

NAME:

THE FLUID MOSAIC MODEL

BLOCK

Although we are still not certain exactly how the molecules comprising a membrane are actually put together, the model shown in this plate is the best integration of the known evidence that anyone has come up with so far.

Color the heading Phospholipid Bilayer and titles and structures A and B, using the light F and G colors from the previous plate.

This model is known as the fluid mosaic model because it hypothesizes that the membranes of a cell consist of phospholipid bilayers in which proteins and carbohydrates are embedded like the stones in a mosaic. Other lipids (not shown) are also present. The phospholipid bilayer appears to be in a somewhat fluid state, allowing most of the proteins to migrate within it. (Recall the cell fusion portion of Plate 35.)

Color the headings Protein Molecule and Glycocalyx and titles C, D, and E. Color the hydrophobic and hydrophilic portions of the three protein molecules in the center and right portions of the central drawing, saving the leftmost protein (with the arrow) for later. Also color the carbohydrate.

Some of the proteins in a membrane are exposed only to the exterior of the cell or only to the interior, while others extend all the way through the membrane. Attached to some of the proteins on the exterior surface are certain carbohydrate groups (collectively called the *glycocalyx*), some of which are believed to assist cells in responding to environmental changes and in "recognizing" one another and interacting in appropriate ways.

The positioning of the proteins within the lipid bilayer is easily understood if you remember (from Plate 19) that some of the amino acids making up proteins have hydrophobic ("water-fearing": nonpolar) side groups while other have hydrophilic ("water-loving": polar or ionic) side groups. If a particular protein is constructed so that one portion of it has mostly hydrophobic side groups on the surface while the rest of it has mostly hydrophilic side groups on the surface, that protein can only attach to a membrane with its *hydrophobic portion* embedded in the *hydrophobic region of the phospholipid bilayer* and its *hydrophilic portion* protruding from the membrane into the surrounding watery environment or into the cytoplasm, both of which are *hydrophilic*.

Now color the leftmost protein molecule, titles F and G, and the molecule and arrow.

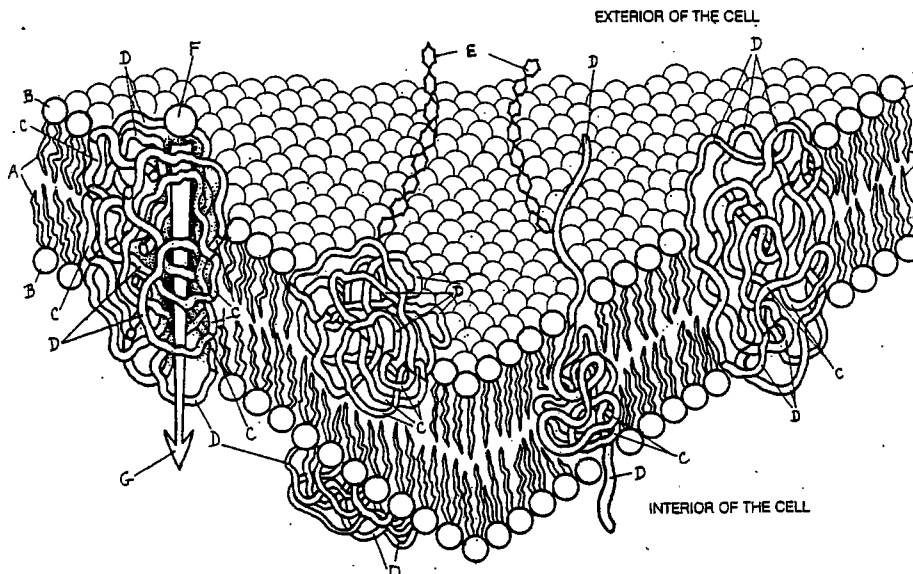
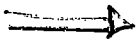
One very satisfying feature of the fluid mosaic model that it offers a possible explanation for the rapid *diffusion* of *small polar molecules* across the membrane. We do not only assume that some of the proteins have pores through their centers lined with hydrophilic side groups that attract small hydrophilic (polar) molecules and allow them to pass through.

Color the remaining sections of the plate as you come to them in the following text. For illustrative purposes, the individual polypeptide chains of proteins are not shown, and only the hydrophobic and hydrophilic regions are distinguished. The bilayer shown only in the first pair of drawings.

The fluid mosaic model also offers several possible explanations for facilitated transport and active transport. We know from studies of the proteins of muscular contraction and of enzymes, which are proteins, that many proteins change their tertiary and quaternary structure when ions or small molecules attach to them and pull them from them. If a membrane protein has a certain part that attracts a specific ion or small molecule, that part might move in some way to transport that ion or molecule through the membrane.

