Chapter 7 Section 2 Student Notes

Plasma Membrane

* Thin, flexible boundary between the cell and its environment
* Allows nutrients into the cell
* Allows waste to leave the cell

Selective Permeability

* The plasma membrane controls the movement of substances into and out of the cell.

Plasma Membrane

* Controls the amount of a substance entering the cell
* Controls the amount of a substance leaving the cell.
* The plasma membrane is composed of the phospholipid bilayer
* A phospholipid molecule is composed of a glycerol backbone, two fatty acid chains, and a phosphate group.

Fluid Mosaic Model

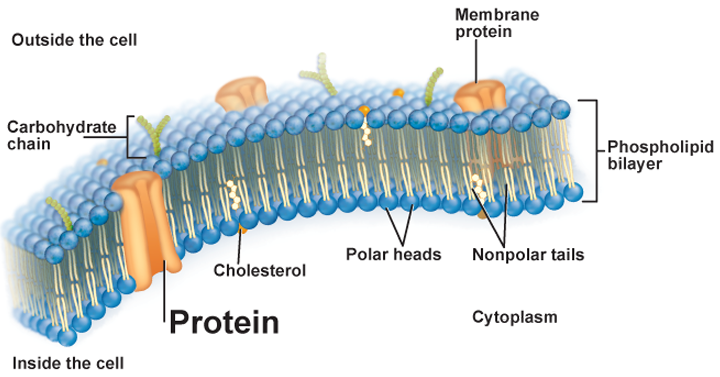
* The phospholipid bilayer allows other molecules to “float” in the membrane.

Other Components

* Proteins
* Cholesterol
* Carbohydrates

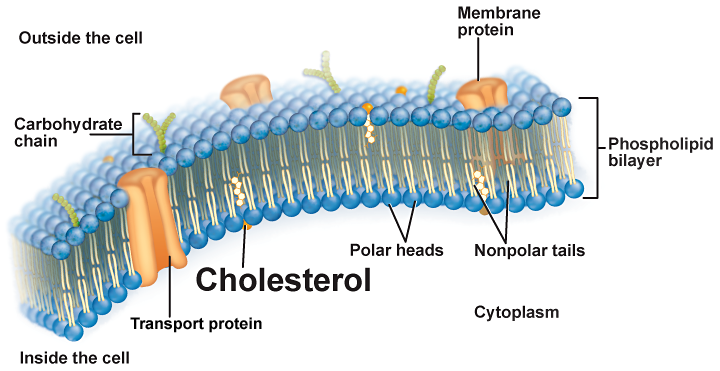
Proteins

* Transmit signals inside the cell
* Act as a support structure
* Provide pathways for substances to enter and leave



Cholesterol

* Prevents fatty acid tails from sticking together



Carbohydrates

* Identify chemical signals

