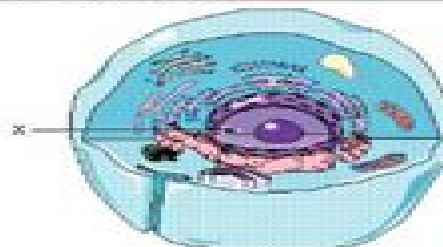


### THE CELL THEORY

- although different living things may be as unlike as a violet and an octopus, they are all built in essentially the same way. The most basic similarity is that all living things are composed of one or more cells. This is known as the Cell Theory.
- our knowledge of cells is built on work done with microscopes
- English scientist **Robert Hooke** in 1665 first described cells from his observations of cork slices. Hooke first used the word "cell".
- Dutch amateur scientist **Antonie van Leeuwenhoek** discovered microscopic animals in water
- German scientists **Schleiden** and **Schwann** in 1830's were first to say that all organisms are made of one or more cells.
- German biologist **Virchow** in 1858 stated that all cells come from the division of pre-existing cells.
- Cells are the building blocks of life.



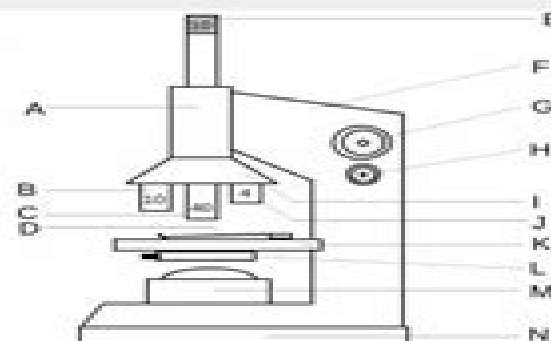
The Cell Theory can be summarized as:

1. All living organisms are made up of one or more cells
2. The cell is the basic unit of life
3. All cells come from the division of pre-existing cells

- cells come in many shapes and sizes, although most are microscopic:
  - most cells are small, about 0.001 cm in length (1/100 of a mm, or 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ).
  - the smallest cells of the microorganism **mycoplasma** are 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  in size
  - Some cells are large. e.g. some giant algal cells may be several centimeters long. A chicken's egg is a single cell.
  - **40,000 red blood cells** would fill the letter "O" on a page of type. You produce about 2.5 million new red blood cells every second! Each square cm of your skin contains about **150,000 skin cells**.
  - Human beings are composed of about **50 to 100 trillion cells**.
- cells carry on all the processes associated with life, such as reproducing and interacting with the environment.

### Microscopy

- The study of cell structure includes the fields of **CYTOLOGY** (for cells) and **HISTOLOGY** (for tissues), whereas the function of cells is studied in **CELL PHYSIOLOGY**, **BIOCHEMISTRY**, and **CYTOGENETICS**.
- The first instrument used in studying cell structure was the **light microscope**, which remains an important tool today. The **TRANSMISSION ELECTRON MICROSCOPE** and the **SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE** have vastly increased our knowledge.
- Before an object can be viewed, it is necessary to **stain** the material and cut it into samples **thin enough** for a light beam or an electron beam to penetrate them.
- First, the tissue is treated, to **"fix"** the structures so they will not be altered by the staining and slicing. Usually this is done by using chemicals such as **ALCOHOL** and **FORMALDEHYDE**.
- **Stains** have been developed that react differently with different cell structures, depending on their chemical composition or enzymatic activity. The use of stains containing **radioactive atoms**, known as **AUTORADIOGRAPHY**, often involves feeding cells specific compounds with radioactive atoms and then observing the distribution of radioactive events on a **photographic film emulsion**.



### Relative Powers of Microscopes

1. **Compound Light Microscope:** maximum **resolving power** = 200 nm (maximum useful magnification = ~1000 X)
2. **Transmission Electron Microscope:** maximum resolving power = 0.5 nm (maximum useful magnification = >30,000 X)
3. **Scanning Electron Microscope:** Gives vivid 3-D images, but less magnification than transmission EM

# Raycroft Biology 12 Endocrine System Notes

**Marco Casella**

A decorative graphic element consisting of a light blue horizontal bar with a rounded right end, and a red-to-white gradient semi-circle overlapping the right side of the bar.

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