Elements & Macromolecules in Organisms

Most common elements in living things are **carbon (C), hydrogen (H), nitrogen (N), and oxygen (O)**. These four elements make up **95% of your body weight.** All compounds can be classified in two broad categories --- **organic and inorganic compounds**. Organic compounds are made mostly of **carbon**. Carbon has **four outer electrons** and can form four bonds. Carbon can form **single** bonds with another atom and also bond to other carbon molecules forming **double, triple, or quadruple bonds**. Organic compounds also contain **hydrogen**. Since hydrogen has only one electron, it can form only **single bonds**.

Each small organic molecule can be a unit of a large organic molecule called a **macromolecule.** There are **four classes of macromolecules** (polysaccharides or **carbohydrates**, triglycerides or **lipids**, polypeptides or **proteins**, and **nucleic acids** such as DNA & RNA). **Carbohydrates and lipids** are made of only carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen **(CHO)**. **Proteins** are made of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen **(CHON). Nucleic acids** such as DNA and RNA contain carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorus **(CHON P).**

Use the molecular drawing of the **amino acid** (p. 4) to determine the number of bonds formed by:

_____ Oxygen _____Hydrogen _____ Nitrogen

The body also needs trace amounts of other elements such as calcium (Ca), potassium (K), and sulfur (S) for proper functioning of muscles, nerves, etc. ***Color*** each of the **elements on the next page** according to the color listed next to the element's symbol. Then ***Color code*** the **squirrel** with the correct proportion of each element's color. Now ***color code*** the carrot with the same colors as you used on the squirrel.

C 18.5% black

O 65% red

P 1.0% pink

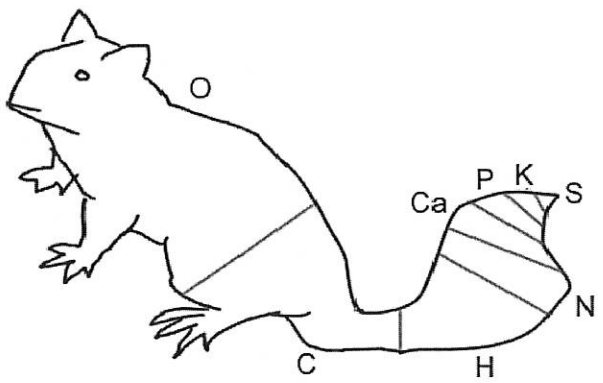
K 0.4% brown

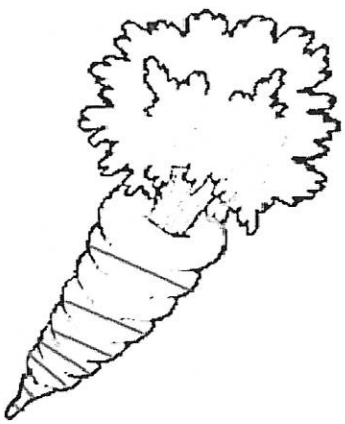
H 9.5% yellow

N 3.3% blue

S 0.3% green

Ca 1.5% purple





Questions:

