

ExplorLearning

Student Exploration: Cell Division

Vocabulary: cell division, centriole, centromere, chromatid, chromatin, chromosome, cytokinesis, DNA, interphase, mitosis

Prior Knowledge Questions (Do these BEFORE using the Gizmo.)

1. Cells reproduce by splitting in half, a process called **cell division**. What do cells need to do between divisions to make sure that they don't just get smaller and smaller?
2. The genetic information of a cell is carried in its **DNA** (short for deoxyribonucleic acid). What do cells need to do between divisions to make sure that a full set of DNA gets passed on to each daughter cell?

Gizmo Warm-up

On the SIMULATION pane of the *Cell Division* Gizmo™, check that the **Cycle Length** is set to 12 hours. Click **Play** (▶), observe until the maximum number of cells is shown, and then click **Pause** (⏸).

3. Look at the cells. Do they all look the same? _____



4. Cells that are in the process of dividing are said to be in **mitosis** or **cytokinesis**. Cells that are not dividing are in **interphase**.

Check the **Magnify** box and move the cursor over the cells.

- a. Of the 100 cells shown, how many are in the process of dividing? _____
- b. Select the **BAR CHART** tab, and turn on **Show numerical values**. How many cells are in the interphase stage of their life cycle? _____
- c. Based on these two observations, would you say that a cell spends most of its life cycle in interphase or in mitosis/cytokinesis? _____

Question: What are the stages of the cell cycle?

<p>Activity A:</p> <p>Phases of the cell cycle</p>	<p>Get the Gizmo ready:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click Reset (↺). • Select the DESCRIPTION tab. • Click on the right arrow once so that Interphase is shown. 	
	<p>5. Observe: Click Play and hold the cursor over the cell. Observe the cell as it divides several times. (This happens quickly!) What do you notice happening during this process?</p> <p>6. Summarize: On the DESCRIPTION pane, read about each phase in the cell cycle. In the spaces below, sketch the cell in each phase and summarize what occurs in your own words.</p>	



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