

Plant Cell: Parts & Jobs

READ ABOUT EACH PART · GRADES 4–8

Nucleolus	Makes ribosomes inside the nucleus.
Nucleus	The control center. Holds the cell's DNA and directs its activities.
Endoplasmic reticulum	A folded network that makes and moves proteins and fats around the cell.
Central vacuole	A large sac that stores water and keeps the plant cell firm.
Cytoplasm	The jelly-like fluid that fills the cell and holds the organelles.
Ribosomes	Tiny structures that build proteins.
Cell wall	A stiff outer layer that supports and protects a plant cell.
Golgi apparatus	Packages and ships proteins to where they are needed.
Cell membrane	A thin barrier that controls what goes in and out of the cell.
Chloroplast	Uses sunlight to make food (sugar) by photosynthesis.
Mitochondrion	The powerhouse. Turns food into energy the cell can use.

DID YOU KNOW?

Plant cells have chloroplasts, a cell wall and a big central vacuole. Animal cells don't have any of these.