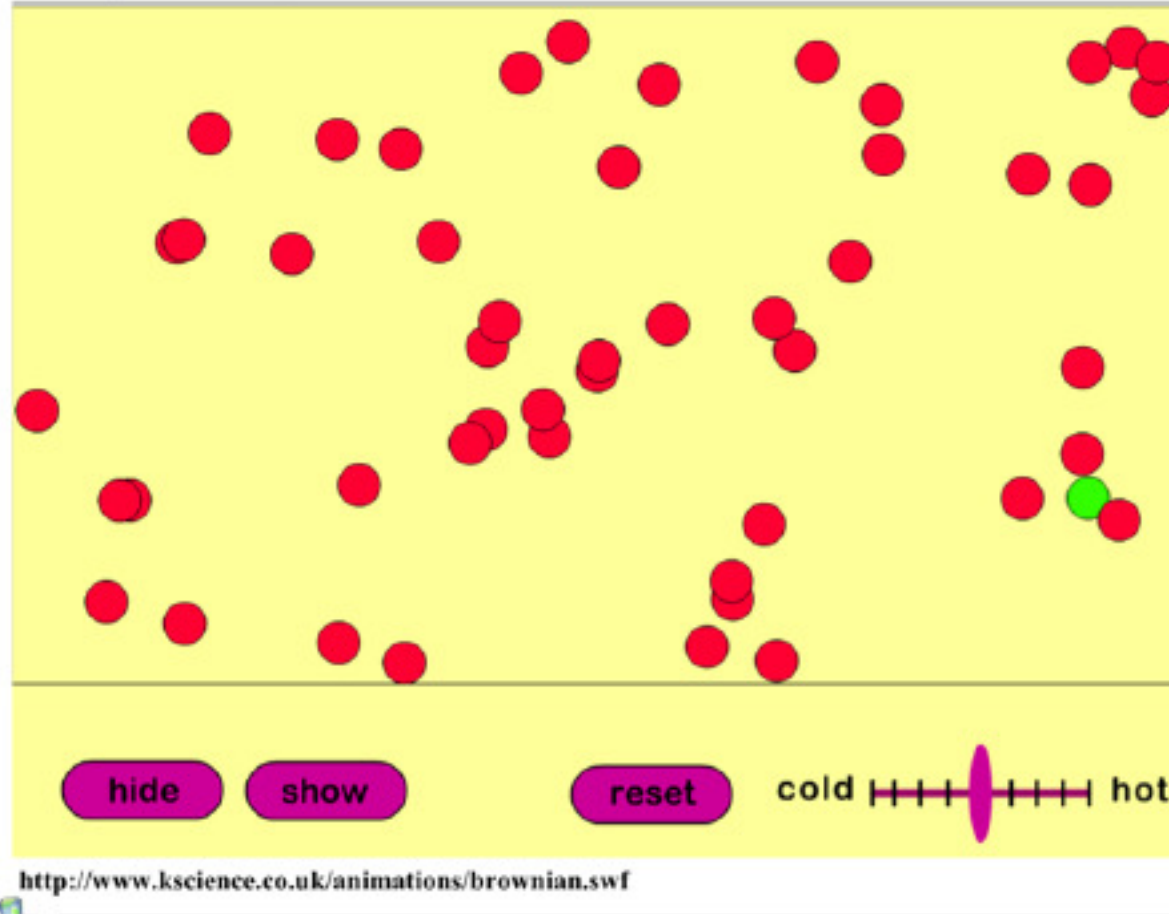
- [http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student\\_view0/chapter2/animation\\_how\\_diffusion\\_works.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student_view0/chapter2/animation_how_diffusion_works.html)
- [http://prod2.phschool.com/science/biology\\_place/labbench/lab1/intro.html](http://prod2.phschool.com/science/biology_place/labbench/lab1/intro.html)

## Brownian Motion:

The **random movement of particles** in a liquid or gas.

With more energy, particles move more quickly and collide more often.

Due to brownian motion, particles will **diffuse evenly** (on average) **throughout the system**, over time.



Him again?



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Brown\\_\(botanist\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Brown_(botanist))

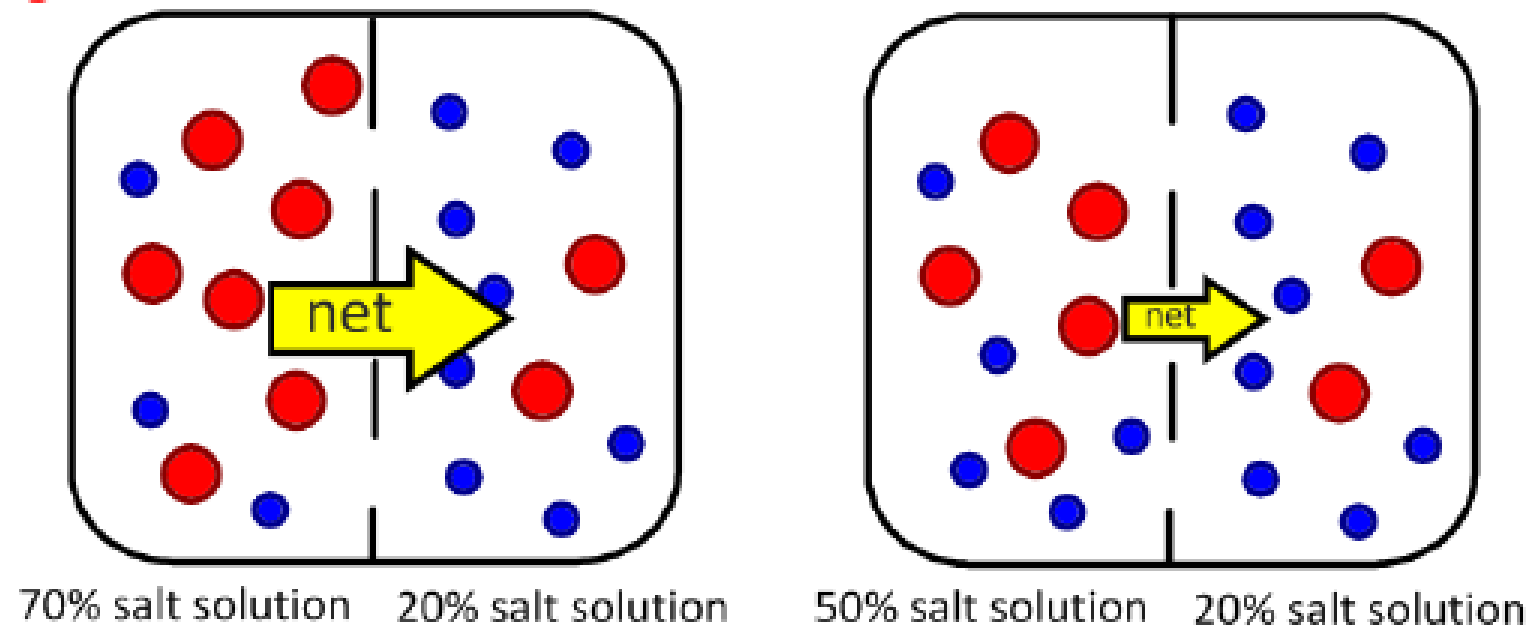
Robert Brown discovered this action when studying the random motion of pollen particles in water.

He also discovered and named the eukaryote nucleus.

He didn't make this animation.

- <http://www.kscience.co.uk/animations/brownian.swf>

Diffusion is the **passive net movement** of **molecules** from regions of **high concentration** to **low concentration**.



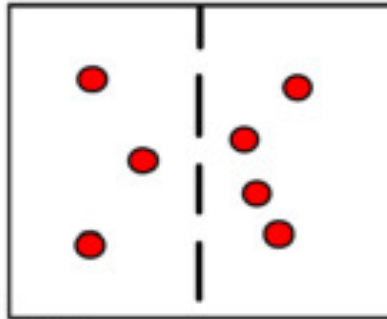
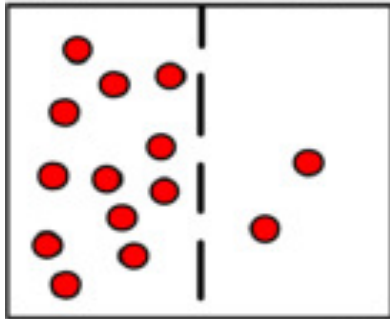
A **higher concentration gradient** leads to an **increased rate of diffusion** as molecules have more energy and move more quickly.

- water (solvent)
- salt (solute)

Explain three factors, other than temperature, that affect the rate of diffusion of a solute across a membrane.

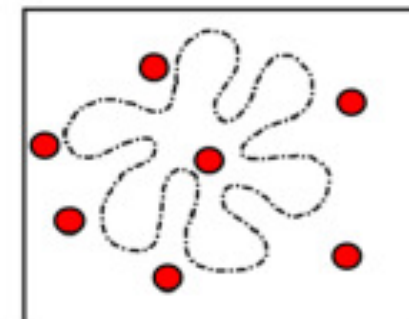
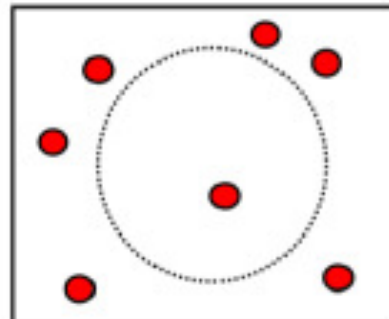
Explain three factors, other than temperature, that affect the rate of diffusion of a solute across a membrane.

CONCENTRATION GRADIENT



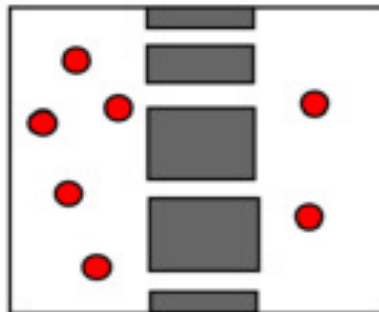
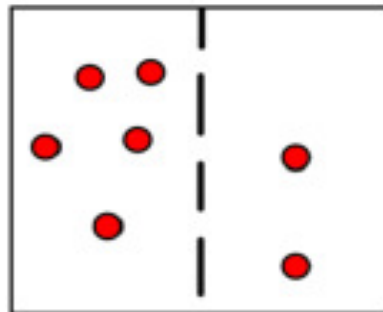
net movement  
concentration  
gradient  
rate of diffusion

