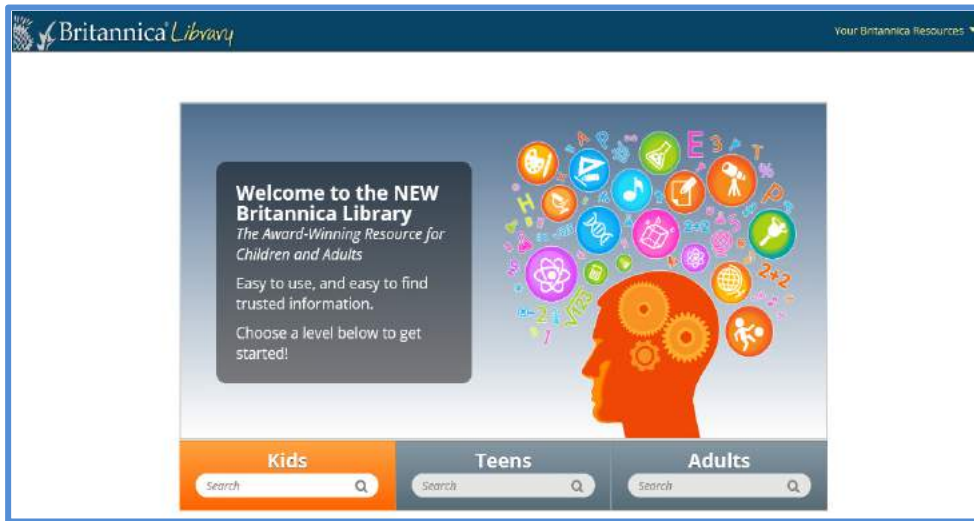


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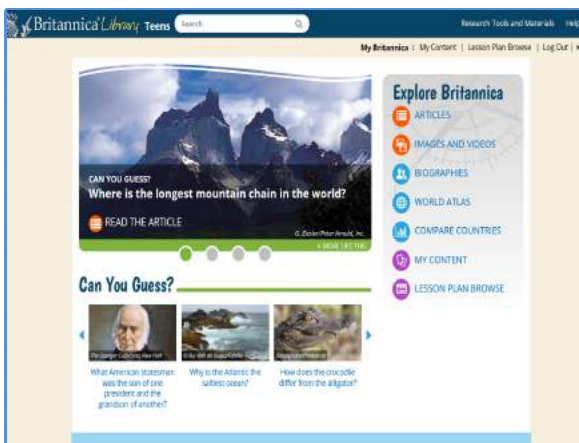
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cell (biology) ☆  
cell | in biology, the basic membrane-bound unit that contains the fundamental molecules of life and of which all living things are composed. A single cell ...

stem cell (biology) ☆ reading levels!  
stem cell | an undifferentiated cell that can divide to produce some offspring cells that continue as stem cells and some cells destined to ...

cell (electronics) ☆  
cell | in electricity, unit structure used to generate an electrical current by some means other than the motion of a conductor in a magnetic field. A solar ...

sickle cell anemia (pathology) ☆  
sickle cell anemia | hereditary disease that destroys red blood cells by causing them to take on a rigid "sickle" shape. The disease is characterized by ...

immune system (physiology) ☆  
immune system | the system of the body that defends against disease. It consists of the T-cell receptor | Despite the structural similarities, the receptors on T cells function differently from those on B cells. The functional ...

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Cell

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cell

The smallest unit of living matter that can exist by itself is the cell. Some organisms, such as bacteria, consist of only a single cell. Others, such as humans and oak trees, are composed of many billions of cells.

Cells exist in a variety of shapes and sizes. Red blood cells are disk-shaped, while some skin cells resemble cubes. A single cell could be as large as a tennis ball or so small that thousands would fit on the period at the end of this sentence. Regardless of size, however, every cell contains the components needed to maintain life. Cells normally function with great efficiency, though they are vulnerable to disease. (See also cancer; disease; human; virus.)

Cell size is usually measured in microns. A micron is equal to about one millionth of a meter, and about 25,000 microns equal 1 inch. The smallest bacteria are about 0.2 micron in diameter. The diameter of the average human cell is roughly 10 microns, making it barely visible without a microscope.

Study of the cell is a branch of biology called cytology, and the scientists who specialize in this field are called cytologists.

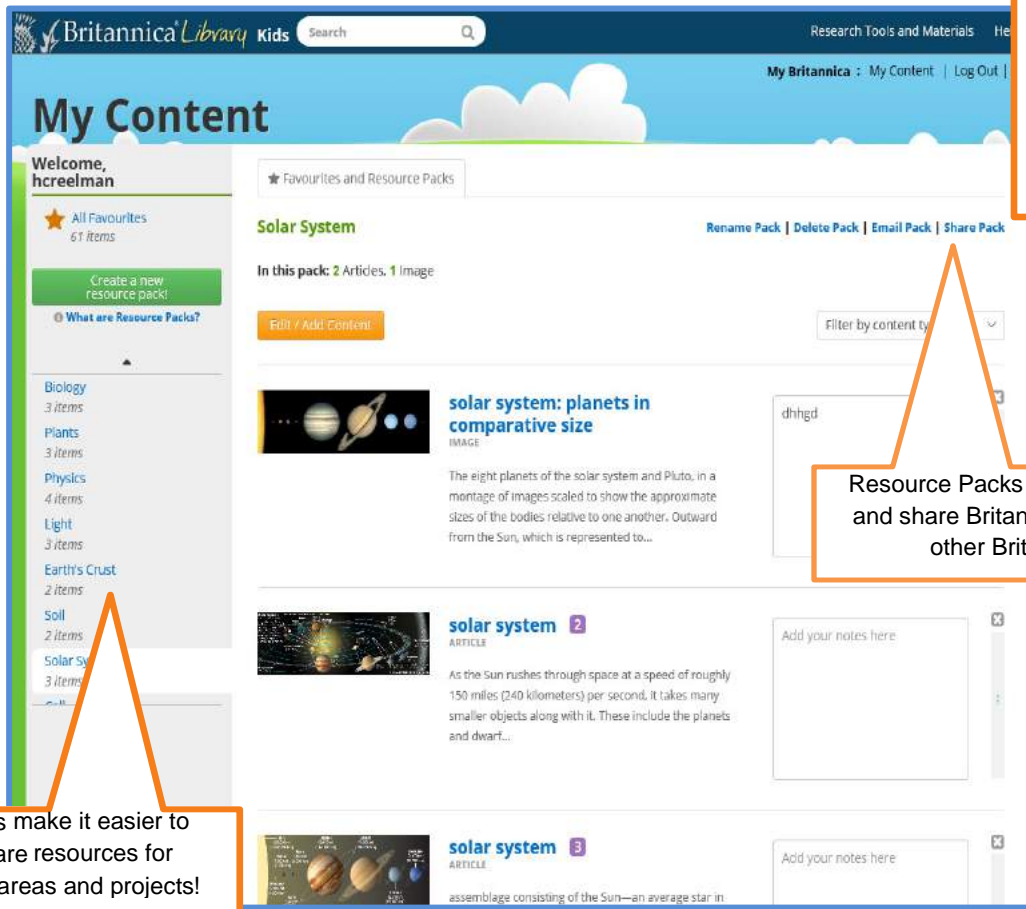
cel noun  
• a transparent sheet of celluloid on which objects are drawn or painted in the making of animated cartoons

See full definition

Definitions provided by Myra Wilson

Prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells are distinguished by several key characteristics. Both cell types contain DNA as their genetic material. However, prokaryotic DNA is single-stranded and circular and floats freely inside the cell; eukaryotic DNA is

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