

Purpose: To acquire background information about protists.

Instructions: Follow along as we fill in these notes together.

Most protists are single-celled organisms.

So far we have learned about two different kingdoms of life: plants and animals. All plants are multicellular, eukaryotic autotrophs make their own food through photosynthesis. All animals are multicellular, eukaryotic heterotrophs that must hunt, scavenge, or graze for food.

In lesson 6 we'll begin investigating a third kingdom of life call protists. Protists are like the "left overs" of the classification system. They don't quite fit anywhere so taxonomists placed them into their own kingdom. Although protists are extremely diverse they all have a few things in common:

1. They are all eukaryote which means they all have a nucleus in their cells.
2. They all live in a wet or moist habitat.

How do they differ? Check this out:

Similar Kingdoms	Cell Arrangement	Energy	Nucleus
Animal Plant Fungi	Unicellular Multicellular Colonies	Autotrophs Heterotrophs Both	One Two Many

On to the back!

This table shows how diverse they are!

There are three types of protists.

When we observe protists we notice some are similar to plants, some are similar to animals, and some are similar to fungi. Therefore, scientists decided to subclassify protists into smaller groups based on which kingdom they most resemble. The table below shows three subgroups of protists that we will explore in this unit.

Subgroup	Similar Kingdom	Common Characteristics
Protozoa	Animal	Heterotrophs (eating)
Algae	Plant	Autotrophs (Photosynthesis)
Decomposers	Fungi	Heterotrophs (decomposers)