SURFACE AREA

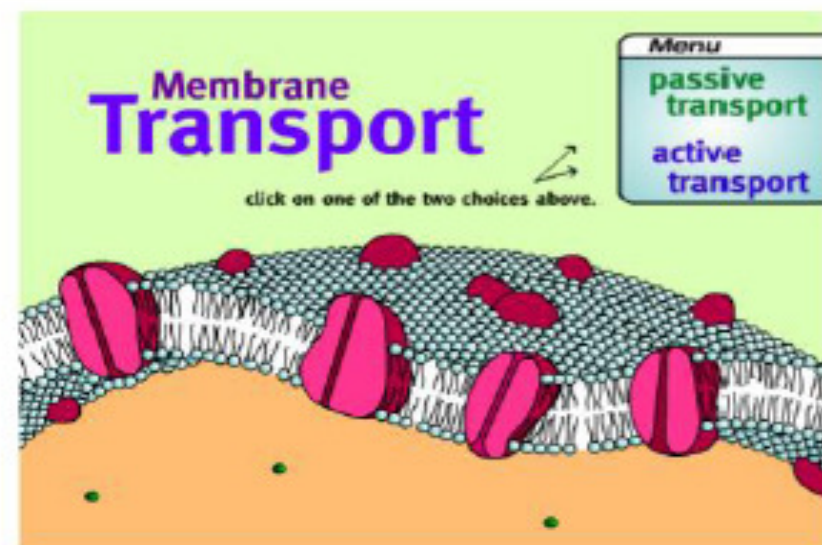


net movement  
surface area

LENGTH OF DIFFUSION PATH



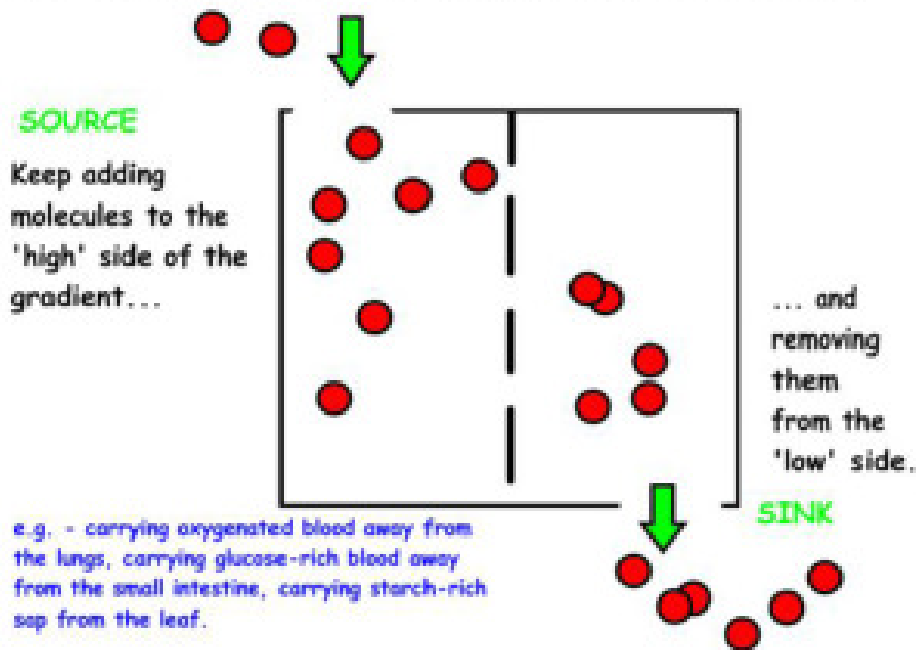
net movement  
diffusion path  
rate of diffusion



<http://www.northland.cc.mn.us/biology/Biology111/animations/transport1.html>

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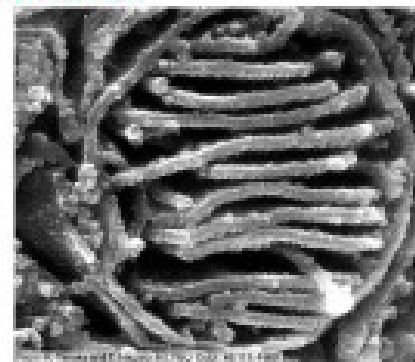
ADAPTATIONS IN BIOLOGY: maintaining a large gradient.



Maximising surface area for absorption:

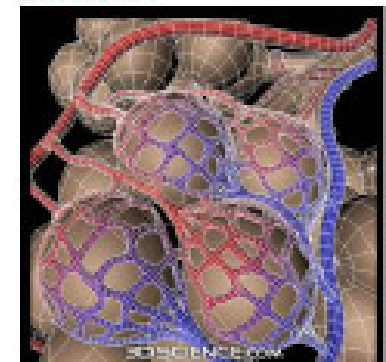
1. Alveoli in lungs
2. Membrane folds in mitochondria and in cristae in the chloroplasts
3. Root hairs for water and mineral ion uptake
4. Villi for absorption of digested food molecules.

cristae:



<http://porpac.bio.miami.edu/~emallery/150/cells/mitoSEM2.jpg>

alveoli:



[http://www.3dscience.com/img/Products/3D\\_Models/Human\\_Anatomy/Alveoli/supporting\\_images/3D\\_Model\\_Anat\\_Alveoli2\\_web.jpg](http://www.3dscience.com/img/Products/3D_Models/Human_Anatomy/Alveoli/supporting_images/3D_Model_Anat_Alveoli2_web.jpg)

Reducing the length of diffusion path:

1. Membranes are incredibly thin (7-10nm)
2. Folded membranes increase the SA:VOL ratio
3. More membrane in a smaller volume means shorter distances across which molecules must diffuse.

root hairs:

(villi look very similar)



<http://quorumsensing.ifas.ufl.edu/HCS200/images/legbiz/rootha2.jpg>



Facilitated diffusion is the **passive net movement** of **particles** from regions of **high concentration** to **low concentration**, through a **selectively permeable membrane**, facilitated by **carrier proteins**.

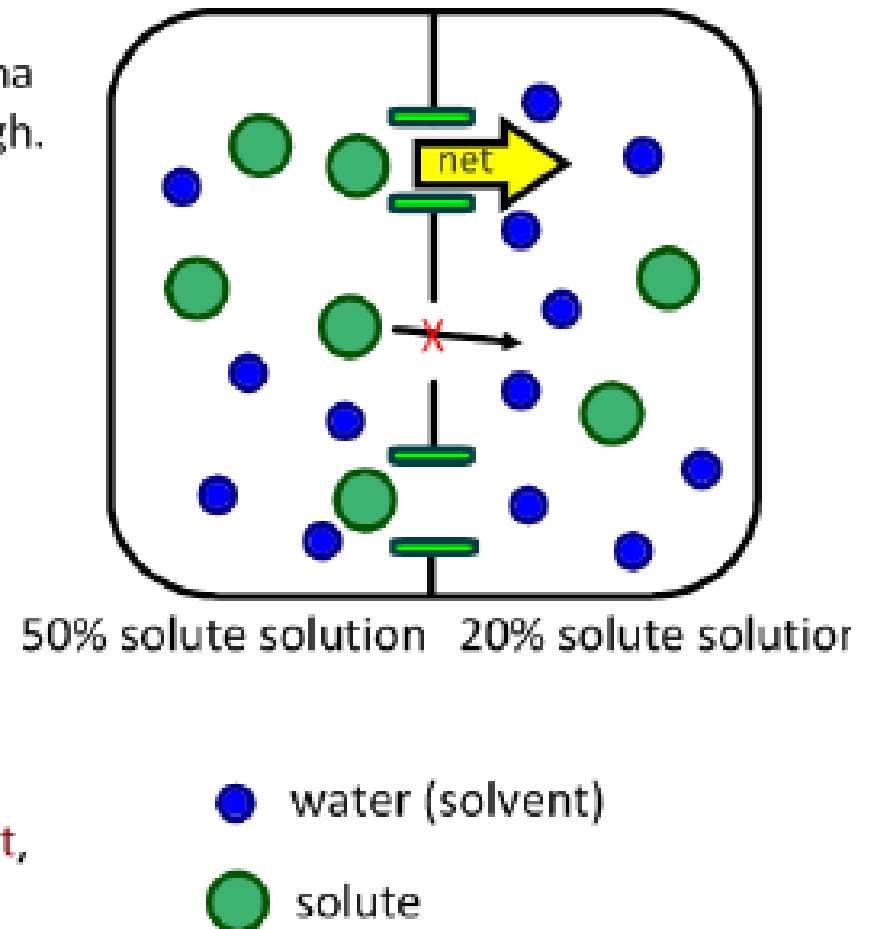
**Selectively permeable membranes**, such as the plasma membrane, do not allow all molecules to pass through.

This depends on the **properties** of the molecules.

**Carrier proteins** (**channel proteins**) are **integral globular proteins** in the plasma membrane that allow some molecules to pass through.

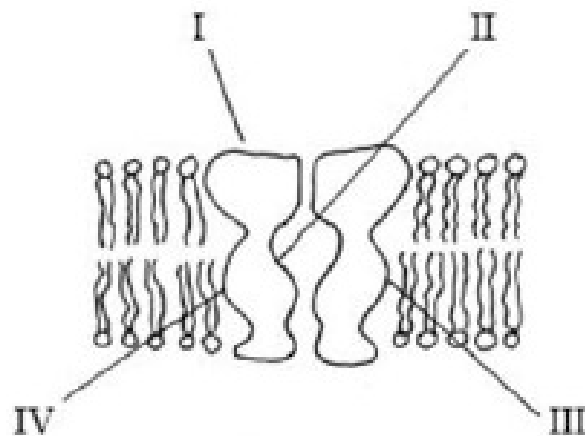
Channel proteins are **specific** to their molecules. This is determined by the polar regions on the proteins (more on this later).

Facilitated diffusion is **down a concentration gradient**, therefore is **passive** (does not require energy).



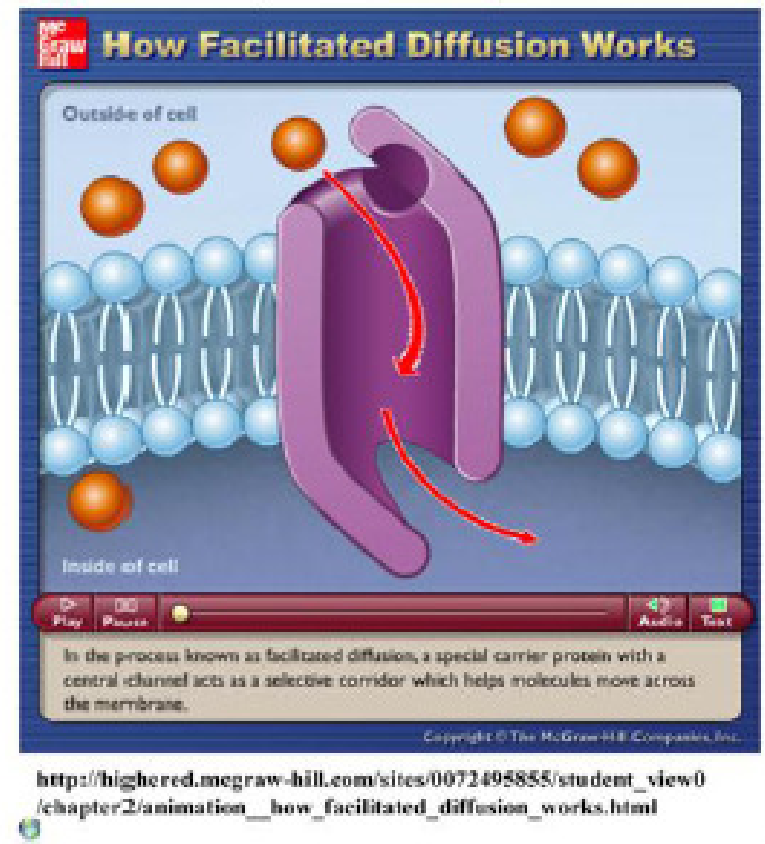
Facilitated diffusion is the **passive net movement** of **particles** from regions of **high concentration** to **low concentration**, through a **selectively permeable membrane**, facilitated by **carrier proteins**.

Voltage-gated sodium channels are used in facilitated diffusion. These are found in neurons.



The properties of parts I and II in the diagram allow specific molecules to pass through.

