

Tricky key words

Word	Definition
Capsule	Outer coating of a bacterium cell, slimy.
Blastocyst	Hollow ball of cells from the zygote, from which stem cells can be obtained.
Digitalis	The drug obtained from foxglove which prevents oedemas (dropsy).
Cotyledons	The small leaflets attached to a seed.
Callus	A ball of genetically modified by undifferentiated plant cells.
Endothermic	Self regulation of temperature E.g Mammals
Ectothermic	Reliant on the atmosphere for warmth E.g Reptiles
Endosperm	A form of triploid food storage in a seed.
Gelatinisation	The process by which starch thickens by absorbing water.
Mesosome	The infolding of the surface membrane where respiration occurs in prokaryotic organisms.
Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone (MSH)	The hormone which stimulates the production of melanin by the melanocytes. It's production is increased by UV light.
Mutagen	An environmental factor which can cause genetic mutation.
Placenta	An organ formed from part foetus tissue and part uterus lining, it encapsulates an embryo.
Operator	A gene in a bacterium which activates another, allowing transcription to take place. Can be repressed by repressor molecules, causing the gene not to be expressed.
Induction	The 'switching on' of a gene by an external factor E.g β - Galactosidase is induced by lactose.
Plasmodesmata	Fluid-filled channels between cell walls in plants, making the cytoplasm of one cell continuous with that of the next.
Lamella	The region found between adjacent plant cells.
Significant	An experiment where the control and the experimental group exhibit a large degree of discrepancy.
Smooth ER	Manufactures lipids, consists of membrane-bound flattened sacs.
Protoplasts	Plant cells with their walls removed to allow for genetic modification.
Transcription factors	Proteins which bind to DNA along with RNA polymerase to initiate transcription of DNA and synthesis.
Therapeutic cloning	Diploid stem cells being nurtured to provide organs for transplant.
Transgenic	Organisms into which new genes have been inserted
Telomere	A region at the end of a chromosome which acts as a buffer during replication, being destroyed and replaced later, and preventing cell destruction.