

Organelle Riddles

Read each description below and then identify the correct cell structure. Write your answer on the line provided. You won't use all of the organelles listed.

Golgi Body (Complex)
Endoplasmic Reticulum
Nucleus
Ribosomes

Cell membrane
Cell Wall
Vacuole
Lysosomes

Mitochondria
Chloroplast

1. I'm a real powerhouse
That's plain to see
I break down food
To release energy

What am I? _____

2. I'm strong and stiff
Getting through me is tough
I'm found only in plants
I'm what makes sticks tough

What am I? _____

3. Proteins are made here
Even though I'm quite small
You can find me in the cytoplasm
Or attached to the ER's wall

What am I? _____

4. I'm the brain of the cell
Or so they say
I regulate activities
Food, enzymes, and waste

What am I? _____

5. I'm found only in plant cells
I'm as green as can be
I make food for the plant
Using the Sun's energy

What am I? _____

6. I'm a series of tubes
Found throughout the cell
I package proteins
And other things as well

What am I? _____

7. I'm full of holes
Flexible and thin
I control what gets out
As well as what comes in

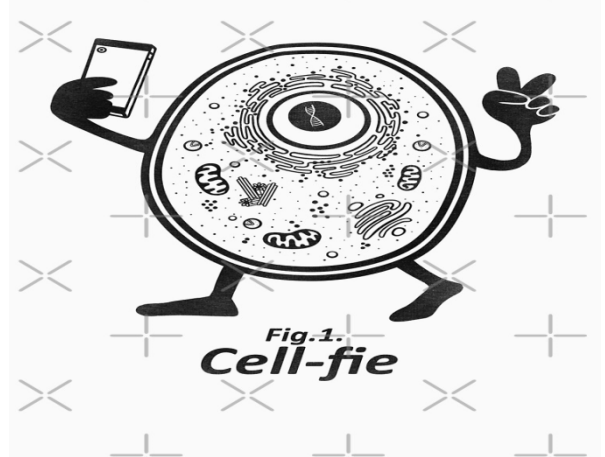
What am I? _____

8. I've been called the storage tank
By those with little taste
I'm a sack filled with water
From day to day

What am I? _____

9. Since I contain many enzymes
I can digest an injured cell
And can break down a large molecule
Into a smaller one as well

What am I? _____



Answers

1. Mitochondria
2. Cell Wall
3. Ribosomes
4. Nucleus
5. Chloroplast
6. Endoplasmic Reticulum
7. Cell Membrane
8. Vacuoles
9. Lysosomes

This could be used for almost anything:

- Homework
- Students who get done early with another assignment or test
- A quiz
- Part of a test
- Review work

For more advanced and/or creative students, you could give them the organelle names and have them come up a riddle, limerick, or haiku for each one.

Sometimes, with fill-in-the-blank assignments, I'd leave out the part of the instructions indicating they wouldn't use all of the words. It was interesting to see how long it would take till someone noticed they had more words than they needed. If they asked, I'd usually say something like, "Hmmm....nine questions, ten words. What do you think that means?" You could take out the unused word or come up with another riddle for that word. You could also take away all the choices and have students fend for themselves. If you do a search for Cell Organelle Riddles, you can find several different versions of this.

