

Read About Multicellular Organisms

WHAT ARE MULTICELLULAR ORGANISMS

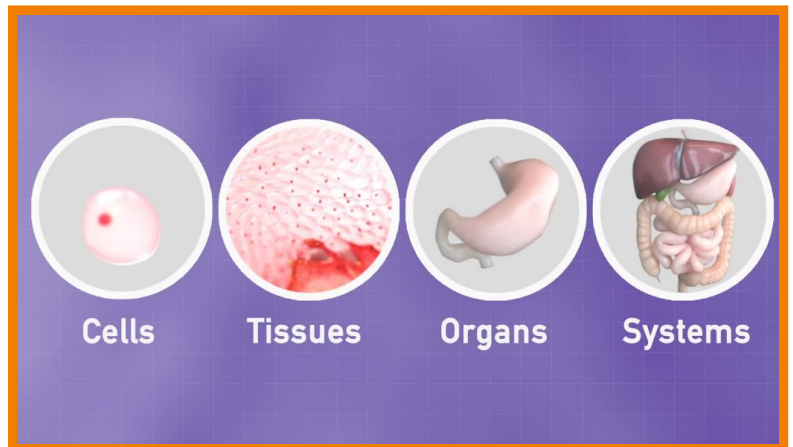
Plants and animals rely on their various components to work together in order to maintain health and survive. Different multicellular organisms are made of different systems, but all systems are organized in the same way. Living systems are interdependent. One system not functioning normally will affect the other systems in some way.

To better understand Multicellular Organisms...

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

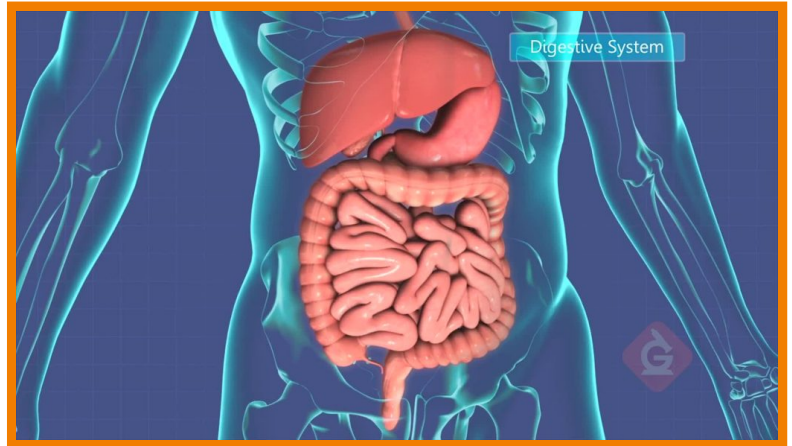
Systematic Origination

Whether you are investigating a plant or animal system, multicellular organisms are all organized the same way. Body systems can be broken down into components called organs, organs are made of different kinds of tissue, and tissue is made from groups of specialized cells.



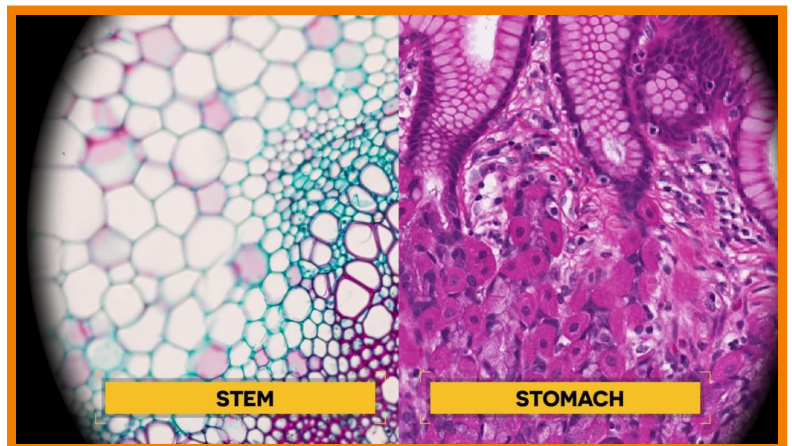
Animal Systems

Animals rely on several different systems to survive. These systems work together to allow blood to flow, eat and digest food, and move around. Some of the major systems in animals are nervous, digestive, circulatory, respiratory, excretory, muscular, and skeletal. But some animals, like humans, also have other smaller systems that help them too.



