



Student Exploration: Cell Division

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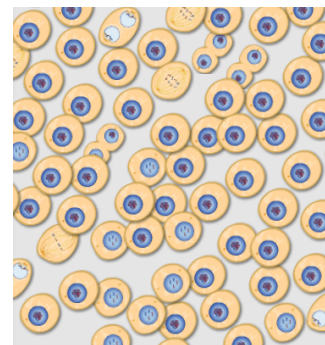
Vocabulary: cell division, centriole, centromere, chromatid, chromatin, chromosome, cytokinesis, DNA, interphase, mitosis

Prior Knowledge Questions (Do these BEFORE using the Gizmo.)

1. Cells reproduce by splitting in half, a process called **cell division**. What do cells need to do between divisions to make sure that they don't just get smaller and smaller?

Gizmo Warm-up


On the SIMULATION pane of the *Cell Division* Gizmo, check that the **Cycle Length** is set to 12 hours. Click **Play** (▶), observe until the maximum number of cells is shown, and then click **Pause** (⏸).



1. Look at the cells. Do they all look the same? _____
2. Cells that are in the process of dividing are said to be in **mitosis** or **cytokinesis**. Cells that are not dividing are in **interphase**.

Check the **Magnify** box and move the cursor over the cells.

- A. Of the 100 cells shown, how many are in the process of dividing? _____
- B. Select the BAR CHART tab, and turn on **Show numerical values**. How many cells are in the interphase stage of their life cycle? _____
- C. Based on these two observations, would you say that a cell spends most of its life cycle in interphase or in mitosis/cytokinesis? _____

<p>Activity A: Phases of the cell cycle</p>	<p>Get the Gizmo ready:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click Reset (↺). • Select the DESCRIPTION tab. • Click on the right arrow once so that Interphase is shown. 	
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Question: What are the stages of the cell cycle?

1. Observe: Click **Play** and hold the cursor over the cell. Observe the cell as it divides several times. (This happens quickly!) What do you notice happening during this process?



2. Summarize: On the DESCRIPTION pane, read about each phase in the cell cycle. In the spaces below, sketch the cell in each phase and summarize what occurs in your own words.

Phase	Sketch	Summary
Interphase		
Prophase		
Metaphase		
Anaphase		
Telophase		
Cytokinesis		

3. Analyze: Use your summaries and the Gizmo to answer the following questions:

- A. What are the four phases of mitosis? _____,
 _____, _____, _____
- B. During which phase is the DNA duplicated? _____
- C. What is the relationship between **chromatin** and **chromosomes**? _____

- D. In which phase are **chromatids** pulled apart? _____
- E. What is the role of the **centrioles**? _____
- F. In which phase does a new nuclear membrane develop? _____
- G. A cell has a single line of chromosomes. What is the phase? _____
- H. During which three phases are individual chromosomes no longer visible?



4. Think and discuss: Why is it important that the cell's DNA is duplicated before cell division?

5. Challenge: Human cells have 46 chromosomes. Each chromosome consists of a pair of identical chromatids attached together by a structure called a **centromere**. Once the chromosome has split, each chromatid is called a daughter chromosome. At the end of cytokinesis, how many daughter chromosomes will be found in each cell? Explain.

Extend your thinking: In living organisms, the cell cycle is closely regulated. What do you think will happen if cell division is *not* controlled?