Diagram: QuestionBank CDRom

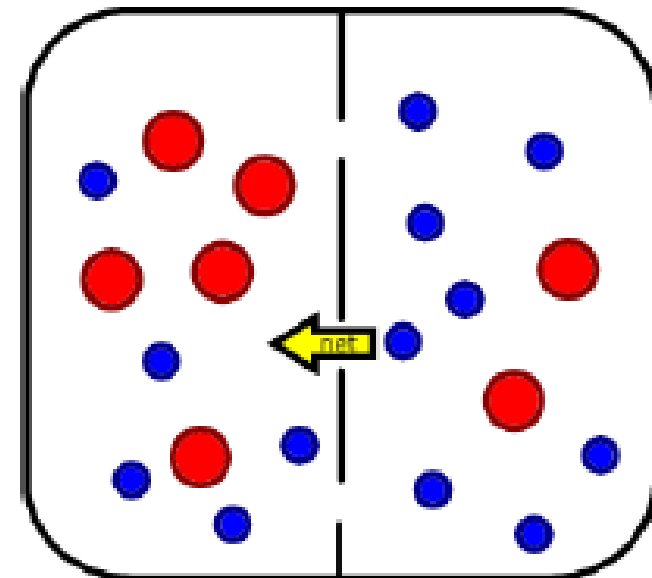


- [http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student\\_view0/chapter2/animation\\_how\\_facilitated\\_diffusion\\_works.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student_view0/chapter2/animation_how_facilitated_diffusion_works.html)

Osmosis is the **passive net movement** of **water molecules** from regions of **low solute concentration** to **high solute concentration**, through a **partially/selectively permeable membrane**.

**passive** = requires no energy

**net** = overall movement (remember that all molecules are moving all the time in all directions)



The solute molecules cannot pass through the membrane, due to their properties.

50% solute solution    20% solute solution

$\therefore$  low water     $\therefore$  high water

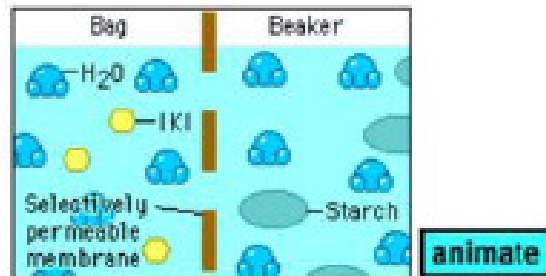
Osmosis is also movement **down a concentration gradient** - but we are considering the movement of **water molecules**, not the solute molecules.

● water (solvent)

● solute

Osmosis is the **passive net movement** of **water molecules** from regions of **low solute concentration** to **high solute concentration**, through a **partially/selectively permeable membrane**.

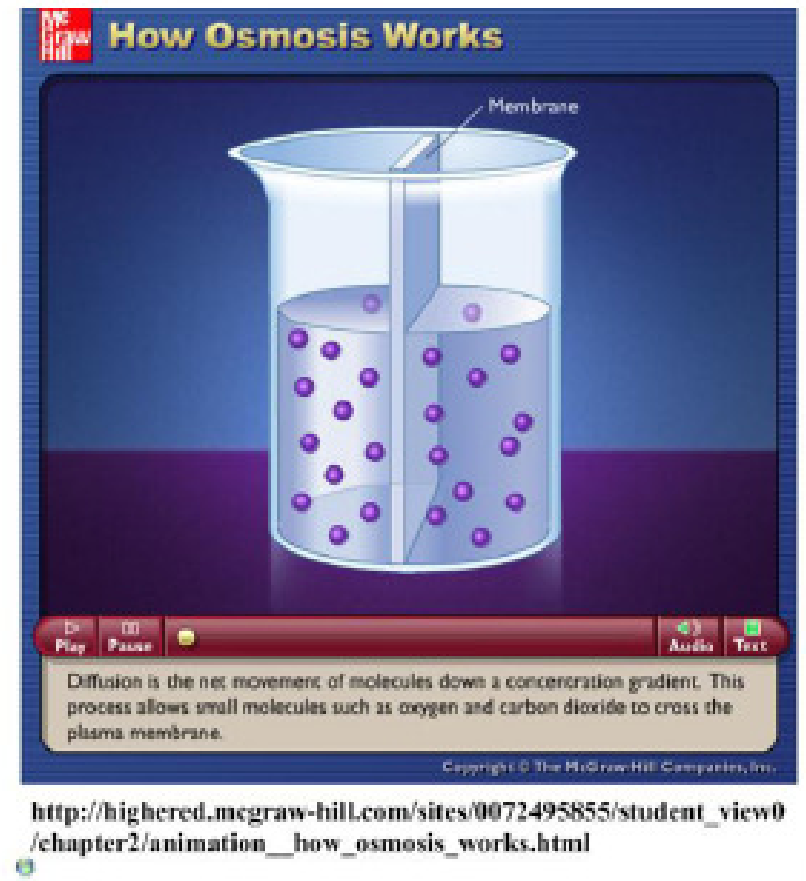
Try the tutorials here:



[http://www.phschool.com/science/biology\\_place/labbench/lab1/concepts.html](http://www.phschool.com/science/biology_place/labbench/lab1/concepts.html)

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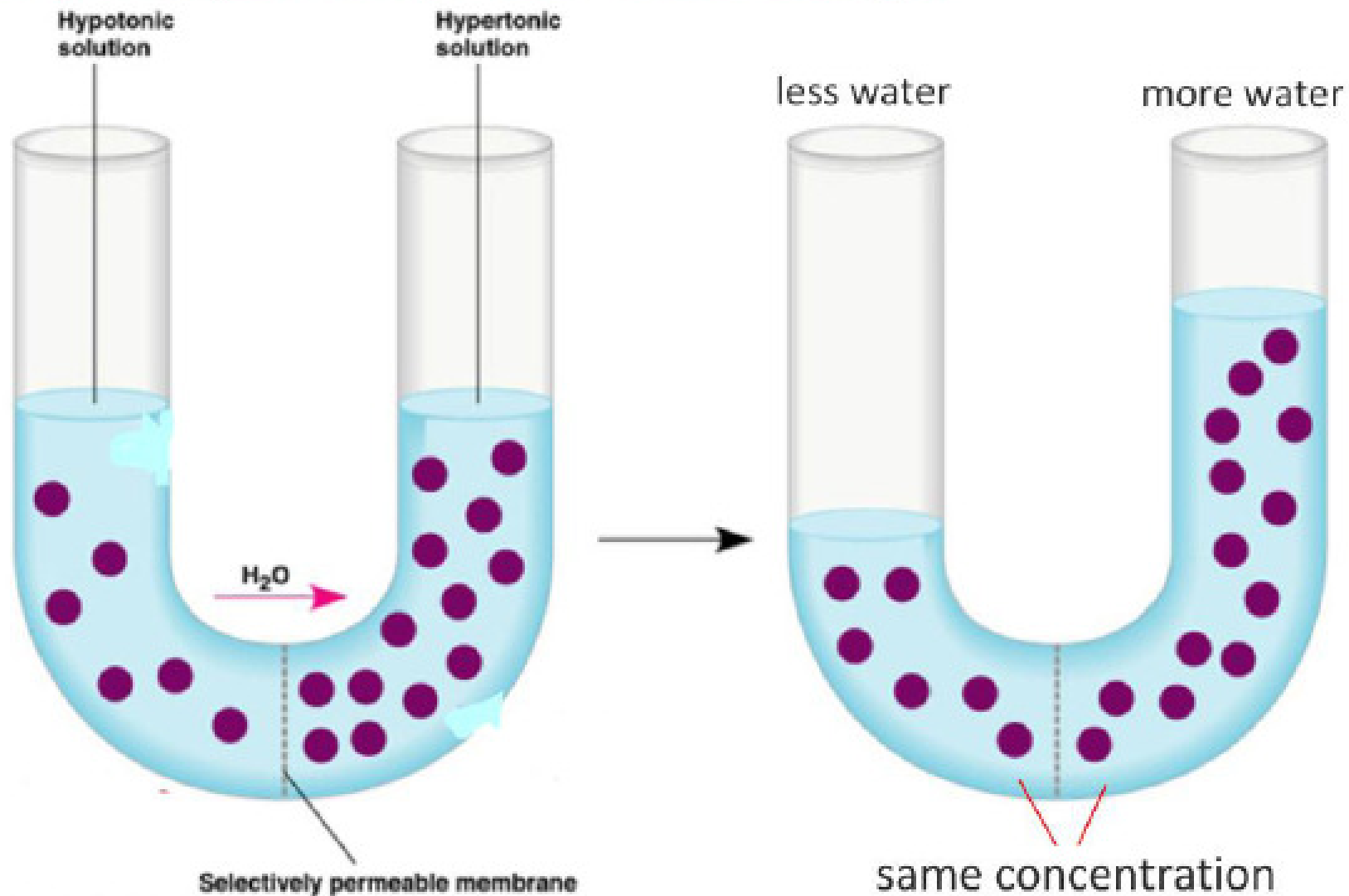
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[http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student\\_view0/chapter2/animation\\_how\\_osmosis\\_works.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student_view0/chapter2/animation_how_osmosis_works.html)

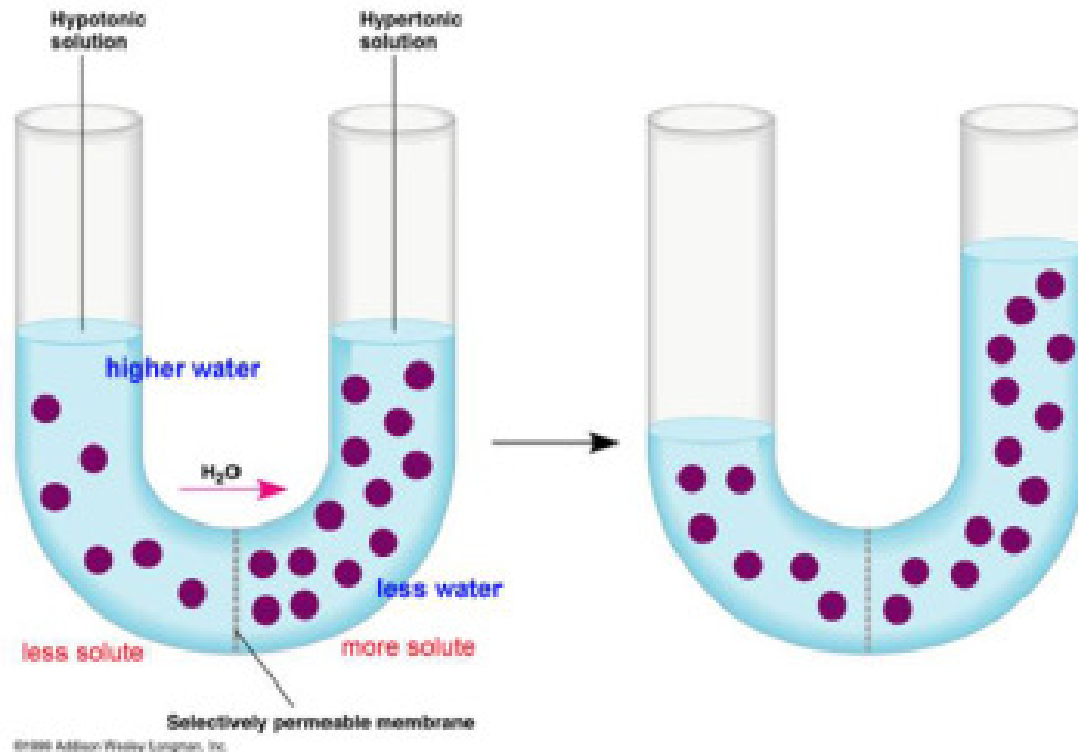
- [http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student\\_view0/chapter2/animation\\_how\\_osmosis\\_works.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072495855/student_view0/chapter2/animation_how_osmosis_works.html)

Can you explain why water levels change?



<http://www.hansenkg.de/english/osmosis.jpg>

## Can you explain why water levels change?



© 2000 Addison-Wesley Longman, Inc.

<http://www.hansenkg.de/english/osmosis.jpg>

Water moves by **osmosis** from an area of **low solute concentration** (**more water**) to **high solute concentration** (**less water**). The solute particles cannot move to balance the concentrations as they are *too large to fit through the pores of the selectively permeable membrane*.

