Jane B. Reece, Lisa A. Urry, Michael L. Cain, Steven A. Wasserman, Peter V. Minorsky, Robert B. Jackson

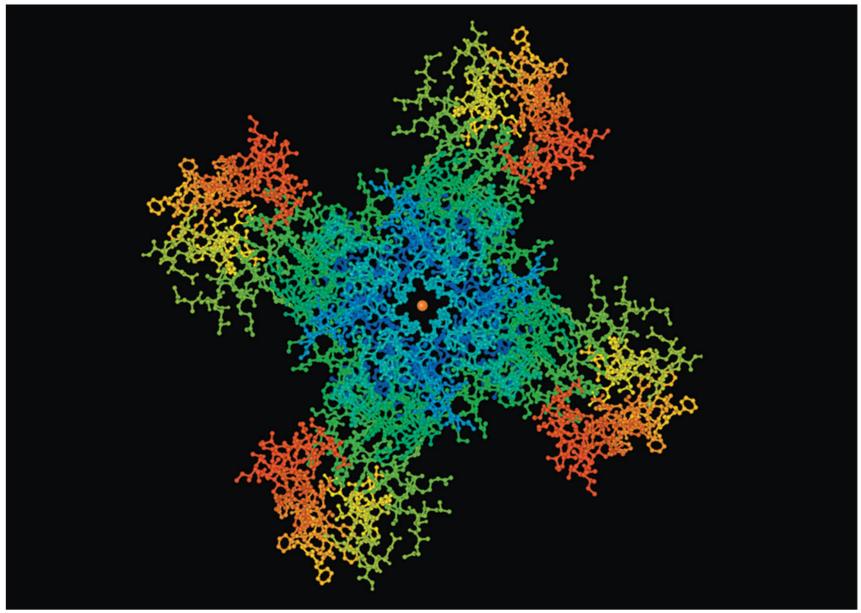
# Chapter 7

# Membrane Structure and Function

Lectures by Erin Barley Kathleen Fitzpatrick

# **Overview:** Life at the Edge

- The plasma membrane is the boundary that separates the living cell from its surroundings
- The plasma membrane exhibits selective permeability, allowing some substances to cross it more easily than others



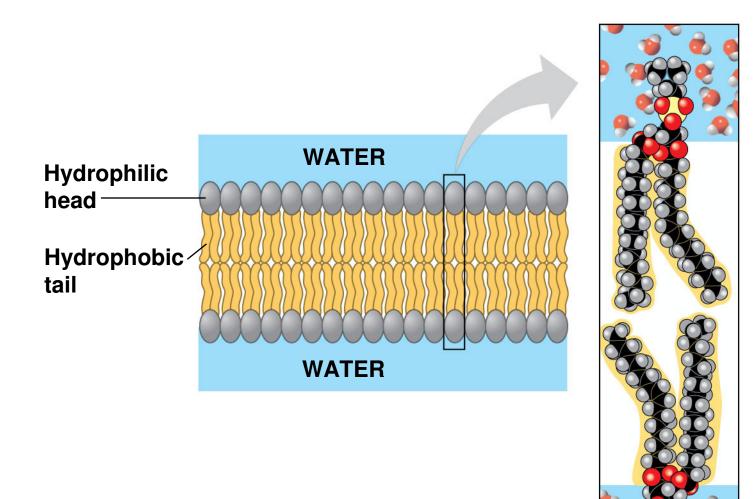
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# **Concept 7.1: Cellular membranes are fluid mosaics of lipids and proteins**

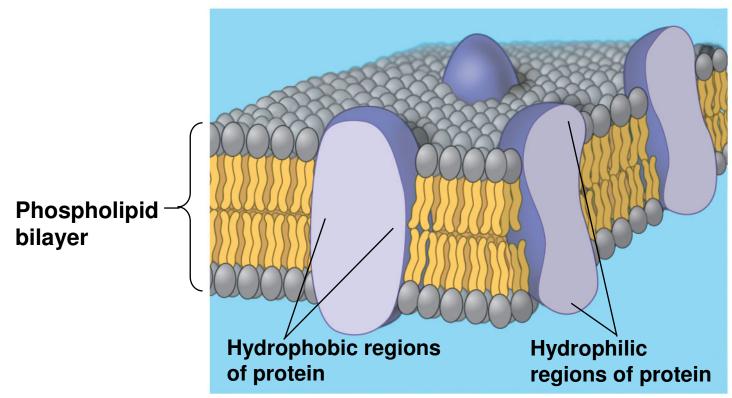
- Phospholipids are the most abundant lipid in the plasma membrane
- Phospholipids are amphipathic molecules, containing hydrophobic and hydrophilic regions
- The fluid mosaic model states that a membrane is a fluid structure with a "mosaic" of various proteins embedded in it

# Membrane Models: Scientific Inquiry

- Membranes have been chemically analyzed and found to be made of proteins and lipids
- Scientists studying the plasma membrane reasoned that it must be a phospholipid bilayer



- In 1935, Hugh Davson and James Danielli proposed a sandwich model in which the phospholipid bilayer lies between two layers of globular proteins
- Later studies found problems with this model, particularly the placement of membrane proteins, which have hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions
- In 1972, S. J. Singer and G. Nicolson proposed that the membrane is a mosaic of proteins dispersed within the bilayer, with only the hydrophilic regions exposed to water



- Freeze-fracture studies of the plasma membrane supported the fluid mosaic model
- Freeze-fracture is a specialized preparation technique that splits a membrane along the middle of the phospholipid bilayer

