

Edible Cell Model Recipe

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The animal cells have some organelles called centrioles that aid in cell division. Let's represent these with some red licorice. Animal cells have two centrioles that are perpendicular to each other, so we'll put the pieces together with a toothpick. Put the toothpick lengthwise through one piece of licorice. Put the other piece of licorice on the toothpick perpendicular to the first piece of licorice. Let an adult use the wire cutters to cut off any part of the toothpick sticking out the ends.



Both cells have ribosomes. These are organelles that put together proteins. We can represent ribosomes with sprinkles.



The Golgi bodies take the proteins that the ribosomes make and package them to make them easier to move. Let's represent the Golgi bodies with a mandarin orange slice.



The endoplasmic reticulum, or ER for short, is the transportation network. It takes the protein packages from the Golgi bodies and moves them around the cell. Let's represent the ER with a fruit snack roll. Some of the ER is smooth, and some is rough. The rough ER has ribosomes on the outside. So we'll lightly press some sprinkles into part of our endoplasmic reticulum.



Both kinds of cells get their energy from the mitochondria. Let's represent the mitochondria with these jelly beans.



Both kinds of cells do have vacuoles, but they differ slightly in their roles. In the animal cell, vacuoles are smaller because their only role is to digest things in the cell and get rid of cell waste. Let's use raisins to represent the vacuoles in the animal cell.



In the plants, vacuoles are much larger. Not only do they digest things and get rid of waste, but they also store nutrients, water and waste. So let's represent the vacuoles in the plant cell with one large prune.



Chlorophyll is stored in the organelles of plant cells that are called chloroplasts. Let's represent the chloroplasts in the plant cell with green grapes.



Lysosomes are very common in animal cells, but aren't found in many plant cells. Their function is to help get rid of waste and bacteria in cells. Let's represent the lysosomes in the animal cell with a few bing cherries. (Be careful not to crunch down on the pits when eating your lysosomes.)