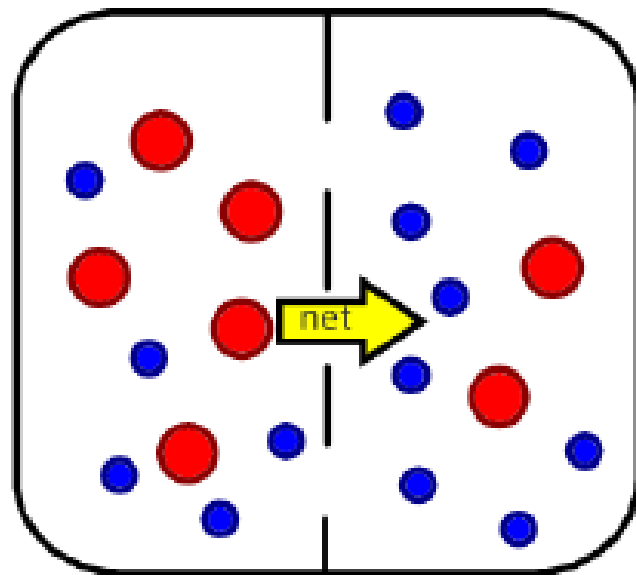
What is the meaning of **hyper-**?  
What about **hypo-**?

Think about **hypothermia**,  
**hyper**activity, **hypoxia**, **hyper**tension.

Compare diffusion and osmosis.

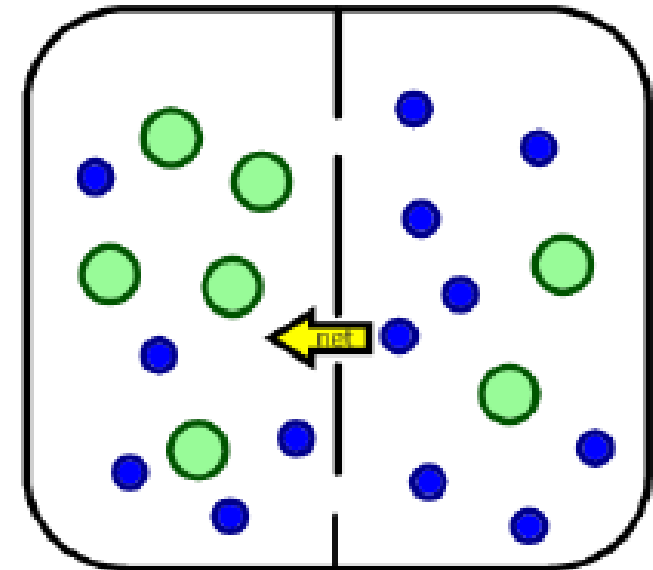


## Compare diffusion and osmosis.



50% solute solution    20% solute solution

● water (solvent)  
● solutes



50% solute solution    20% solute solution  
∴ low water                      ∴ high water

Similar:

both are passive

both are down a  
concentration gradient

Different:

diffusion is of solutes  
membrane not needed

osmosis considers water molecules only  
partially-permeable membrane essential

## Useful tutorial on diffusion and osmosis:

### Diffusion and Osmosis: Mystery Revealed

[Home](#) | [Credits](#)

[The Cell Membrane](#) | [What is Diffusion?](#) | [What is Osmosis?](#)

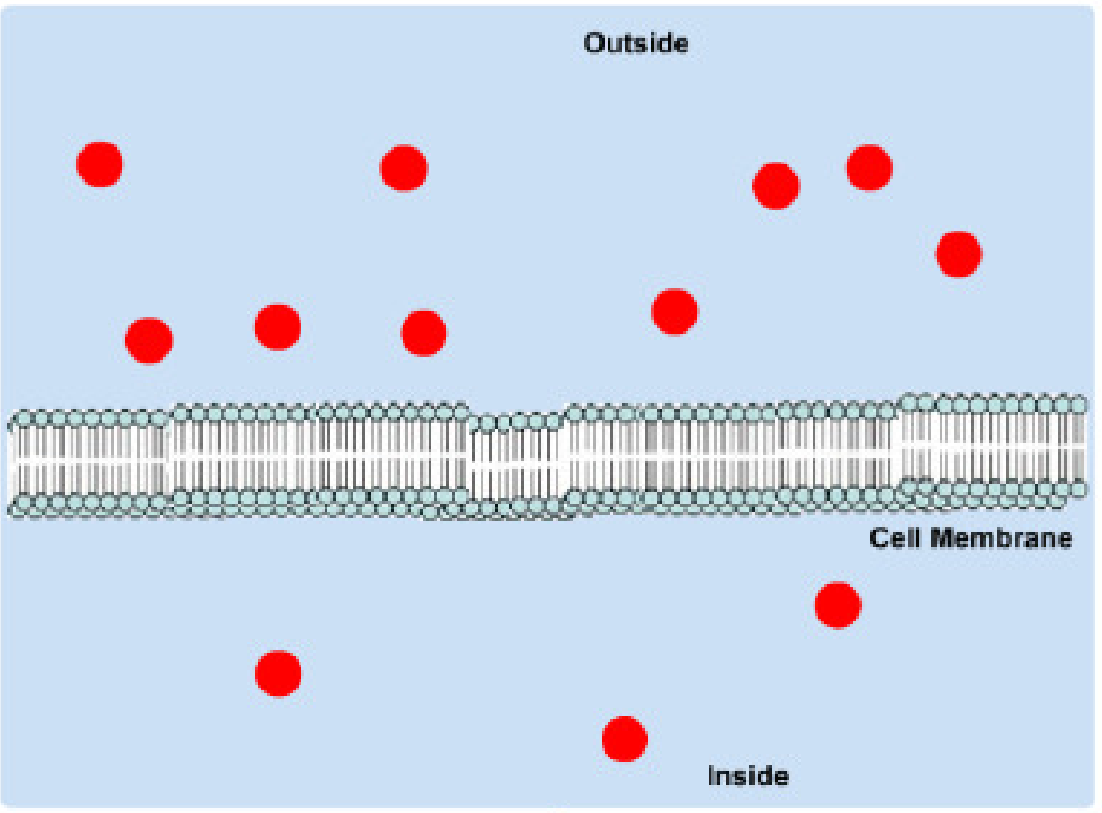
#### Getting Started

This learning object will reinforce the concepts of diffusion and osmosis.

To use the learning object:

1. Follow the order of the top menu items from left to right.
2. Use the arrows along the screen bottom to navigate within sections.
3. Place your mouse over a term that is **blue** in the left panel to generate a definition of that term.
4. The instructions for each section will be given in the left panel, below the key terms.
5. Take the Summary Quiz at the end when you have completed all sections of the learning object.

Click on "The Cell Membrane" to start.



Outside

Cell Membrane

Inside

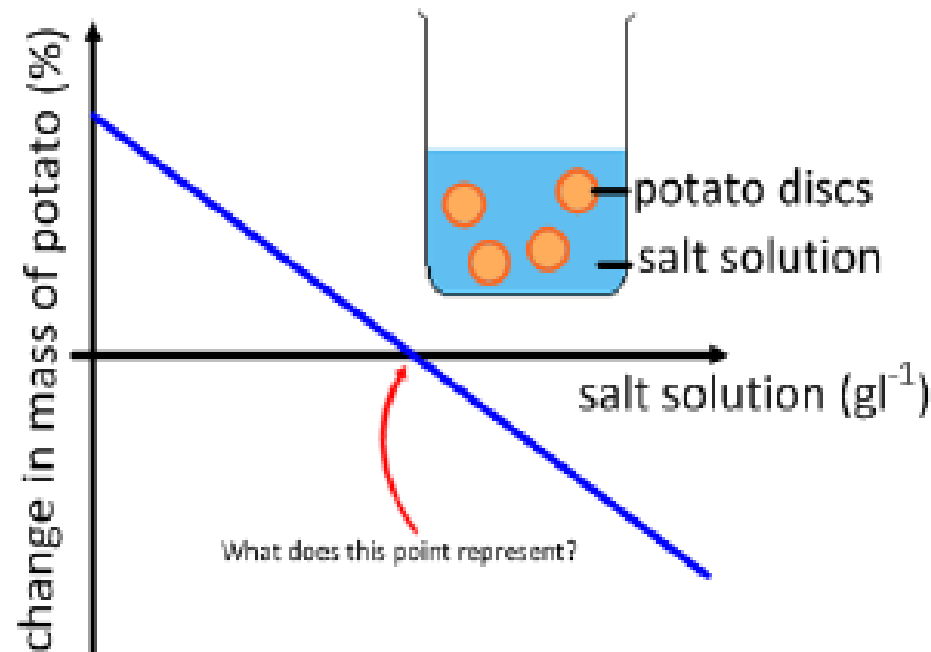
[Summary Quiz](#)

[http://education.uoit.ca/lordec/ID\\_LORDEC/diffusion\\_osmosis/garib\\_diffusion\\_osmosis.swf](http://education.uoit.ca/lordec/ID_LORDEC/diffusion_osmosis/garib_diffusion_osmosis.swf)



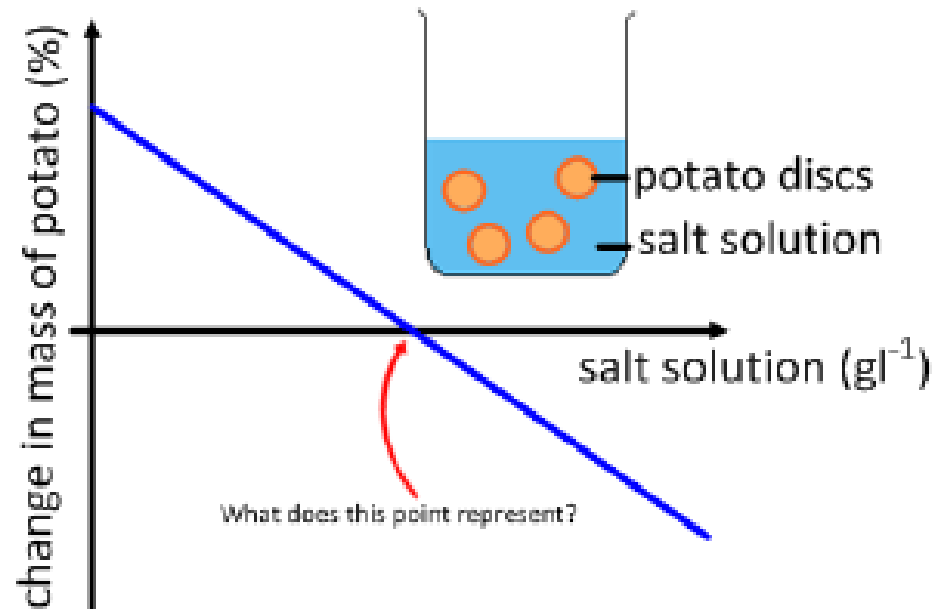
- [http://education.uoit.ca/lordec/ID\\_LORDEC/diffusion osmosis/garib diffusion osmosis.swf](http://education.uoit.ca/lordec/ID_LORDEC/diffusion_osmosis/garib_diffusion_osmosis.swf)

Analyse the information in this sketch graph.



1. Explain the significance of the point labeled in red.
2. Explain the blue line.
3. Deduce the experimental method used to generate this graph.
4. Discuss how the dependent variable was recorded and calculated. How would the researcher ensure that data were sufficient, relevant and reliable?
5. Discuss the variables that needed to be controlled in the investigation. What could be the impact of each of them? How could they be controlled?