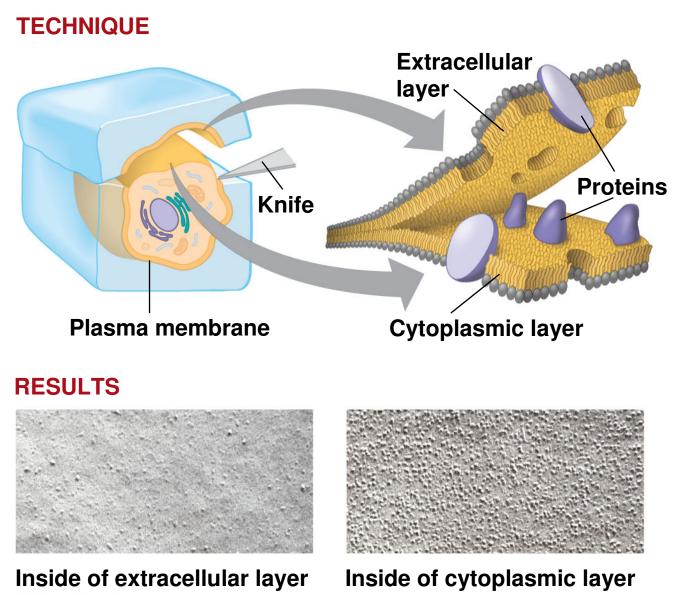


Figure 7.4a



### Inside of extracellular layer © 2011 Pearson Education, Inc.

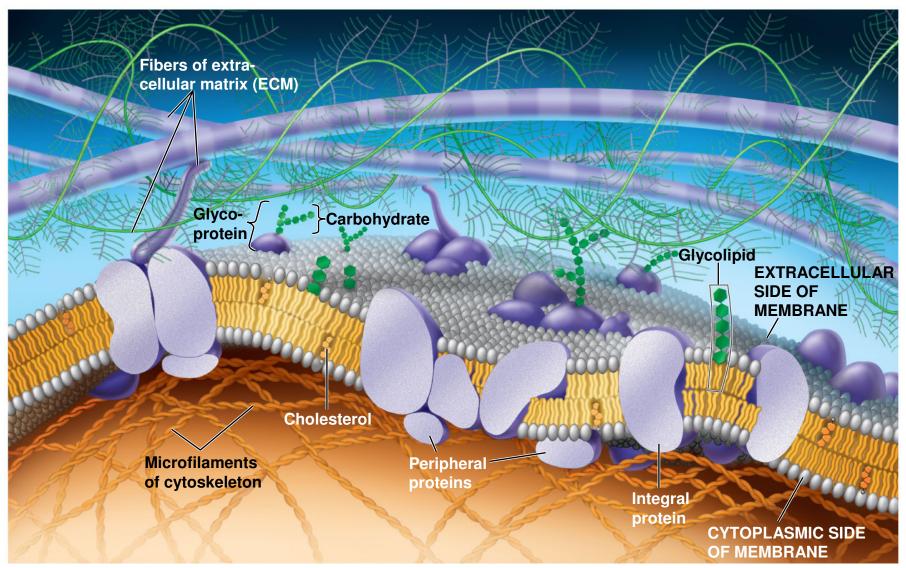
Figure 7.4b

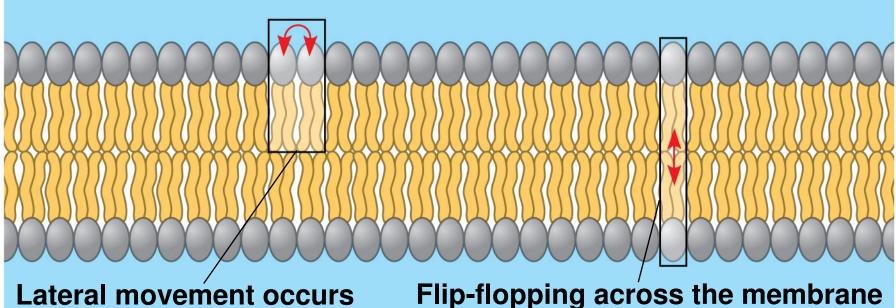


#### Inside of cytoplasmic layer

### **The Fluidity of Membranes**

- Phospholipids in the plasma membrane can move within the bilayer
- Most of the lipids, and some proteins, drift laterally
- Rarely does a molecule flip-flop transversely across the membrane

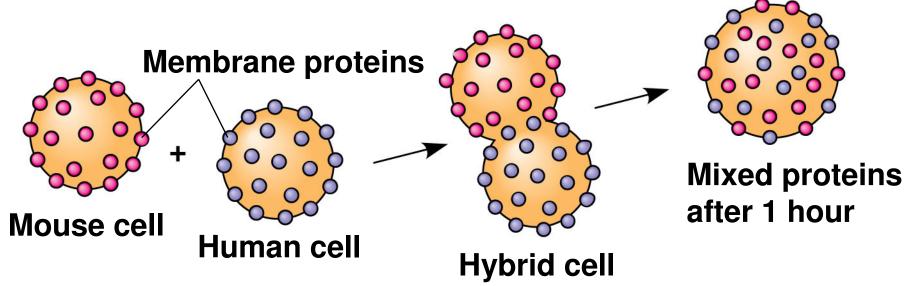




~10<sup>7</sup> times per second.

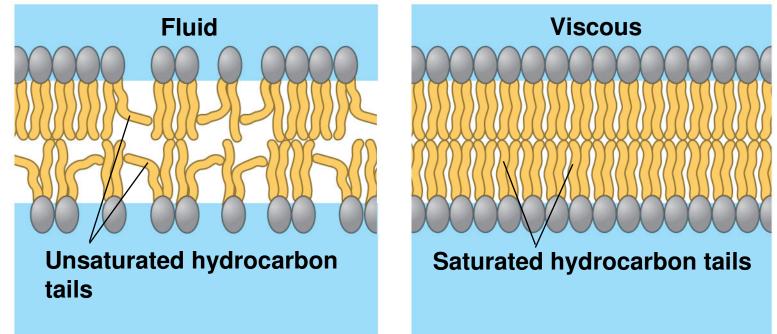
Flip-flopping across the membrane is rare (~ once per month).

#### RESULTS

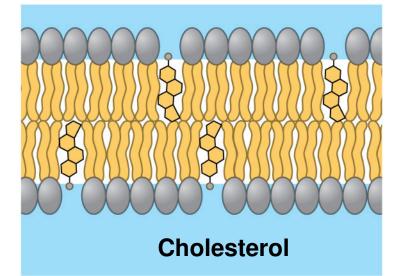


- As temperatures cool, membranes switch from a fluid state to a solid state
- The temperature at which a membrane solidifies depends on the types of lipids
- Membranes rich in unsaturated fatty acids are more fluid than those rich in saturated fatty acids
- Membranes must be fluid to work properly; they are usually about as fluid as salad oil

- The steroid cholesterol has different effects on membrane fluidity at different temperatures
- At warm temperatures (such as 37° C), cholesterol restrains movement of phospholipids
- At cool temperatures, it maintains fluidity by preventing tight packing



- (a) Unsaturated versus saturated hydrocarbon tails
- (b) Cholesterol within the animal cell membrane



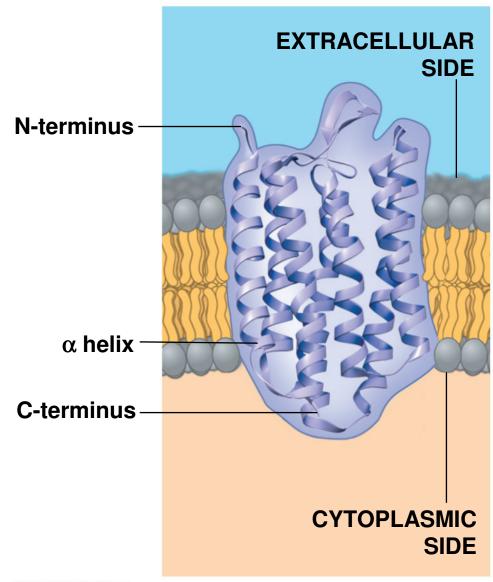
# **Evolution of Differences in Membrane Lipid Composition**

- Variations in lipid composition of cell membranes of many species appear to be adaptations to specific environmental conditions
- Ability to change the lipid compositions in response to temperature changes has evolved in organisms that live where temperatures vary

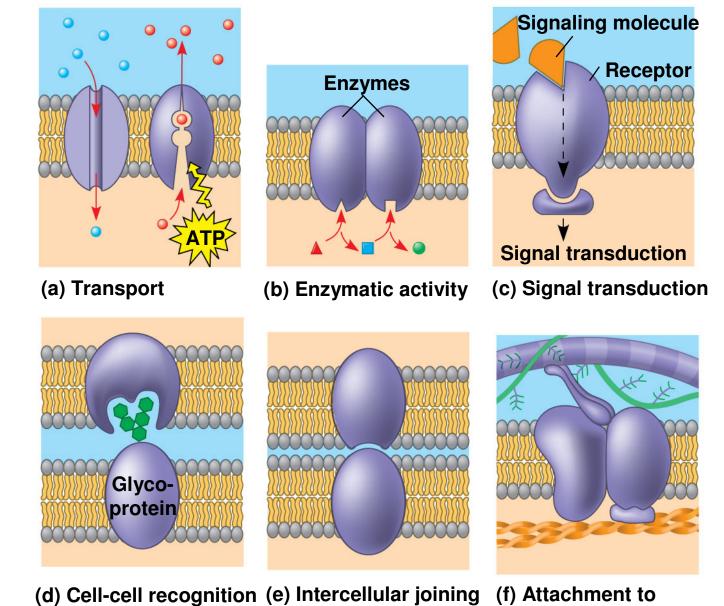
### **Membrane Proteins and Their Functions**