1. Name the 4 main elements that make up 95% of an organism.

2. Name the 4 types of bonds carbon can form.

3. What are macromolecules?

4. Name the 4 classes of macromolecules.

5. Give 2 examples of nucleic acids.

6. What elements make up carbohydrates & lipids (symbols)?

7. Name 3 elements your body needs trace amounts of for proper functioning.

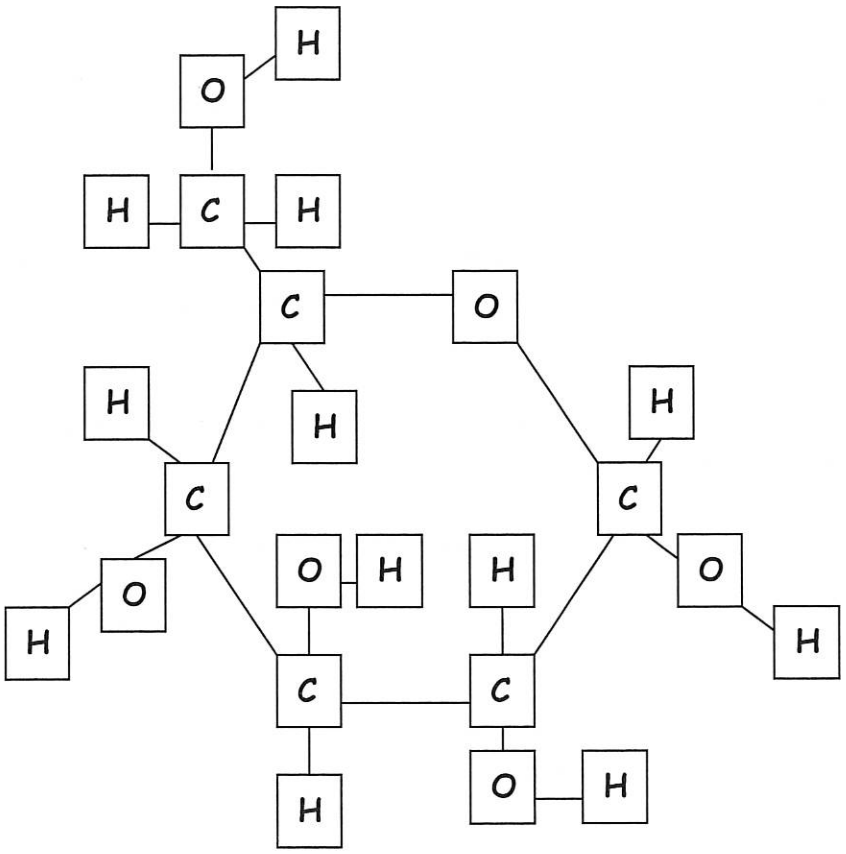
The **four main classes of organic compounds** (carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids) that are essential to the proper functioning of all living things are known as **polymers or macromolecules**. All of these compounds are built primarily of **carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen** but in different ratios of C, H, and O. This gives each compound different **properties.**

Carbohydrates are used by the body for **energy** and **structural support** in cell walls of plants and exoskeletons of insects and crustaceans. They are made of smaller subunits called **monosaccharides**. Monosaccharides have carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen in a **1:2:1 ratio**. Monosaccharides or **simple sugars** include **glucose, galactose, and fructose**. Although their chemical formulas are the same, they have **different structural formulas.** These simple sugars combine to make **disaccharides** (double sugars like sucrose—*a.k.a. table sugar*) and **polysaccharides** (long chains like cellulose, chitin, and glycogen).

Use the diagram of **glucose** (next page, p. 3) to tell how many carbons, hydrogens, and oxygens are in a single molecule.

#C _____ # H _____ # O _____

Glucose Molecule



Questions:

8. Macromolecules are also known as _____.

9. If all the macromolecules are made mainly of the elements **CHO**, how are they different?

10. Name 2 ways your body uses carbohydrates.

11. What are the subunits called that make up carbohydrates?

12. What is the ratio of C, H, and O in monosaccharides?

13. Name 3 monosaccharides.

14. Monosaccharides are _____ sugars.

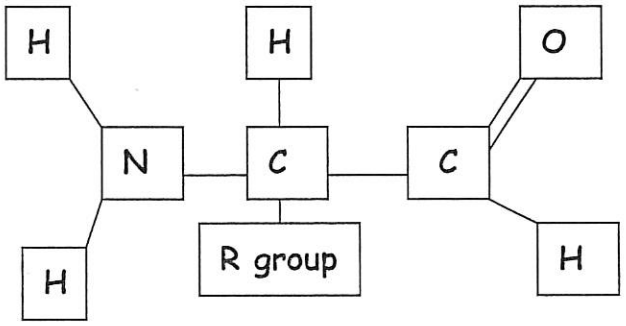
15. What are disaccharides & give an example?