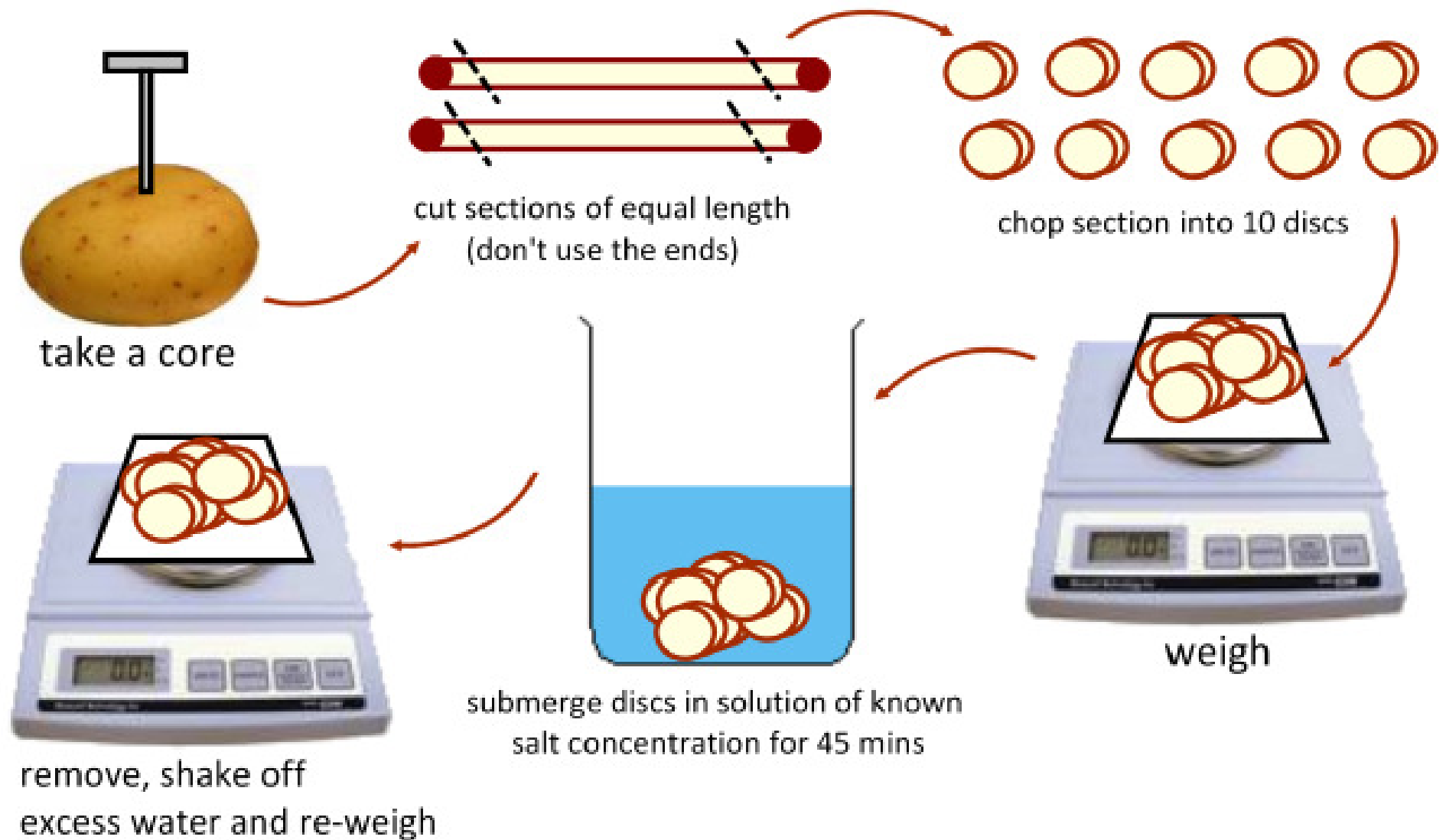
Analyse the information in this sketch graph.



Now use your answers to carry out the same investigation. Refer to the criteria for Design, DCP and CE throughout.

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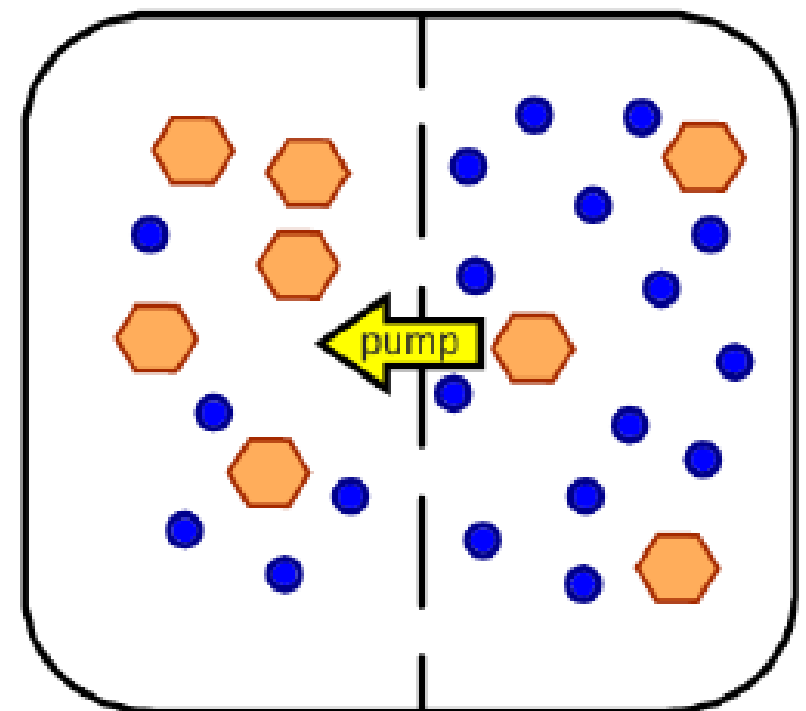
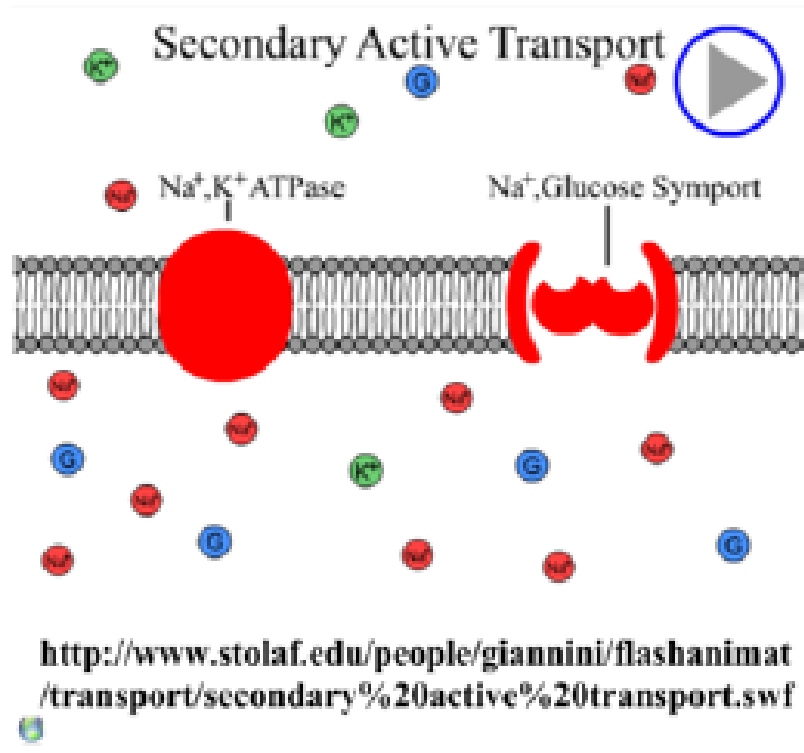
# Osmosis: finding the concentration of salt in potato cells



**Active transport** uses **energy**, in the form of **ATP**, to move molecules **against a concentration gradient**, using **membrane protein pumps**.

The molecules cannot pass through the membrane, due to their properties.

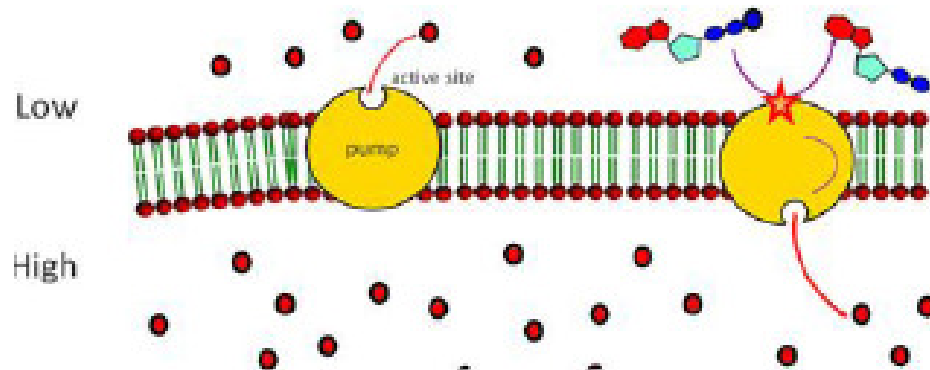
Active transport is key in homeostasis in organisms, such as re-setting nerves after impulses have passed through, or absorbing glucose in the gut.



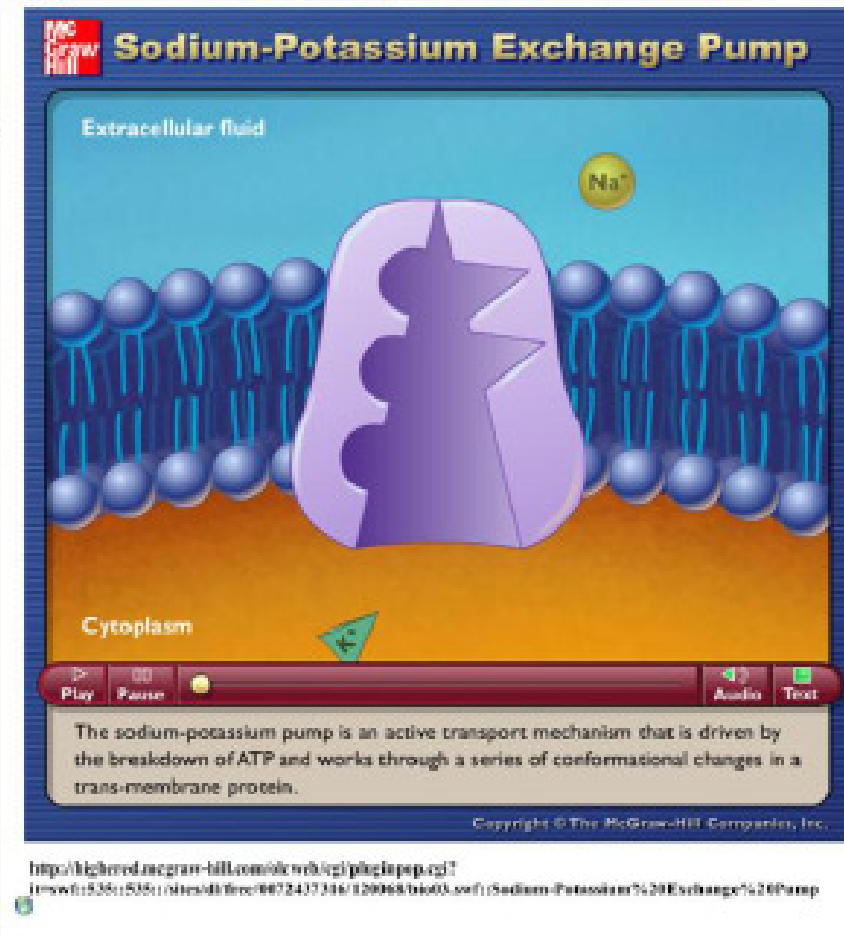
● water (solvent)  
● molecule

**Active transport** uses **energy**, in the form of **ATP**, to move molecules against a **concentration gradient**, using **membrane protein pumps**.