- A membrane is a collage of different proteins, often grouped together, embedded in the fluid matrix of the lipid bilayer
- Proteins determine most of the membrane's specific functions

- Peripheral proteins are bound to the surface of the membrane
- Integral proteins penetrate the hydrophobic core
- Integral proteins that span the membrane are called transmembrane proteins
- The hydrophobic regions of an integral protein consist of one or more stretches of nonpolar amino acids, often coiled into alpha helices

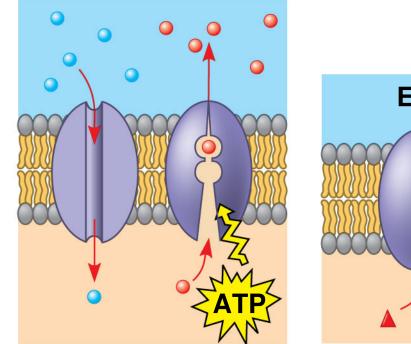


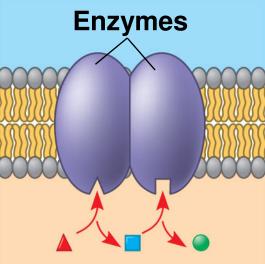
- Six major functions of membrane proteins
  - Transport
  - Enzymatic activity
  - Signal transduction
  - Cell-cell recognition
  - Intercellular joining
  - Attachment to the cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix (ECM)



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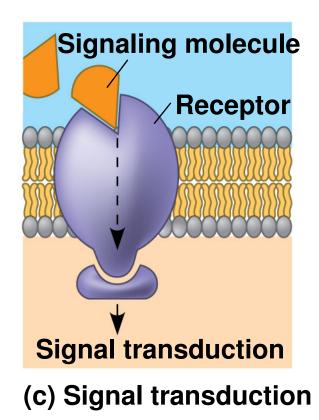
(f) Attachment to the cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix (ECM)

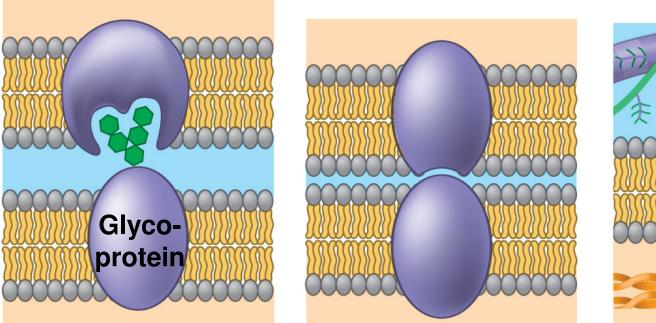


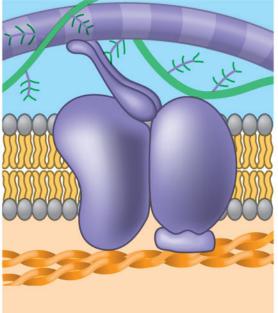


(a) Transport

(b) Enzymatic activity



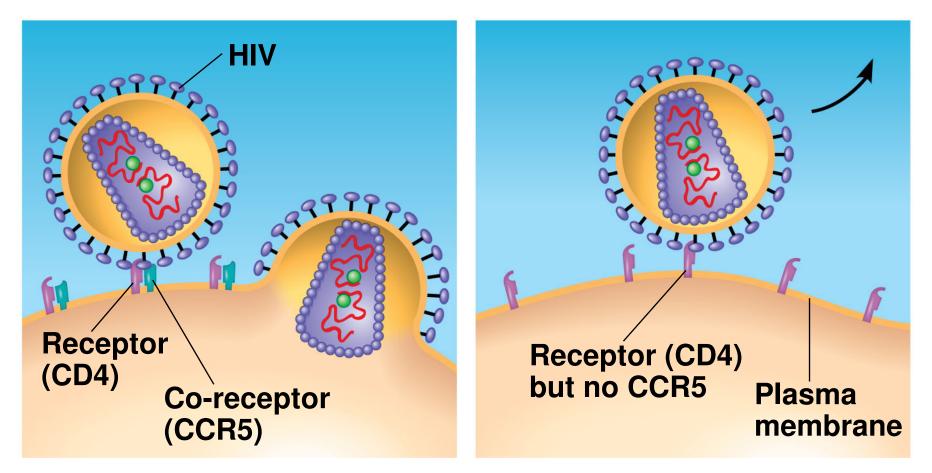




- (d) Cell-cell recognition (e) Intercellular joining
- (f) Attachment to the cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix (ECM)

# The Role of Membrane Carbohydrates in Cell-Cell Recognition

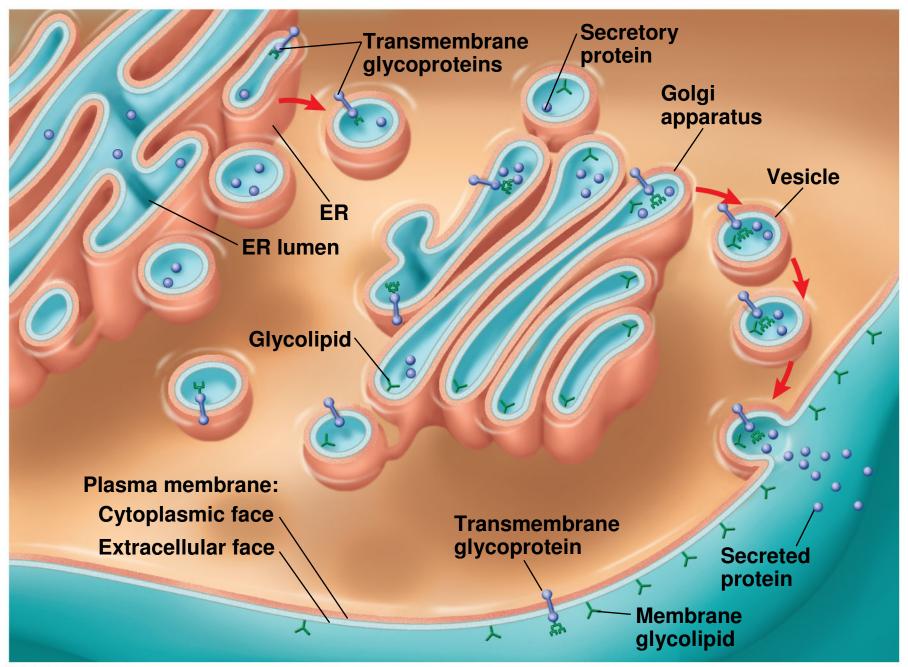
- Cells recognize each other by binding to surface molecules, often containing carbohydrates, on the extracellular surface of the plasma membrane
- Membrane carbohydrates may be covalently bonded to lipids (forming glycolipids) or more commonly to proteins (forming glycoproteins)
- Carbohydrates on the external side of the plasma membrane vary among species, individuals, and even cell types in an individual



HIV can infect a cell that has CCR5 on its surface, as in most people. HIV cannot infect a cell lacking CCR5 on its surface, as in resistant individuals.

