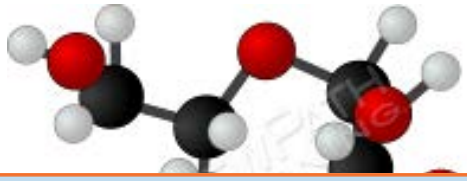
CELL PROCESSES

Chemical Compounds in a Cell

An element is matter that cannot be broken down into a more simple substance. An element is made up of smaller units of an element called atoms.

A compound is a combination of elements that are chemically combined together. A compound in its most basic form is called a molecule.



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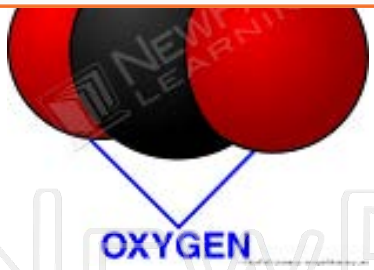
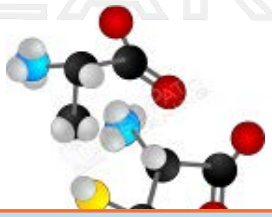


➢ **Inorganic compounds** do not contain the element carbon.

Lesson Checkpoint:
What is the main difference between organic and inorganic compounds?

Proteins

Proteins are large organic compounds that are made of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, and sometimes sulfur. Proteins are important for many cellular functions and are part of many of the structures that are found within the cell. A protein molecule is made up of smaller molecules that are called **amino acids**. Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins.



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Lipids

Lipids are also known as fats and are packed with more energy than carbohydrates. They are made from the elements carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. Energy for the cell is produced from carbohydrates and lipids.

Nucleic Acids

Nucleic acids are organic molecules that contain the instructions for all of the cell functions. They are made from carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorus. There are two types of nucleic acids. DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid), the genetic material of an organism, and RNA (ribonucleic acid), the important material in producing proteins within the cell. RNA is found in both the nucleus and the cytoplasm.

DNA

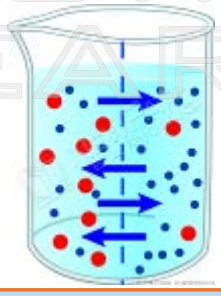
Water

Water plays many roles within the cell.
Water dissolves materials, starts chemical reactions, helps the cell maintain its size and shape, and keeps the temperature of the cell stable.

Important Cell Processes

Diffusion

Cells use diffusion in many processes. Diffusion is the moving of a substance from an area of higher concentration to an area of lower concentration.



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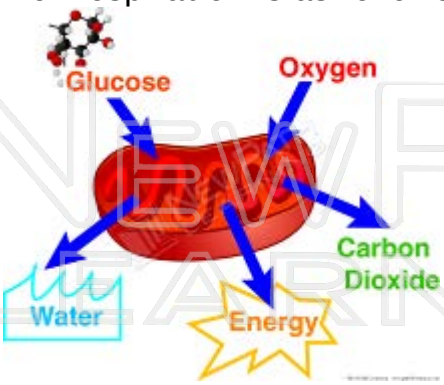
Respiration

Respiration is a process that cells use to get energy by breaking down food molecules and releasing the energy the food holds.

During respiration, carbohydrates are broken down into molecules that are known as glucose. Glucose is a simple sugar that forms the basis of a carbohydrate molecule. Cells constantly need energy to function so this process of respiration is constant. Oxygen is needed to carry out respiration in the majority of living cells.

The chemical equation for respiration is as follows:



There are two separate stages in respiration.

- The **first stage** takes place in the cytoplasm and yields a small a
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➢ **Alcoholic fermentation** is used by yeast and other single celled organisms. One of the by-products of alcoholic fermentation is alcohol.