Protein pumps are **specific** to their molecules.  
The molecule **binds to the active site** of the pump.



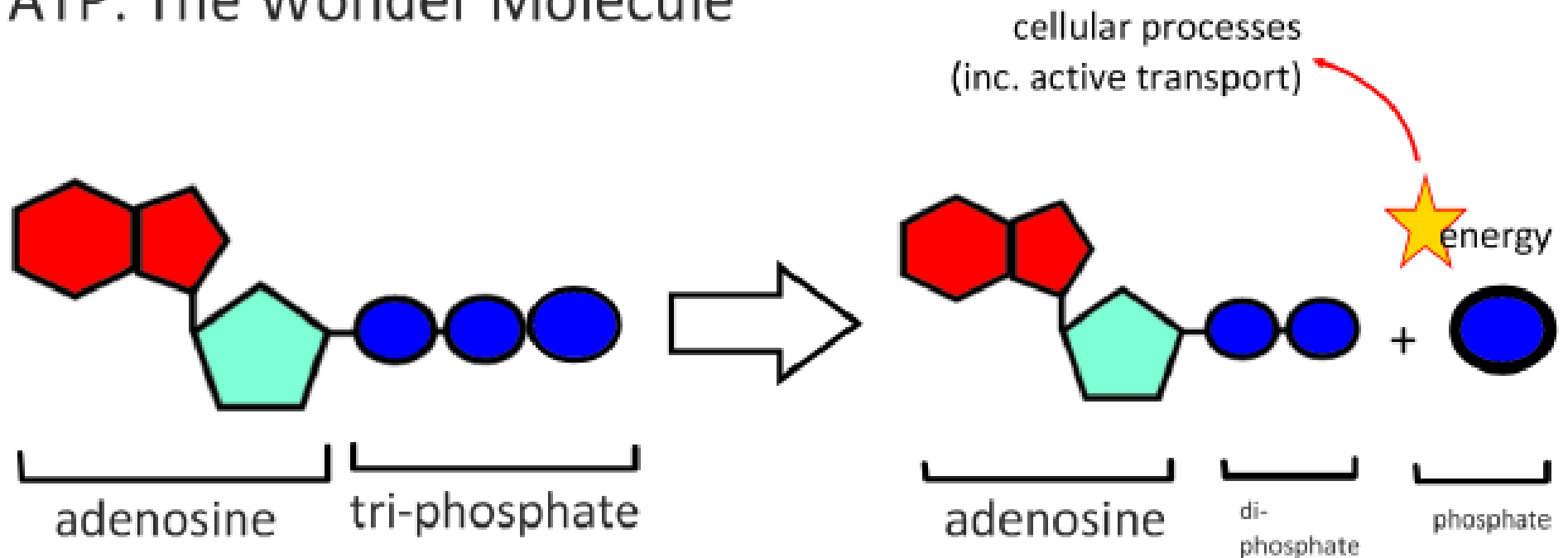
The **release of energy from ATP** results in a **conformational change** in the shape of the protein pump. The molecule is pushed to the other side of the membrane.



- <http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/olcweb/cgi/pluginpop.cgi?it=swf::535::535::/sites/dl/free/0072437316/120068/bio03.swf::Sodium-Potassium%20Exchange%20Pump>



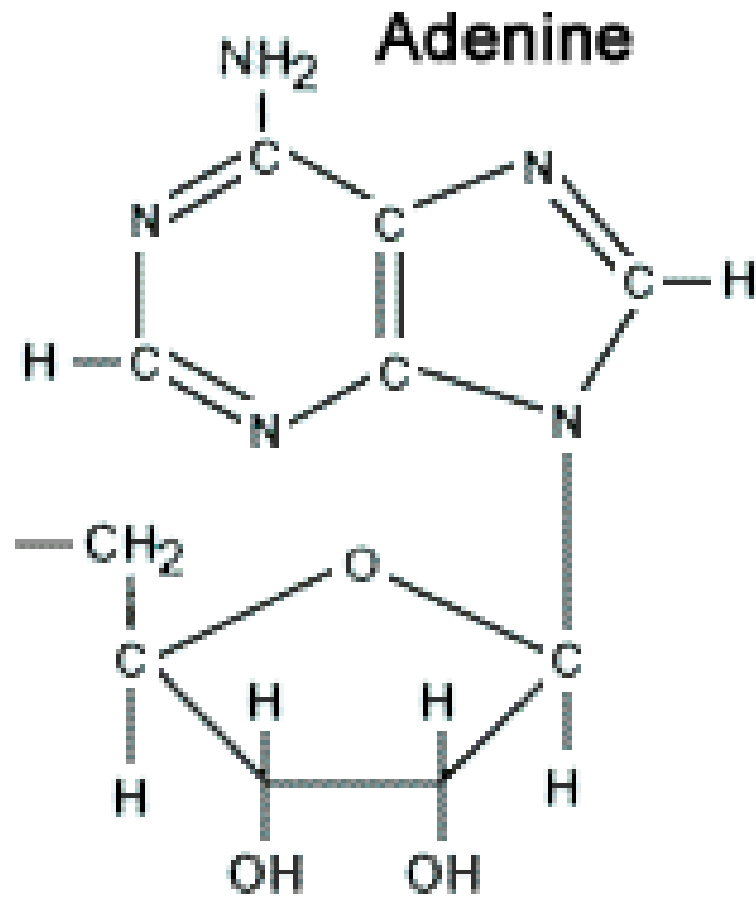
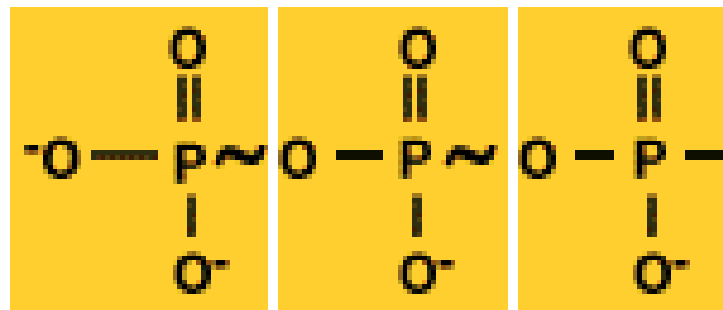
# ATP: The Wonder Molecule



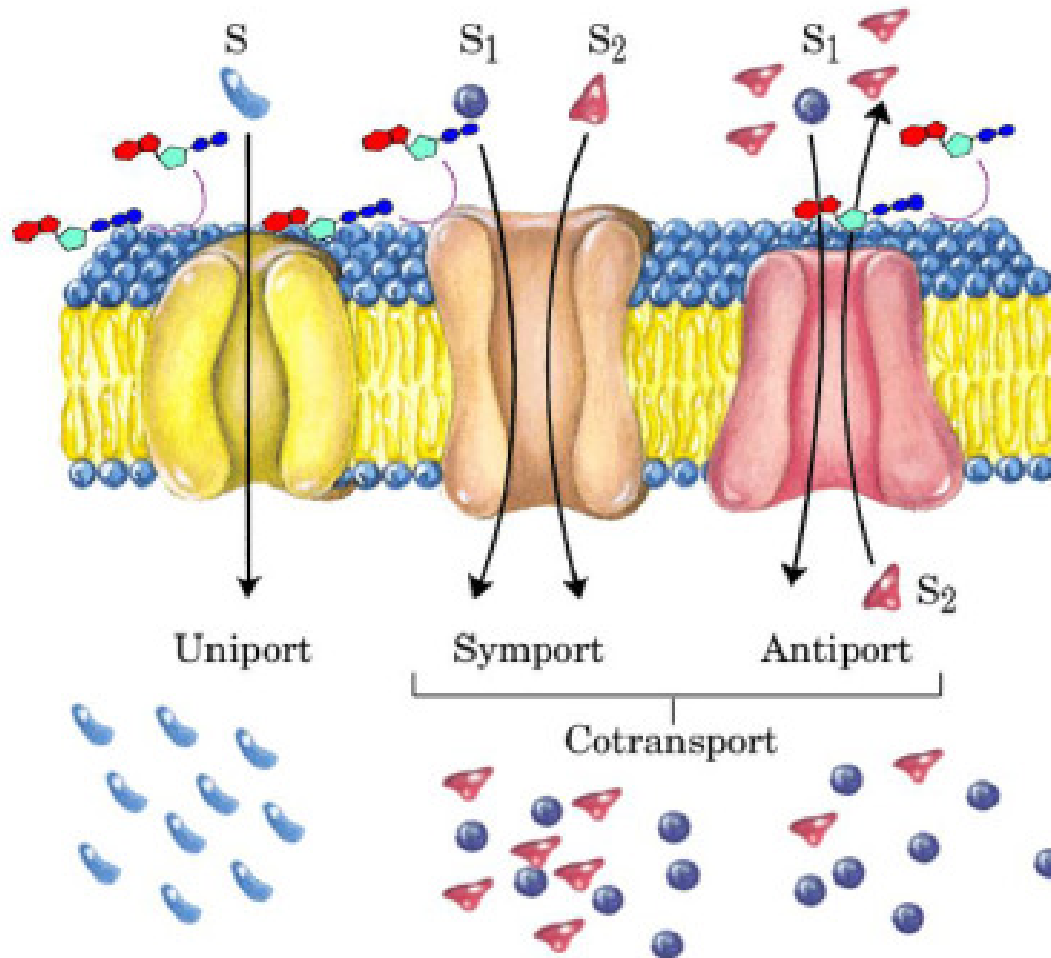
**Hydrolysis** of the bond releases one phosphate and a lot of energy.  
use water split

**Respiration** in the cells recombines ADP with a phosphate ion, to be used for further cellular processes.

### 3 Phosphate Groups



There is diversity in active transport methods.



#### active transport

In this animation, we will be focusing on three specific types of **active transport**:

- ion pumps
- cotransport
- endocytosis

As in the previous section, we will walk you through an explanation for each or you can simply click on a button below.

[Go Home](#)

[Active](#) [Cotransport](#) [Endocytosis](#) [Back](#) [Next](#)

<http://www.esnips.com/doc/45c10ddf-96a4-4731-a4d5-7455ff682054/Phospholipid-Bilayer>

[http://www.biochem.arizona.edu/classes/bioc462/462a/NOTES/LIPIDS/Fig12\\_29UniCotransport.GIF](http://www.biochem.arizona.edu/classes/bioc462/462a/NOTES/LIPIDS/Fig12_29UniCotransport.GIF)

# Exocytosis vs Endocytosis

exit cell process      enter cell process

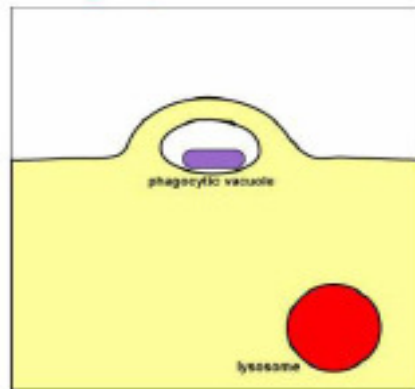
Exocytosis is the export of macromolecules from the cell.

Endocytosis is the import of macromolecules.

**Phagocytosis** is the ingestion of solid molecules.

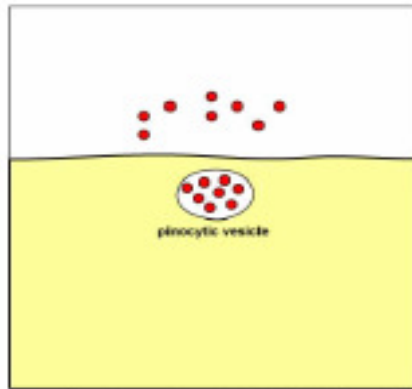
**Pinocytosis** is the ingestion of liquids and solutes.