# **Synthesis and Sidedness of Membranes**

- Membranes have distinct inside and outside faces
- The asymmetrical distribution of proteins, lipids, and associated carbohydrates in the plasma membrane is determined when the membrane is built by the ER and Golgi apparatus



# **Concept 7.2: Membrane structure results in selective permeability**

- A cell must exchange materials with its surroundings, a process controlled by the plasma membrane
- Plasma membranes are selectively permeable, regulating the cell's molecular traffic

# The Permeability of the Lipid Bilayer

- Hydrophobic (nonpolar) molecules, such as hydrocarbons, can dissolve in the lipid bilayer and pass through the membrane rapidly
- Polar molecules, such as sugars, do not cross the membrane easily

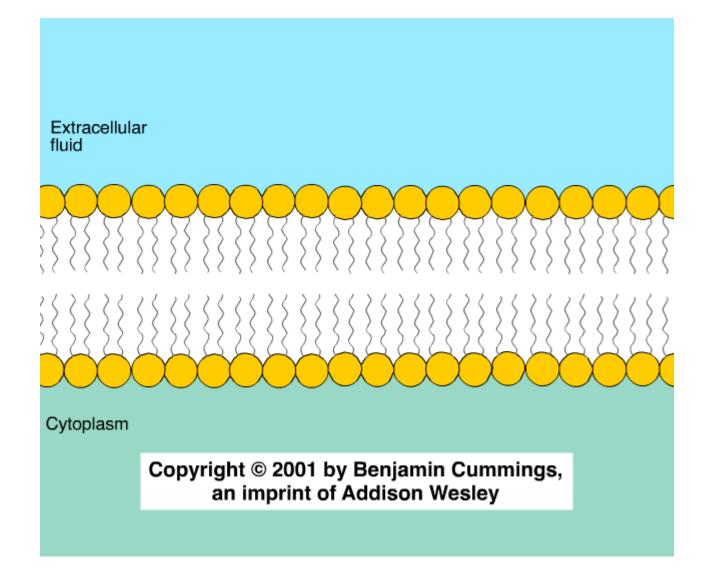
### **Transport Proteins**

- **Transport proteins** allow passage of hydrophilic substances across the membrane
- Some transport proteins, called channel proteins, have a hydrophilic channel that certain molecules or ions can use as a tunnel
- Channel proteins called aquaporins facilitate the passage of water

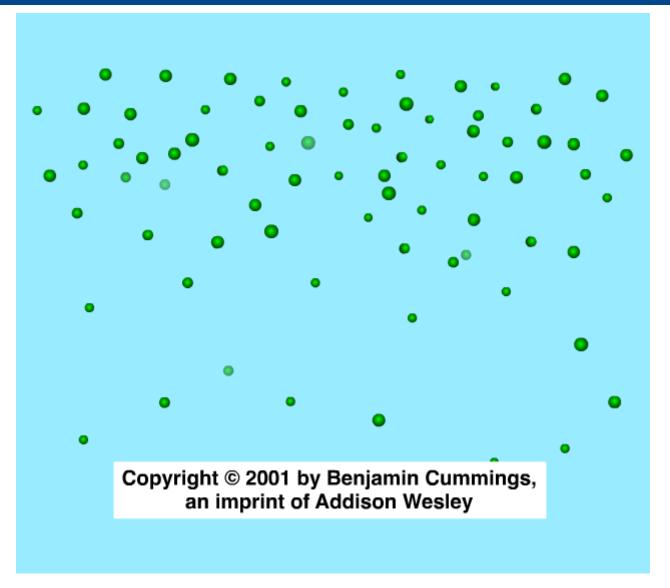
- Other transport proteins, called carrier proteins, bind to molecules and change shape to shuttle them across the membrane
- A transport protein is specific for the substance it moves

# **Concept 7.3: Passive transport is diffusion of a substance across a membrane with no energy investment**

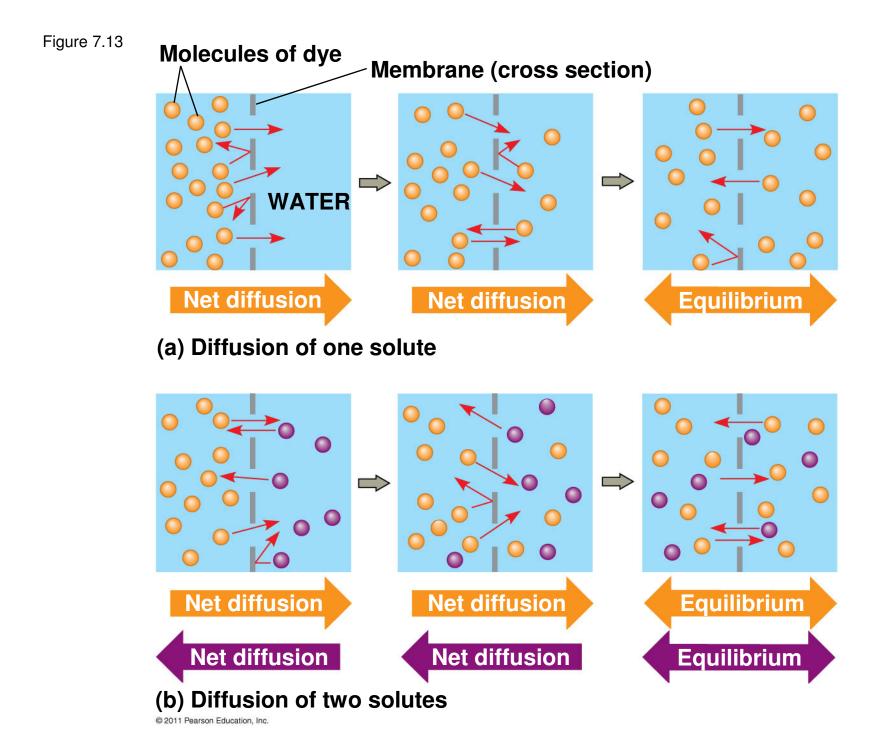
- **Diffusion** is the tendency for molecules to spread out evenly into the available space
- Although each molecule moves randomly, diffusion of a population of molecules may be directional
- At dynamic equilibrium, as many molecules cross the membrane in one direction as in the other