16. Long chains of sugars are _____. Name three:

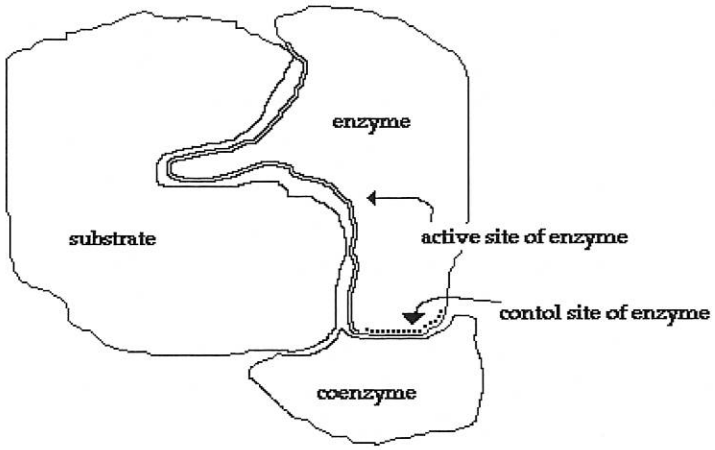
Proteins are made of subunits called **amino acids** and are used to build cells and do much of the work inside organisms. They also act as **enzymes** helping to control metabolic reactions in organisms.

Color code the amino acid on this worksheet (carbon-black, hydrogen-yellow, nitrogen-blue, and oxygen-red).

Basic Structure of Amino acid



Enzymes are protein molecules that act as **biological catalysts**. Cells contain **thousands** of different enzymes to control the functions of the cell. Enzymes must physically fit a specific **substrate(s)** to work properly. The place where a substrate fits an enzyme to be catalyzed is called the **active site. Excess heat, a change in pH from neutral**, etc. change the shape of enzymes and their active sites so the enzyme is unable to work. Some enzymes have a second site where a coenzyme attaches to help make the substrate better fit the active site of the enzyme. ***Color*** the enzyme purple, the substrate yellow, and the coenzyme green. Also ***color*** the active site red.



Enzyme-Substrate Complex

Condensation (removal of a water molecule) links amino acids link together to form chains called **polypeptides**. Polypeptide chains join to form proteins. The bonds holding **amino acids** to each other are known as **peptide bonds**.

Questions:

17. What subunits make up proteins?

18. Proteins also act as _____ in cells to control reactions.

19. Name the 2 functional groups in amino acids.

20. Cells have _____ of enzymes to act as biological _____.

21. Enzymes have an attachment site called the _____ site for the _____ to join.

22. What is the effect of excess heat or temperature on an enzyme?

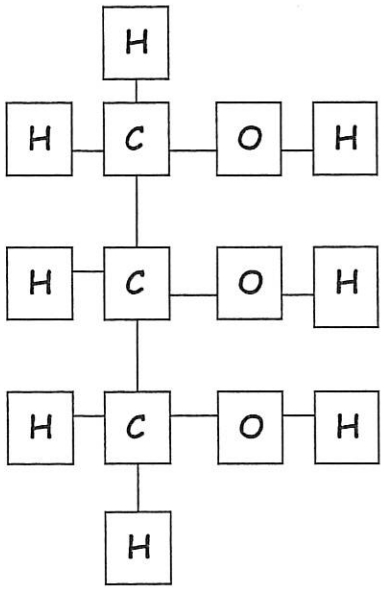
23. Amino acids are linked together to make proteins by removing a molecule of _____ in a process called _____.