## Phagocytosis:



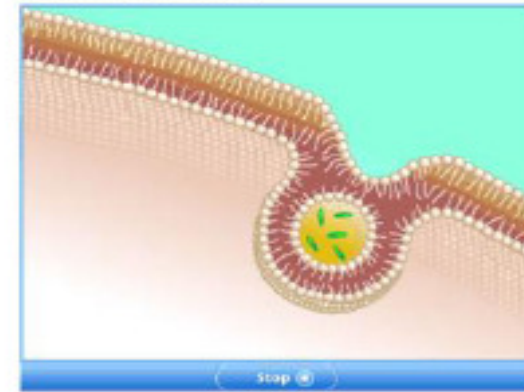
<http://student.ecbemd.edu/~gkaiser/biotutorials/eustruct/phagocyt.html>

## Pinocytosis:



<http://student.ecbemd.edu/~gkaiser/biotutorials/eustruct/pinocyt.html>

## Exocytosis:



<http://www.northland.cc.mn.us/biology/Biology1111/animations/transport1.html>

## Endocytosis



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6rnhiMxtKU>

- <http://www.northland.cc.mn.us/biology/Biology1111/animations/transport1.html>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6rnhiMxtKU>

# Vesicle transport: Exocytosis of protein molecules via the Golgi apparatus

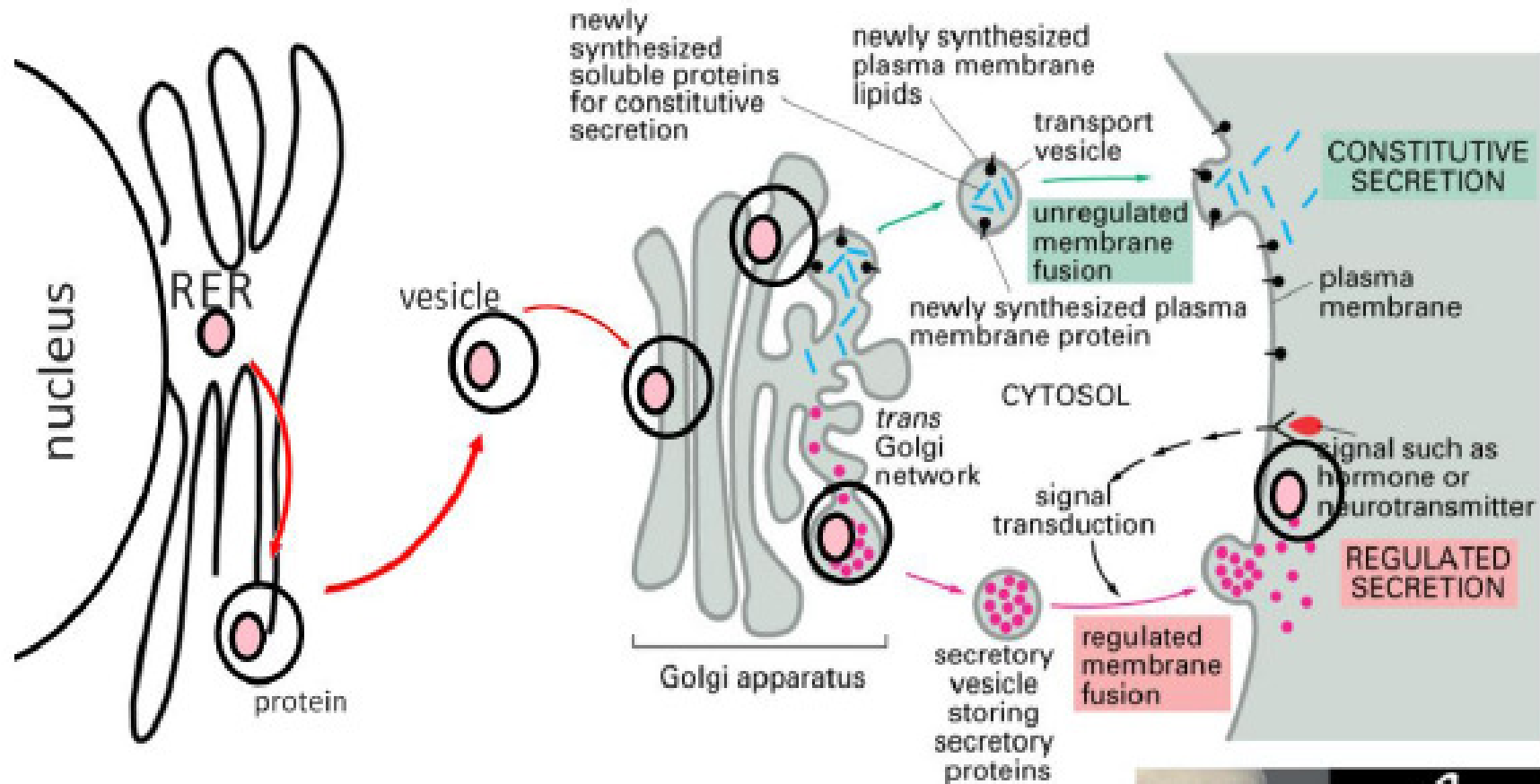


Figure 15-28 Essential Cell Biology, 2/e. (© 2004 Garland Science)



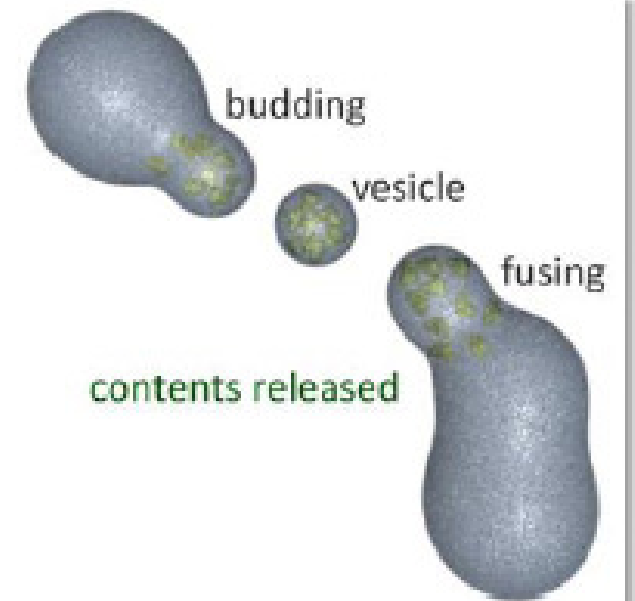
<http://vcell.ndsu.nodak.edu/animations/proteintrafficking/movie.htm>

# Vesicle transport resources:

<http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/begin/cells/vesicles/>

Vesicles transport **macromolecules** (those which are too large for diffusion or protein channels) and newly-formed molecules such as proteins. The vesicle is formed from the **phospholipid bilayer**, and **protects the contents** as they travel through the reactive cytoplasm.

When the vesicle reaches its destination, it **fuses with the membrane** and releases its contents. Try the link above to see some movies on how the vesicles move around the cell.



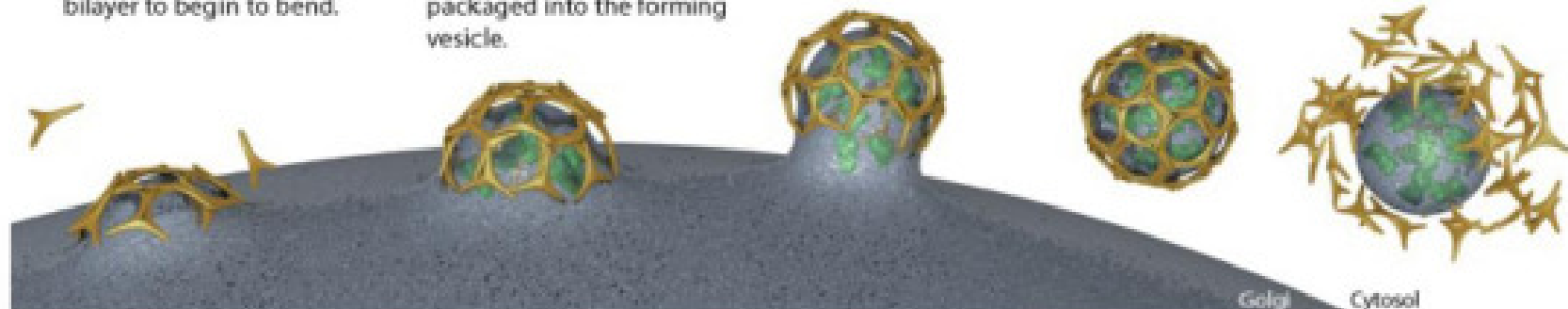
## Budding Vesicles Wear Coats

1 When coat proteins assemble at the membrane, they force the lipid bilayer to begin to bend.

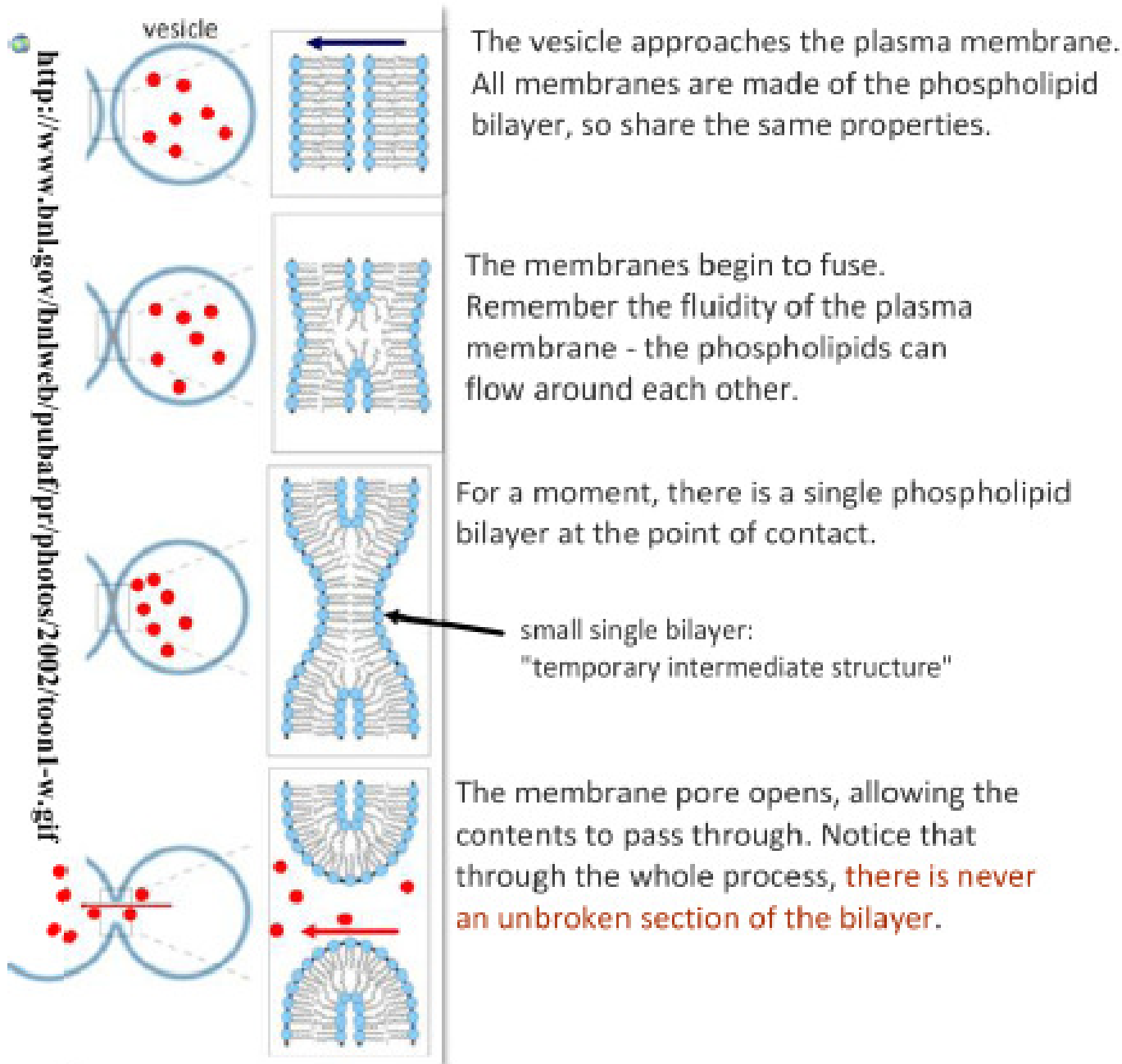
2 As they gather at the membrane, coat proteins may also select the cargo that is packaged into the forming vesicle.