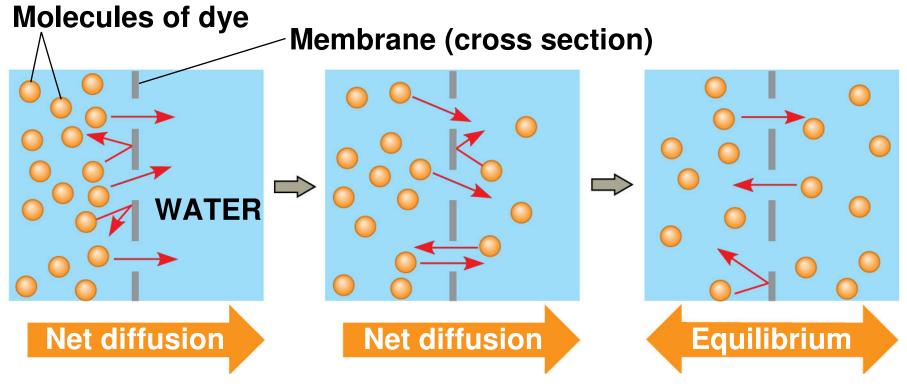


## Animation: Membrane Selectivity

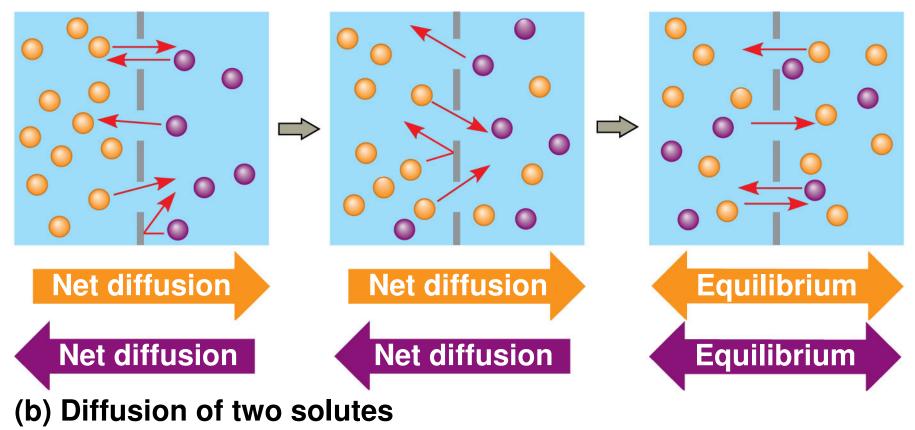


## Animation: Diffusion





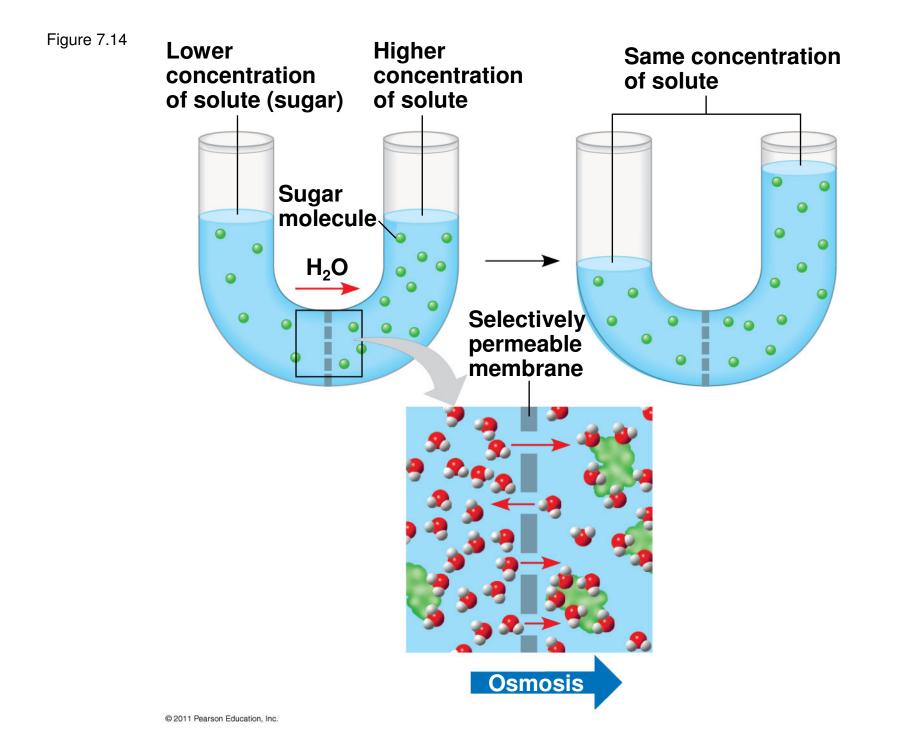
## (a) Diffusion of one solute



- Substances diffuse down their concentration gradient, the region along which the density of a chemical substance increases or decreases
- No work must be done to move substances down the concentration gradient
- The diffusion of a substance across a biological membrane is passive transport because no energy is expended by the cell to make it happen

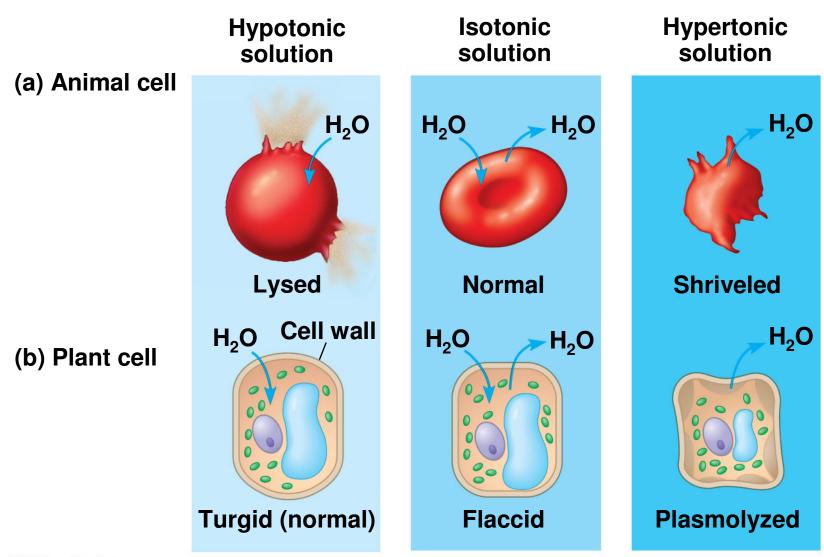
## **Effects of Osmosis on Water Balance**

- **Osmosis** is the diffusion of water across a selectively permeable membrane
- Water diffuses across a membrane from the region of lower solute concentration to the region of higher solute concentration until the solute concentration is equal on both sides

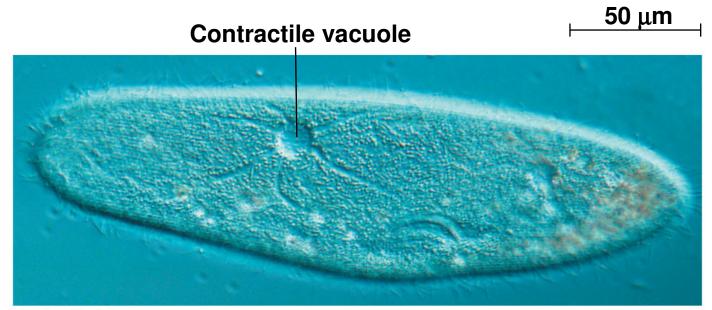


## Water Balance of Cells Without Walls

- **Tonicity** is the ability of a surrounding solution to cause a cell to gain or lose water
- Isotonic solution: Solute concentration is the same as that inside the cell; no net water movement across the plasma membrane
- Hypertonic solution: Solute concentration is greater than that inside the cell; cell loses water
- **Hypotonic** solution: Solute concentration is less than that inside the cell; cell gains water