24. Chains of amino acids make _____ which can join together to make a _____.

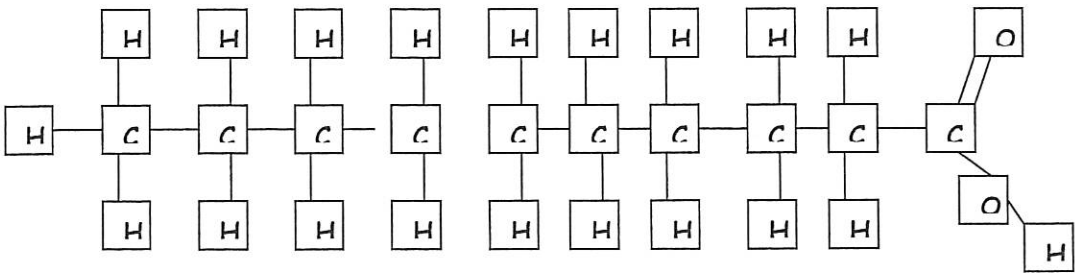
25. _____ bonds form when water is removed to hold _____ acids together.

Lipids are large, **nonpolar** (won't dissolve in water) molecules. **Phospholipids** make up cell membranes. Lipids also serve as waxy coverings **(cuticle)** on plants, **pigments** (chlorophyll), and **steroids**. Lipids have **more carbon and hydrogen atoms** than oxygen atoms. Fats are made of a **glycerol** (alcohol) and **three fatty acid chains**. This subunit is called a **triglyceride**. ***Color*** the glycerol molecule using the same colors for carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen as you did before. The fatty acid chains may be **saturated** (only single bonds between carbons) or **unsaturated** (contain at least one double bond). A **carboxyl functional group** (-COOH) is found on the end of the fatty acid that does NOT attach to glycerol. ***CIRCLE AND LABEL*** the carboxyl groups in the 2 fatty acids on this worksheet. ***Color*** the fatty acid chains the same colors for carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen as you did before. A special type of lipid called phospholipids help make up the cell membrane. Two layers of these phospholipids make up the membrane. Phospholipids have a "water-loving" hydrophilic head and two "water-fearing" hydrophobic tails. ***Find*** the cell membrane on this sheet and ***CIRCLE AND LABEL*** a phospholipid. Proteins are also embedded in the cell membrane. ***Color*** the two proteins in the cell membrane **blue**.

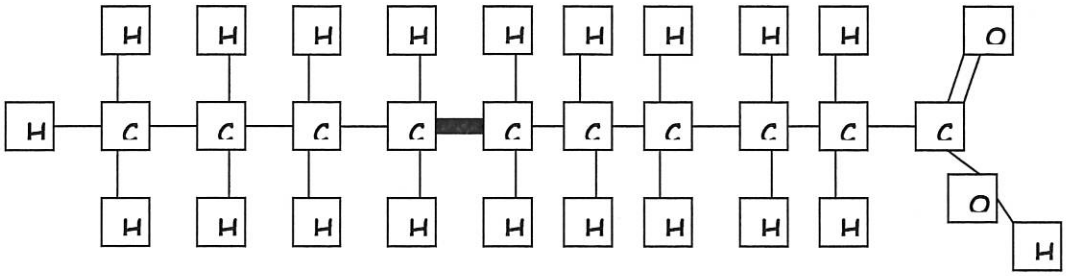
Glycerol



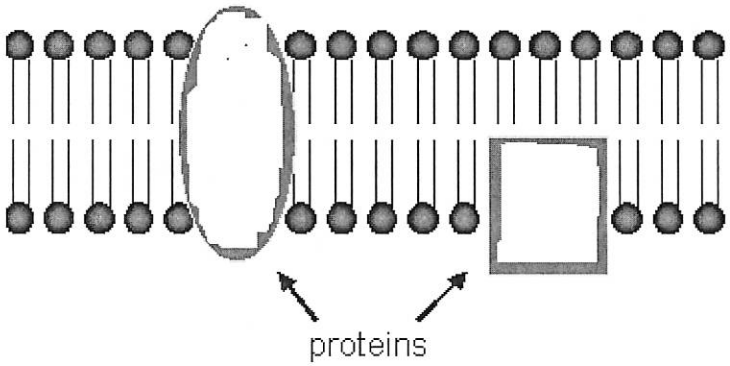
Saturated fatty Acid



Unsaturated Fatty Acid - Double Bond



Cell Membrane



Lipid Questions:

26. Lipids are nonpolar. What does this mean?

27. What **WILL** lipids (oils and fats) dissolve in? (Question for thought)

28. _____ makes up cell membranes.