3 As more coat proteins are added, they shape the surrounding membrane into a sphere.

4 Once a coated vesicle pinches off, the coat falls off, and the cargo-filled vesicle is ready to travel to its destination.



## How do membranes fuse?

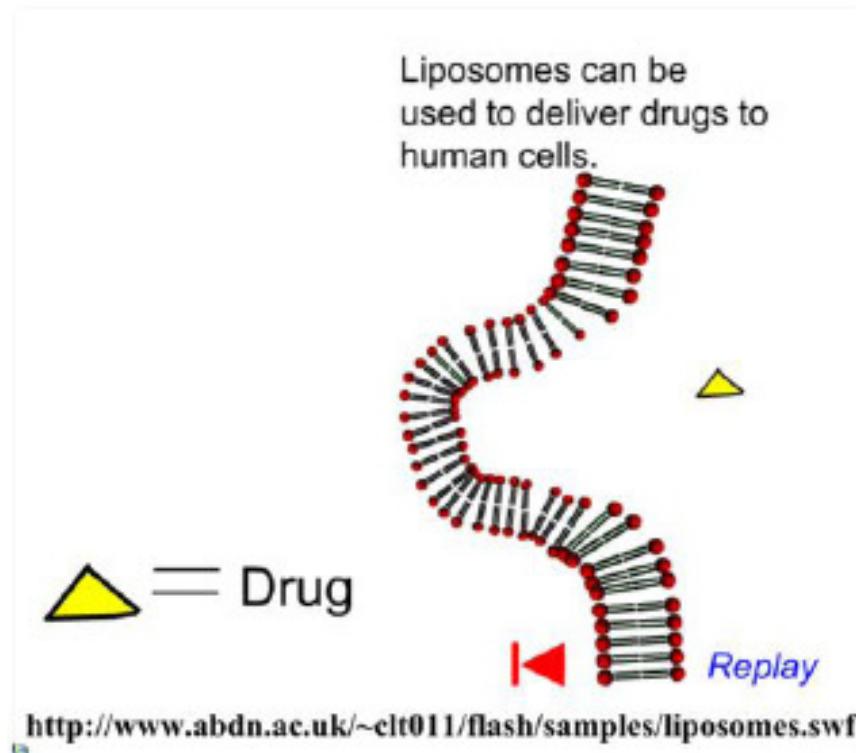


Lin Yang

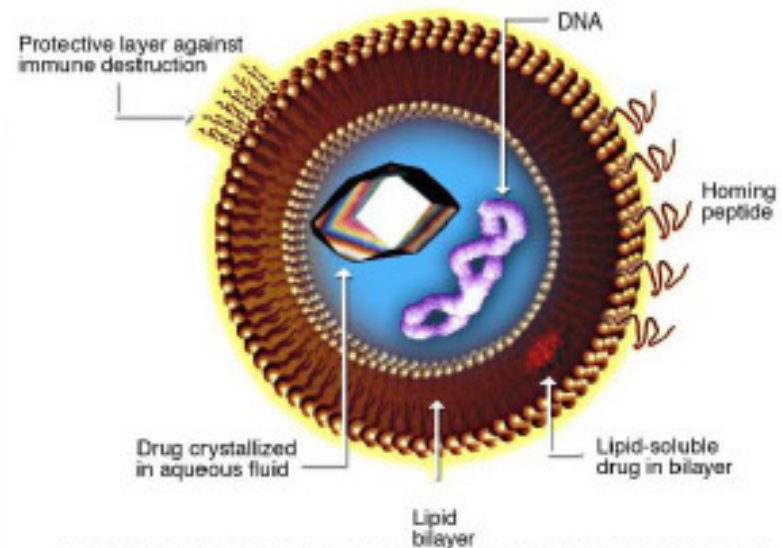
It wasn't until 2002 that the method for membrane fusion was discovered - by Yang and Hwang - using X-ray diffraction images.

# How can the properties of the phospholipid bilayer be used in medicine?

**Liposomes** are artificially-produced **vesicles** which can be used to transport drugs around the body and deliver them to cells\*.



## Liposome for Drug Delivery



<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/2/28/Liposome.jpg>

Liposomes are a good potential method for targetting cancers, as the cells in a tumour are not bound as tightly as regular cells (so it is easier to fuse with their membranes and deliver a drug).

## Ultra-sound guided liposomes boost drug delivery:

<http://news.bio-medicine.org/medicine-news-2/Ultrasound-guided-liposomes-boost-imaging--target-drug-gene-therapy-4355-1/>

\*How do they know which cells to bind to?

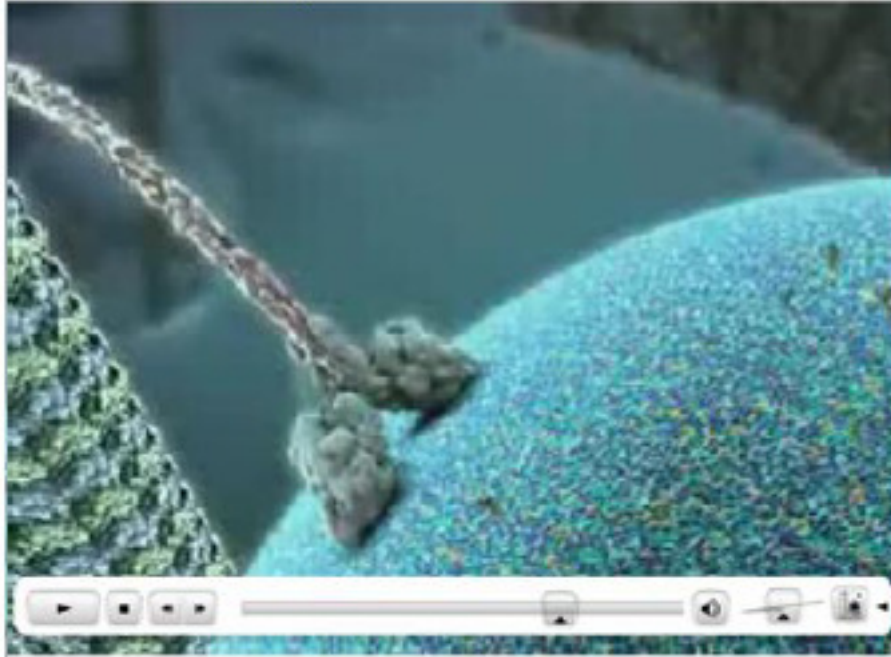
- <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~clt011/flash/samples/liposomes.swf>
- <http://news.bio-medicine.org/medicine-news-2/Ultrasound-guided-liposomes-boost-imaging--target-drug-gene-therapy-4355-1/>



# The Inner Life of the Cell

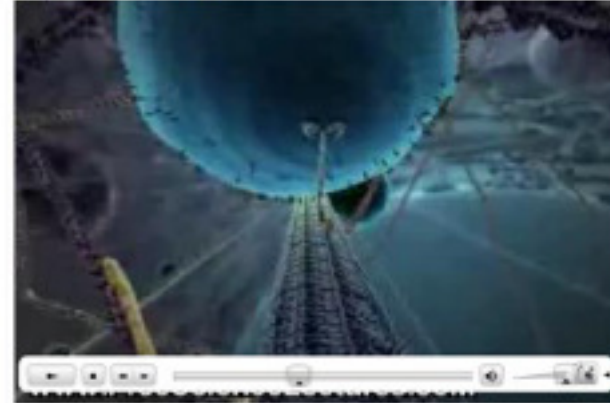
Which organelles can you recognise in these Harvard animations?

Full commentary:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixgFEMWd8F>

Quick Version:



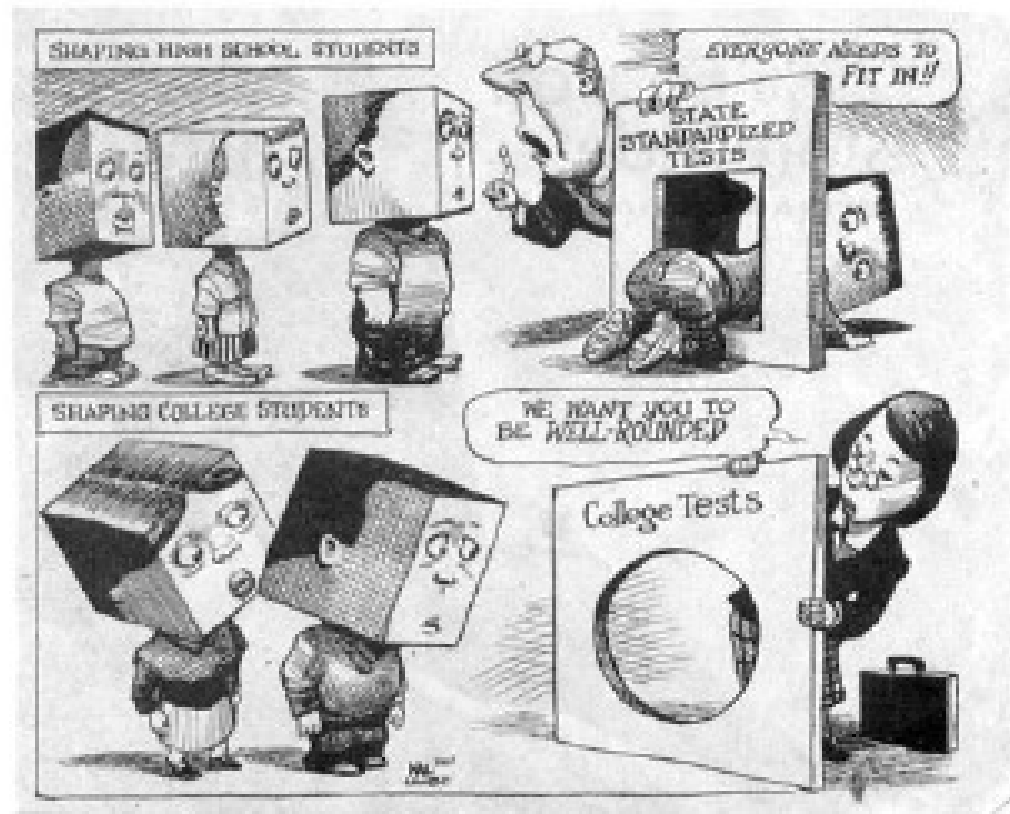
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coYxM38QM0Q>

Really clever plasma membrane rap:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1KXibLIOGY>

- <http://multimedia.mcb.harvard.edu/>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1KXibLIOGY>



Entrance exams are like a selectively permeable membrane.

Cartoon: [http://www.jhu.edu/virtlab/course-info/ei/notes/KAL\\_cartoon.jpg](http://www.jhu.edu/virtlab/course-info/ei/notes/KAL_cartoon.jpg)

