

Dear Parent,

Your son's or daughter's science class will soon begin exploring the chapter entitled "Cells: The Basic Units of Life." In this chapter, students will learn about cells and their structures. By the end of the chapter, students should demonstrate a clear understanding of the chapter's main ideas and be able to discuss the following topics:

1. the parts of the cell theory (Section 1)
2. the reason cells are so small (Section 1)
3. surface-to-volume ratio of cells (Section 1)
4. differences in eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells (Section 1)
5. the function of each part of a eukaryotic cell (Section 2)
6. the difference between animal cells and plant cells (Section 2)
7. advantages of being multicellular (Section 3)
8. the difference between unicellular organisms and multicellular organisms (Section 3)

Questions to Ask Along the Way

You can help your child learn about these topics by asking interesting questions as he or she progresses through the chapter. For example, you may wish to ask your son or daughter the following questions:

- What is the difference between a population and an ecosystem?
- Why was the discovery of cells so important?
- What are some differences between animal cells and plant cells?