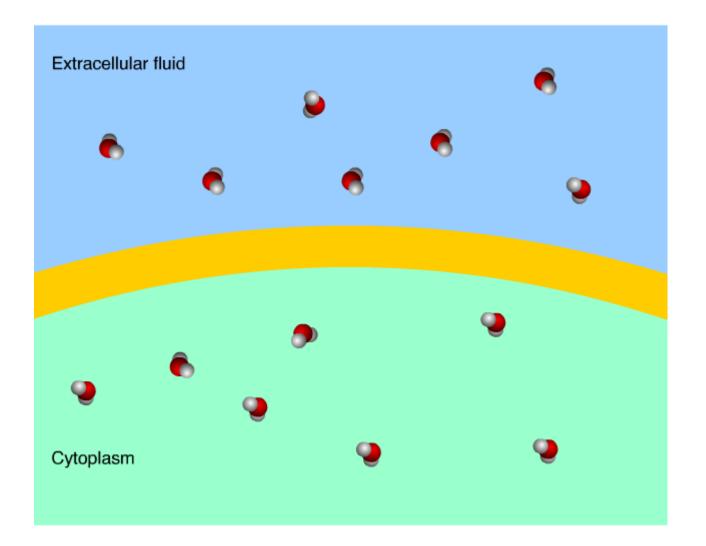
- Hypertonic or hypotonic environments create osmotic problems for organisms
- Osmoregulation, the control of solute concentrations and water balance, is a necessary adaptation for life in such environments
- The protist *Paramecium*, which is hypertonic to its pond water environment, has a contractile vacuole that acts as a pump



## Water Balance of Cells with Walls

- Cell walls help maintain water balance
- A plant cell in a hypotonic solution swells until the wall opposes uptake; the cell is now turgid (firm)
- If a plant cell and its surroundings are isotonic, there is no net movement of water into the cell; the cell becomes **flaccid** (limp), and the plant may wilt

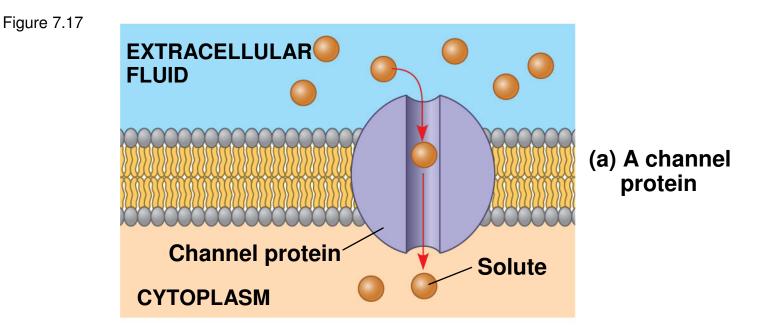
 In a hypertonic environment, plant cells lose water; eventually, the membrane pulls away from the wall, a usually lethal effect called plasmolysis

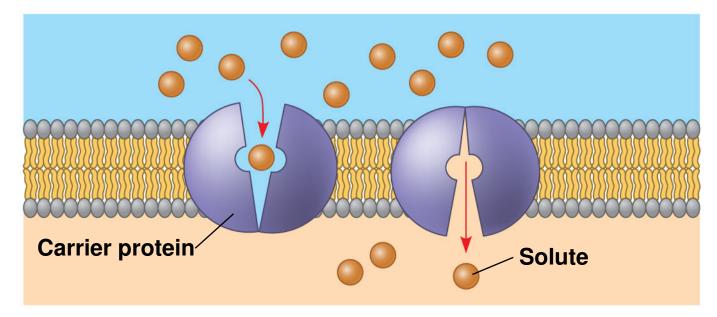


## Animation: Osmosis

# **Facilitated Diffusion: Passive Transport Aided by Proteins**

- In facilitated diffusion, transport proteins speed the passive movement of molecules across the plasma membrane
- Channel proteins provide corridors that allow a specific molecule or ion to cross the membrane
- Channel proteins include
  - Aquaporins, for facilitated diffusion of water
  - Ion channels that open or close in response to a stimulus (gated channels)





#### (b) A carrier protein © 2011 Pearson Education, Inc.

 Carrier proteins undergo a subtle change in shape that translocates the solute-binding site across the membrane  Some diseases are caused by malfunctions in specific transport systems, for example the kidney disease cystinuria

# **Concept 7.4: Active transport uses energy to move solutes against their gradients**

- Facilitated diffusion is still passive because the solute moves down its concentration gradient, and the transport requires no energy
- Some transport proteins, however, can move solutes against their concentration gradients

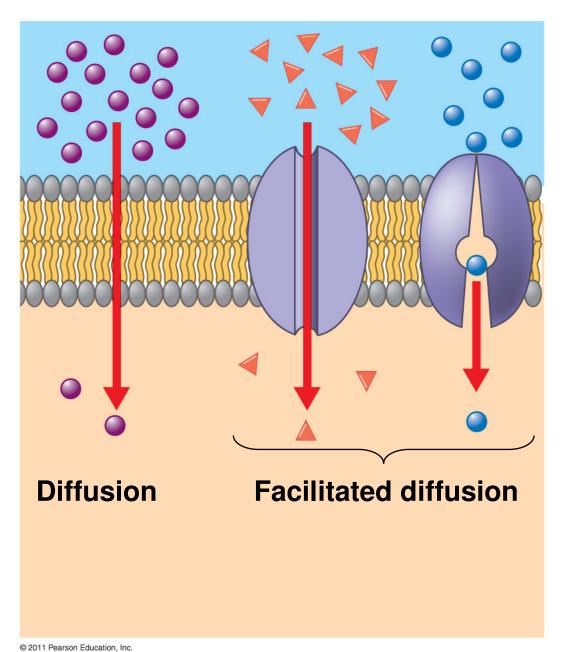
# The Need for Energy in Active Transport

- Active transport moves substances against their concentration gradients
- Active transport requires energy, usually in the form of ATP
- Active transport is performed by specific proteins embedded in the membranes

- Active transport allows cells to maintain concentration gradients that differ from their surroundings
- The sodium-potassium pump is one type of active transport system

## **Passive transport**

## **Active transport**



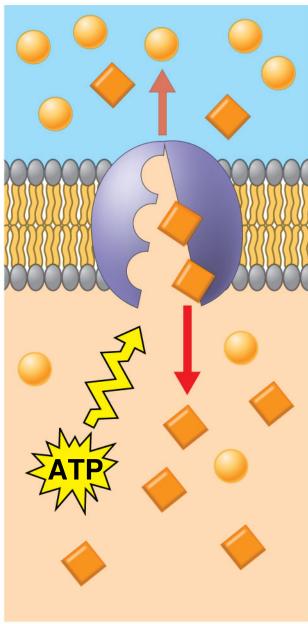


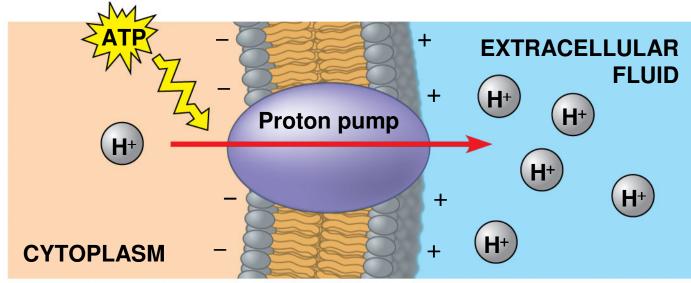
Figure 7.19

# How Ion Pumps Maintain Membrane Potential

- Membrane potential is the voltage difference across a membrane
- Voltage is created by differences in the distribution of positive and negative ions across a membrane

- Two combined forces, collectively called the electrochemical gradient, drive the diffusion of ions across a membrane
  - A chemical force (the ion's concentration gradient)
  - An electrical force (the effect of the membrane potential on the ion's movement)