There are four different hypotheses for such transport. To simplify the discussion, only an *ion* is mentioned here, but a small molecule could be transported in the same way. One hypothesis stipulates that a *movable arm* binds the ion to be moved, which causes a shift in the distribution of electron energies in the protein molecule, which in turn causes the movable arm to move down through the pore, taking the ion with it and releasing it on the opposite side of the membrane. The second hypothesis assumes a sequence of *binding sites* when the ion binds to the first binding site, that causes changes that make the second binding site have stronger attraction for the ion, so it moves farther into that change causes the third binding site to develop stronger attraction, so the ion moves in farther, and on until it is all the way through. The third idea proposes a traplike movement: the ion is attracted into a cavity in the protein, but as soon as it is in the cavity the protein changes shape to close behind the ion and open in front of it so that the ion is essentially on the other side of the membrane already. A fourth hypothesis (regarded today as not really likely) assumes that the binding of the ion causes changes that make the protein flip over within the lipid bilayer, dragging the ion to the opposite side.

* READ THE FRONT COMPLETE THE BACK



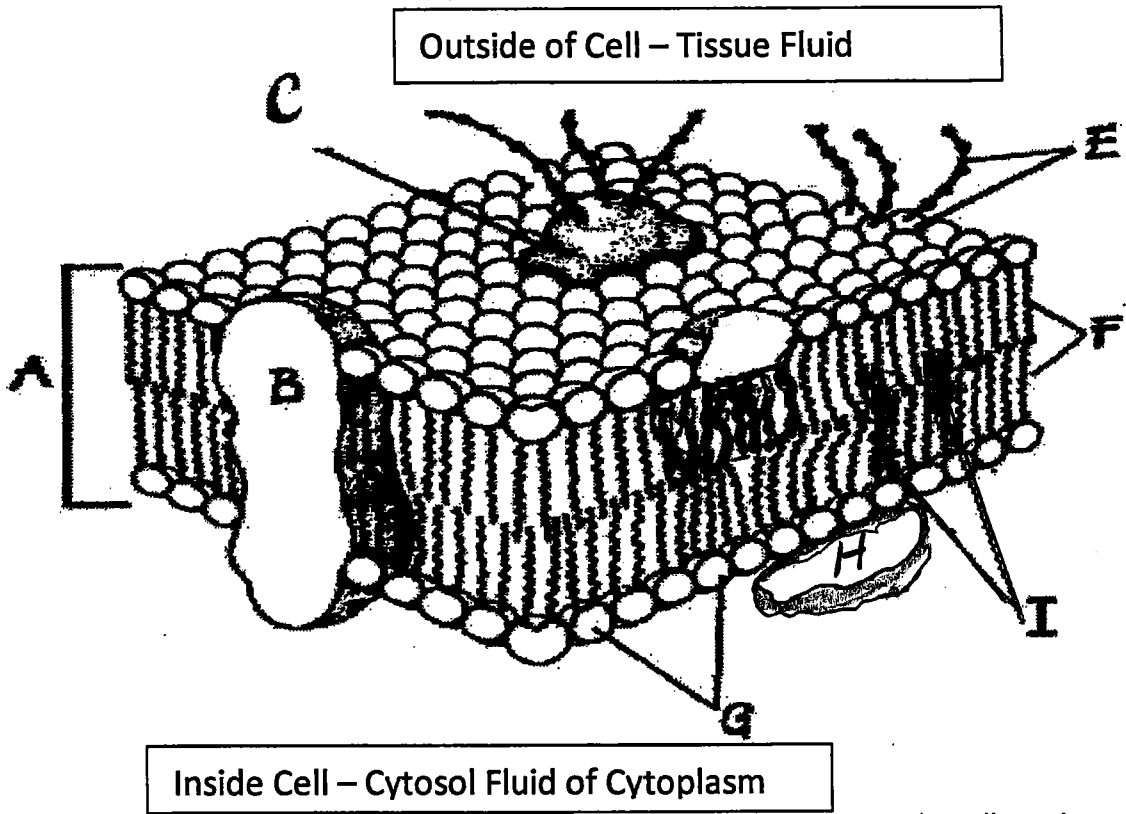
CELL MEMBRANE STRUCTURE and FUNCTION REVIEW - COLOUR-CODE Worksheet

List 4 functions of the cell or plasma membrane: (SEE MY POWERPOINT SLIDE #1)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

Correctly color code and identify the name for each part of the cell membrane.

Letter	Name/Color	Letter	Name/Color
_____	Phospholipid bilayer (no color)	_____	Peripheral protein (red)
_____	Integral protein (pink)	_____	Cholesterol (blue)
_____	Fatty acid tails (orange)	_____	Glycoprotein (green)
_____	Phosphate heads (yellow)	_____	Glycolipids (purple)



Match the cell membrane structure or its function with the correct letter from the cell membrane diagram.

Letter	Structure/Function	Letter	Structure/Function
_____	Attracts water	_____	Repels water
_____	Helps maintain flexibility of membrane	_____	Make up the bilayer
_____	Involved in cell-to-cell recognition	_____	Help transport certain materials across the cell membrane