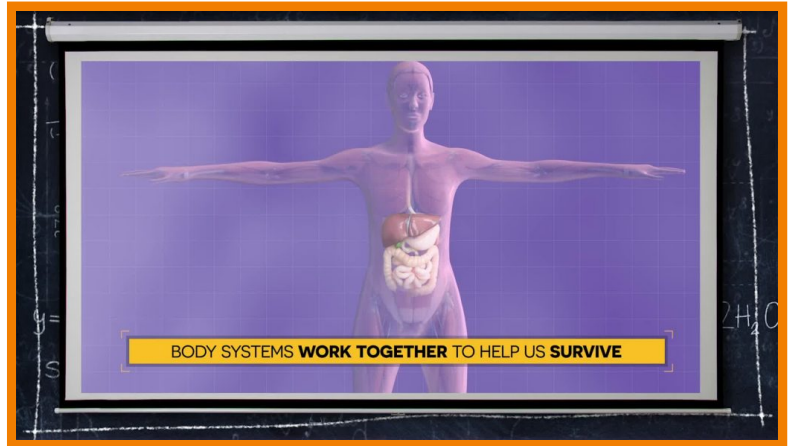
Plant System

Plants rely on systems to survive. These systems work together to allow the plant to make food, to allow water to travel throughout the plant, and to help the plant reproduce. Plants also have organs such as roots, stems, and leaves. But unlike animals, plants have only two major systems: the root system and the shoot system.



System Interdependence

Systems depend on each other to function normally. For example, the respiratory system brings oxygen into the body, and the circulatory system moves oxygen throughout the body. When systems work together like they should, plants and animals are able to grow and reproduce. If one system is not functioning normally, it can affect other systems. For example, wearing a cast to heal a broken bone will affect how you can use your muscles.



Doctors Who Specialize in Treating Body Systems

Doctors who focus on figuring out and treating a single system are called specialists. For example, a neurologist studies the nervous system, and a gastroenterologist focuses on the digestive system. The medical field has many specialized disciplines. There are even doctors who study only special parts of certain systems, such as hematologists who study the cause, treatment, and prevention of diseases that are related to blood.



MULTICELLULAR ORGANISMS VOCABULARY

Multicellular

Made of many cells.

Unicellular

Made of one cell.

Tissue

Groups of specialized cells that work together.

Xylem

Plant tissue that brings water and dissolved nutrients up from the plant roots and helps to form the woody stem.

Organ

A group of different tissues that work together to perform a specific function (e.g., heart, stomach, and kidney).

System

Organs and tissue working together to perform a function (e.g., digestive system and nervous system).

MULTICELLULAR ORGANISMS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How do the various parts of the body work together when we eat something?

When we eat something, food travels through our digestive system, which includes our mouth, stomach, intestines, and other organs. After food is digested, our bodies use it for energy and to help us stay healthy. We eliminate food we don't need as waste through our excretory system.

How are plant and animal structures similar? How are they different?

Plants have different parts that need to work together, but they are different from animal parts. Plants get their energy and make their food using the Sun, and animals need to eat to get energy.

How is our body system organized?

Our body is made of cells, cells work together to form tissue, tissues make up organs, organs make up our body's subsystems, and all the subsystems work together to keep our body system alive and healthy.

Where are sense receptors found in the human body and what do they allow us to do?

Our sense receptors are found in our eyes, ears, tongue, skin, and nose. We need sense receptors for our various senses to work. They are also part of the nervous system.

We saw we can “trick” our taste buds. Do you think there are other things we do to “trick” our nervous system? (Hint: Have you ever had a headache? What did you do?)

I think we take medicine, like aspirin, to trick out nerves into not feeling pain.

Electrical impulses were used to make a muscle move. Besides the muscular system, what other system was affected by that electrical impulse? Explain the interaction between those systems.

The nervous system was also affected because the electrode was on the skin, so I think the impulse traveled through the nerves on our skin to the muscle to make it move.
