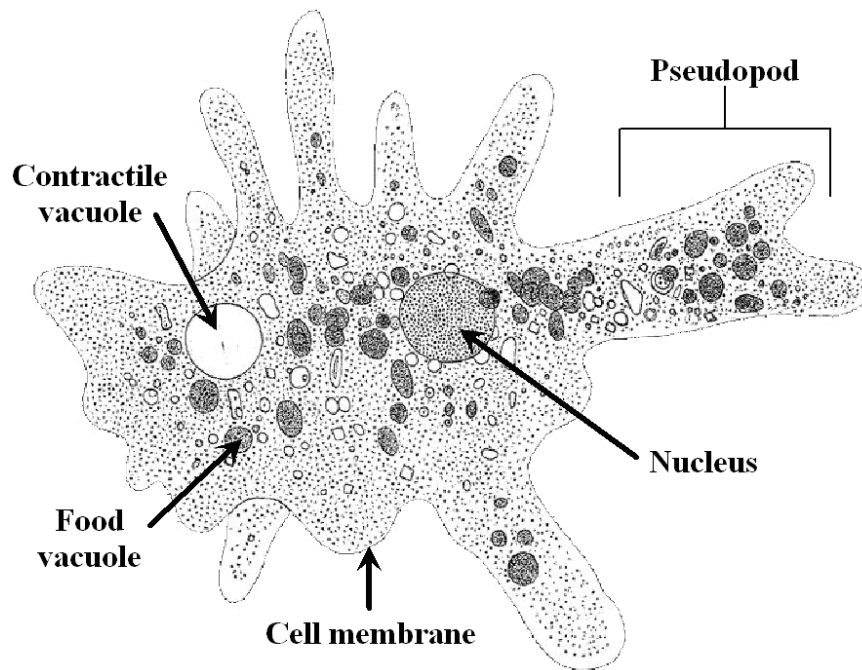


Amoeba



Amoeba are unicellular protists. They are a type of protists called a protozoa. This means they are like animals: they are heterotrophs. This means they eat other organisms to get their energy.

Amoeba move by using pseudopods. This makes them a special type of protozoa called a sarcodine. All sarcodines move by using pseudopods. Pseudopods are made by moving the cytoplasm. They also use their pseudopods to capture food. This process is called endocytosis. It means "to bring within the cell." They wrap their pseudopods around the food and trap it in a food vacuole. The food vacuole is an organelle that stores and breaks down food.

The amoeba lives in water. This means water is constantly getting into the cell. Therefore, the amoeba has another organelle called the contractile vacuole. It looks like a clear circle that grows bigger and then quickly shrinks. It does this because it fills with water and then pushes the water back out of the cell. Another organelle that is easy to find in the amoeba is the nucleus. It shows up as a dark circle. The nucleus controls all the activities of the cell. It is like its brain.

Amoeba can reproduce, or make more amoeba, both by sexual and asexual reproduction. In sexual reproduction, amoeba combine and share genetic information between each other. Then, they separate and divide into two. When they divide into two, it is called asexual reproduction because it happens without another amoeba.