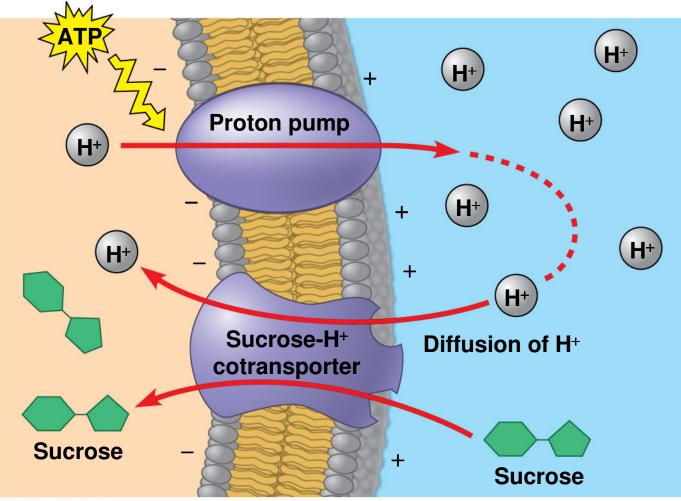
- An **electrogenic pump** is a transport protein that generates voltage across a membrane
- The sodium-potassium pump is the major electrogenic pump of animal cells
- The main electrogenic pump of plants, fungi, and bacteria is a proton pump
- Electrogenic pumps help store energy that can be used for cellular work



# **Cotransport: Coupled Transport by a Membrane Protein**

- Cotransport occurs when active transport of a solute indirectly drives transport of other solutes
- Plants commonly use the gradient of hydrogen ions generated by proton pumps to drive active transport of nutrients into the cell

Figure 7.21

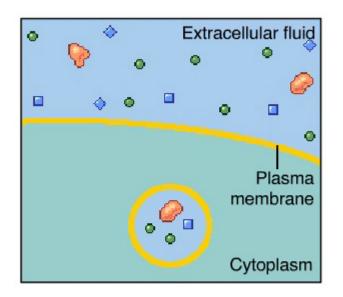


# **Concept 7.5: Bulk transport across the plasma membrane occurs by exocytosis and endocytosis**

- Small molecules and water enter or leave the cell through the lipid bilayer or via transport proteins
- Large molecules, such as polysaccharides and proteins, cross the membrane in bulk via vesicles
- Bulk transport requires energy

# Exocytosis

- In exocytosis, transport vesicles migrate to the membrane, fuse with it, and release their contents
- Many secretory cells use exocytosis to export their products

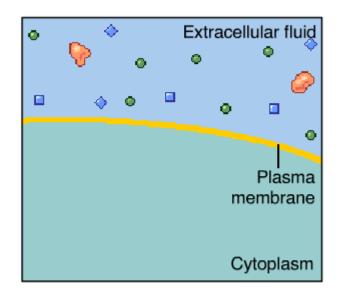


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Animation: Exocytosis

## Endocytosis

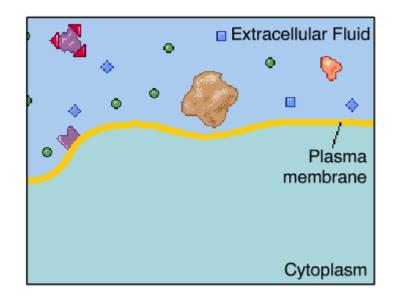
- In endocytosis, the cell takes in macromolecules by forming vesicles from the plasma membrane
- Endocytosis is a reversal of exocytosis, involving different proteins
- There are three types of endocytosis
  - Phagocytosis ("cellular eating")
  - Pinocytosis ("cellular drinking")
  - Receptor-mediated endocytosis



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Animation: Exocytosis and Endocytosis Introduction

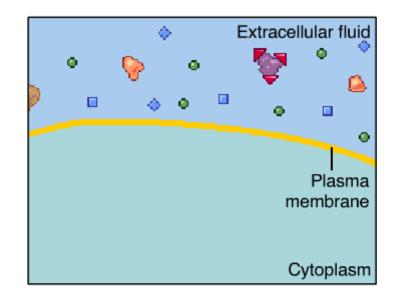
- In phagocytosis a cell engulfs a particle in a vacuole
- The vacuole fuses with a lysosome to digest the particle



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Animation: Phagocytosis

• In **pinocytosis**, molecules are taken up when extracellular fluid is "gulped" into tiny vesicles

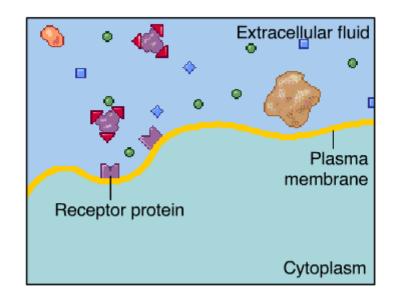


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Animation: Pinocytosis

Right-click slide / select "Play"

- In receptor-mediated endocytosis, binding of ligands to receptors triggers vesicle formation
- A **ligand** is any molecule that binds specifically to a receptor site of another molecule

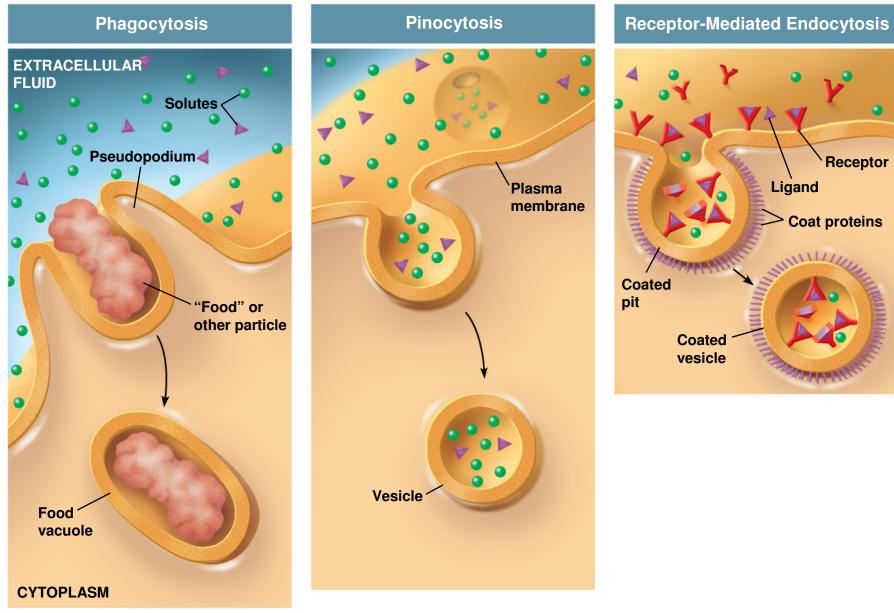


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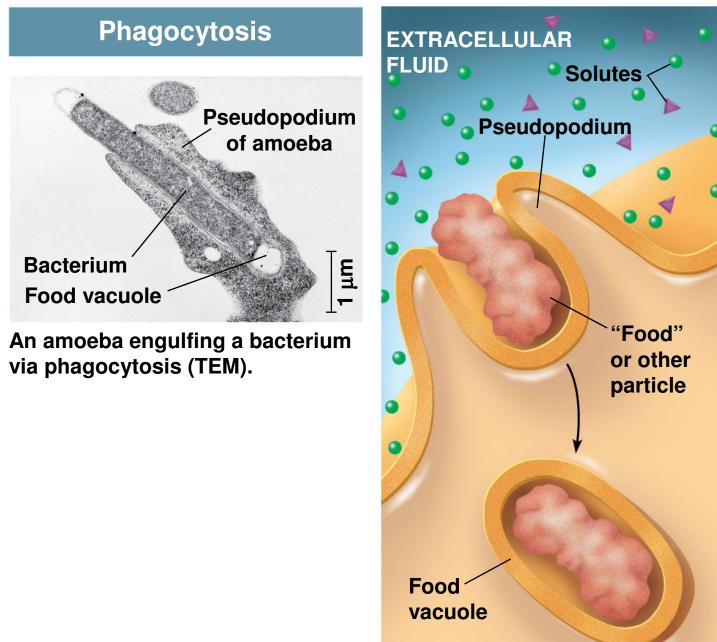
Animation: Receptor-Mediated Endocytosis

