

Name: _____ Section: _____



This optional assignment will require you to make an edible, 3-D model of a cell. The various organelles of the cell should be represented by fruits, candies, or other “stuff.” When you've finished making your cell you should bring it into class to display and taste your CELL-O!

Supplies:

- Gelatin, either a light-colored Jell-o (like lemon) or unflavored gelatin with sugar or juice added
- Water
- Spoon (to stir the gelatin)
- Microwave or stove (used to heat the water)
- A small but sturdy plastic bag or plastic container to make it in
- Various fruits and candies used to represent the parts of the cell: raisins, gummy worms (plain and sour), gumdrops, gum ball, jelly beans, grapes, mandarin orange sections, sprinkles, M&M's, jaw breakers, a small stone fruit (like a plum), dried fruit, and/or hard candy. Note: marshmallows will float on top of the gelatin, so they don't work well in this craft. YOU MAY USE OTHER FOODS TO REPRESENT YOUR CELL PARTS!
- Refrigerator (used to set the gelatin)

Steps:

Make the light-colored Jell-o or gelatin, but make it with a bit less water than the instructions call for (this will make the gelatin a little stiffer and will make the cell components stay in place better). The gelatin will represent the cytoplasm of the cell.

- 1) First, heat the water to boiling (use about three-quarters of what is called for in the instructions). Dissolve the gelatin in the hot water and carefully stir it. Carefully add the same amount of cold water.
- 2) Place an open plastic bag inside a sturdy container (like a large bowl or pan) OR just use a sturdy plastic container. Slowly pour the cooled gelatin into the bag or container - make sure that there is room for all the cell components that will be added later. Seal the bag or container and put it in the refrigerator.
- 3) When the gelatin is almost set (this takes about an hour, but depends on the temperature of your refrigerator), open the bag and start adding the components of the cell.
- 4) Re-seal the plastic bag and refrigerate the gelatin until it is fully set.
- 5) When the gelatin is set, you can examine your 3-D gelatin cell and then bring it into school for display and consumption.