

The Key Roles of Cell Division

- The ability of organisms to produce more of their own kind best distinguishes living things from nonliving matter
- The continuity of life is based on the reproduction of cells, or cell division

How do dividing cells distribute chromosomes to daughter cells?









Concept 12.1: Most cell division results in genetically identical daughter cells

- Most cell division results in <u>two daughter cells with</u> <u>identical genetic information, DNA</u>
- The exception is meiosis, a special type of division that can produce sperm and egg cells

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Cellular Organization of the Genetic Material

- All the DNA in a cell constitutes the cell's genome
- A genome can consist of a single DNA molecule (common in prokaryotic cells) or a number of DNA molecules (common in eukaryotic cells)
- DNA molecules in a cell are packaged into chromosomes



- Eukaryotic chromosomes consist of chromatin, a complex of DNA and protein that condenses during cell division
- Every eukaryotic species has a characteristic number of chromosomes in each cell nucleus
- Somatic cells (nonreproductive cells) have two sets of chromosomes (23 x 2 in humans)
- Gametes (reproductive cells: sperm and eggs) have half as many chromosomes as somatic cells (23 in humans)

Distribution of Chromosomes During Eukaryotic Cell Division

- In preparation for cell division, DNA is replicated and the chromosomes condense
- Each duplicated chromosome has two sister chromatids (joined copies of the original chromosome), attached along their lengths by proteins called *cohesins*
- The centromere is the narrow "waist" of the duplicated chromosome, where the two chromatids are most closely attached









Concept 12.2: The mitotic phase alternates with interphase in the cell cycle

Phases of the Cell Cycle

- The cell cycle consists of
 - mitotic (M) phase (mitosis and cytokinesis)
 - interphase (cell growth and copying of chromosomes in preparation for cell division)





























- Nonkinetochore microtubules from opposite poles overlap and push against each other, elongating the cell
 At the end of anaphase, duplicate groups of chromosomes have arrived at opposite ends of the elongated cell
 Cytokinesis begins during anaphase or telophase,
- Cytokinesis begins during anaphase or telophase, and the spindle eventually disassembles

Cytokinesis: A Closer Look

- In animal cells, cytokinesis occurs by a process known as cleavage, forming a cleavage furrow
- In plant cells, a cell plate forms during cytokinesis





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Binary Fission in Bacteria

- Prokaryotes (bacteria and archaea) reproduce by a type of cell division called **binary fission**
- In binary fission, the chromosome replicates (beginning at the origin of replication), and the two daughter chromosomes actively move apart
- The plasma membrane pinches inward, dividing the cell into two



Concept 12.3: The eukaryotic cell cycle is regulated by a molecular control system

- The frequency of cell division varies with the type of cell
- These differences result from regulation at the molecular level
- Cancer cells manage to escape the usual controls on the cell cycle

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The Cell Cycle Control System The cell cycle appears to be driven by specific chemical signals present in the cytoplasm Some evidence for this hypothesis comes from experiments in which cultured mammalian cells at different phases of the cell cycle were fused to form a single cell with two nuclei







The Cell Cycle Clock: Cyclins and Cyclin-Dependent Kinases

- Two types of regulatory proteins are involved in cell cycle control: cyclins and cyclin-dependent kinases (Cdks)
- The activity of a Cdk rises and falls with changes in concentration of its cyclin partner
- MPF (maturation-promoting factor) is a cyclin-Cdk complex that triggers a cell's passage past the G₂ checkpoint into the M phase



Stop and Go Signs: Internal and External Signals at the Checkpoints

- Many signals registered at checkpoints come from cellular surveillance mechanisms within the cell
- Checkpoints also register signals from outside the cell
- Three important checkpoints are those in the G₁, G₂, and M phases





An example of an internal signal is that cells will not begin anaphase until all chromosomes are properly attached to the spindle at the metaphase plate
This mechanism ensures that daughter cells have the correct number of chromosomes

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External factors that influence cell division include specific growth factors
Growth factors are released by certain cells and stimulate other cells to divide
Platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) is made by blood cell fragments called platelets
In density-dependent inhibition, crowded cells will stop dividing













- Localized tumors may be treated with high-energy radiation, which damages the DNA in the cancer cells
- To treat metastatic cancers, chemotherapies that target the cell cycle may be used