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#### Figure 7.22

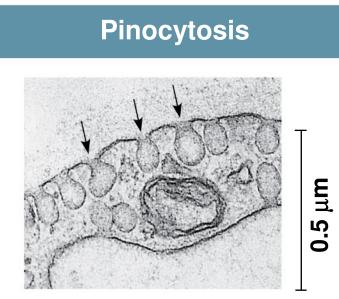


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Figure 7.22a
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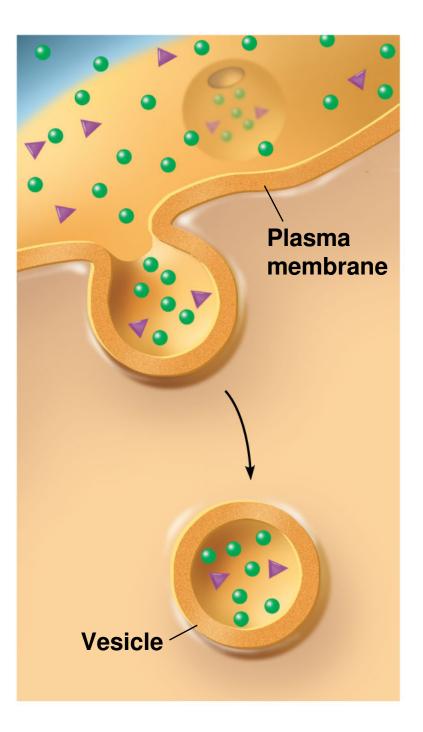


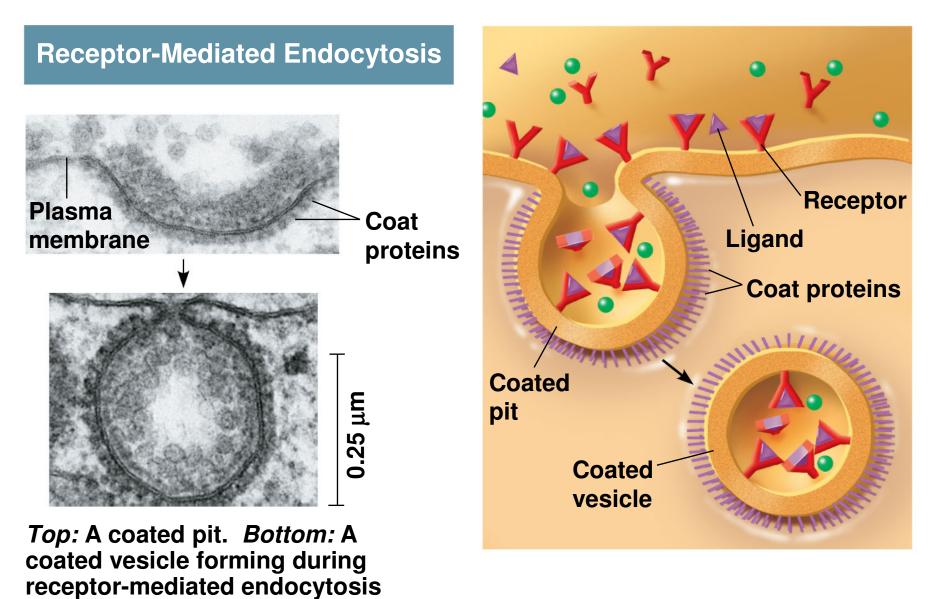
**CYTOPLASM** 

Figure 7.22b



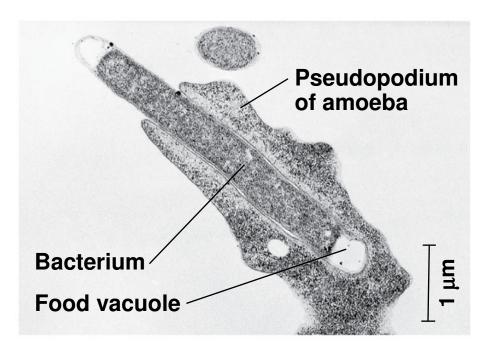
Pinocytosis vesicles forming in a cell lining a small blood vessel (TEM).



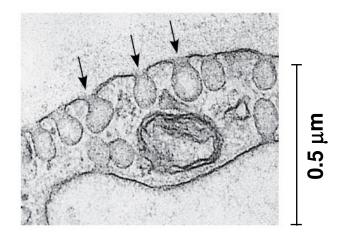


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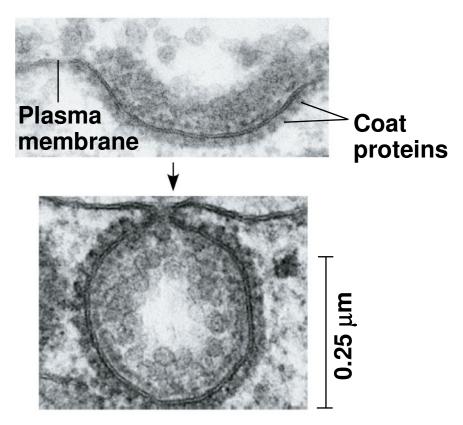
(TEMs).



# An amoeba engulfing a bacterium via phagocytosis (TEM).

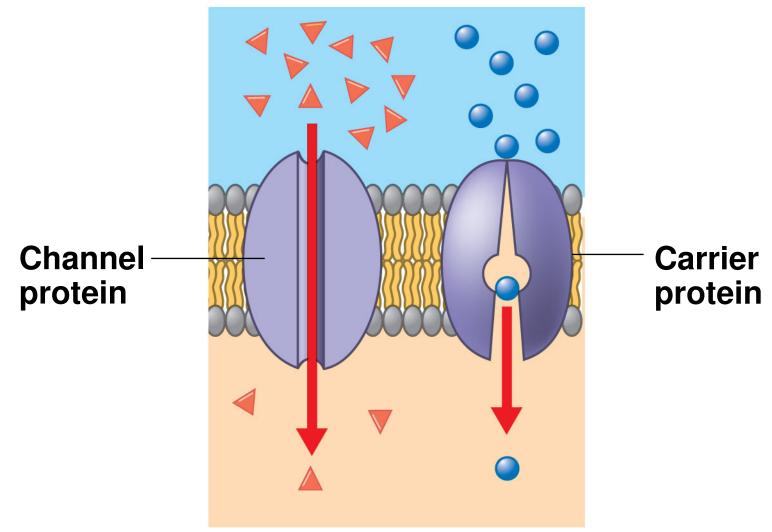


Pinocytosis vesicles forming (indicated by arrows) in a cell lining a small blood vessel (TEM).



*Top:* A coated pit. *Bottom:* A coated vesicle forming during receptor-mediated endocytosis (TEMs).

# Passive transport: Facilitated diffusion



# **Active transport**