29. Name a waxy lipid covering plants.

30. Plant pigments like _____ are also _____.

31. Lipids have more _____ and _____ than they do oxygen atoms.

32. Fats are made of an alcohol called _____ and three _____ _____ chains. This is known as a _____.

33. If there are all SINGLE bonds between _____ in the fatty acid chain, then it is said to be _____.

34. If there is a DOUBLE bond between _____ in the fatty acid chain, then it is said to be _____.

35. The end of the fatty acid that does NOT attach to glycerol has what functional group? Write the formula for this group.

36. _____ layers of _____ make up the cell membrane.

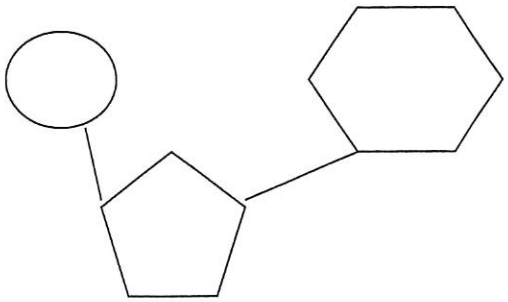
37. The head of a phospholipid _____ water and is said to be _____.

38. The 2 tails of a phospholipid _____ water and is said to be _____.

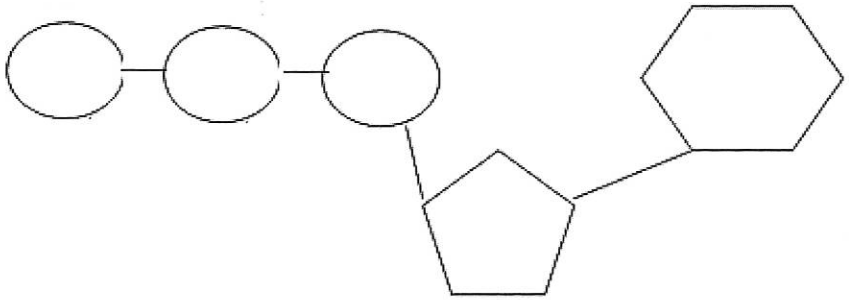
Nucleic acids carry the genetic information in a cell. **DNA or deoxyribose nucleic acid** contains all the instructions for making every protein needed by a living thing. **RNA** copies and transfers this genetic information so that proteins can be made. The subunits that make up nucleic acids are called **nucleotides**.

COLOR AND LABEL the parts of a nucleotide --- **sugar (5-sided)**-green, **phosphate group (round)**-yellow, and **nitrogen base (6-sided)**-blue. ATP used for cellular energy is a high energy nucleotide with three phosphate groups. ***Color*** code the ATP and **LABEL THE PHOSPHATES.**

Nucleotide



ATP



Nucleic Acid Questions

39. Nucleic acids carry _____ information in a molecule called _____ or _____ _____ acid.

40. DNA has the instructions for making a cell's _____.

41. The nucleic acid _____ copies DNA so _____ can be made.

42. _____ are the subunits making up nucleic acid.

43. The 3 parts of a nucleotide are a 5 carbon _____, a phosphate, and a nitrogen _____.

44. _____ is a high energy molecule made from a _____ with _____ phosphates.

Final Questions:

1. Give the symbols for the elements that make up each of the following:

_____carbohydrates _____lipids _____DNA _____proteins

2. Name the 4 classes of macromolecules & give a function for each.

3. Name the subunits that make up each of the macromolecules.

4. Enzymes can be denatured (unfolded) by what environmental factors?

5. What process is used to link amino acids together?

6. Name the bonds found between amino acids in a polypeptide chain.

7. Explain the difference between a disaccharide and a polysaccharide. Give an example of each.

8. Why are enzymes important to organisms?

10. Name the subunit that makes up fats.

11. What alcohol is found in a triglyceride?

12. What is the difference between a saturated and unsaturated fatty acid?