

Animal Diversity - Invertebrates

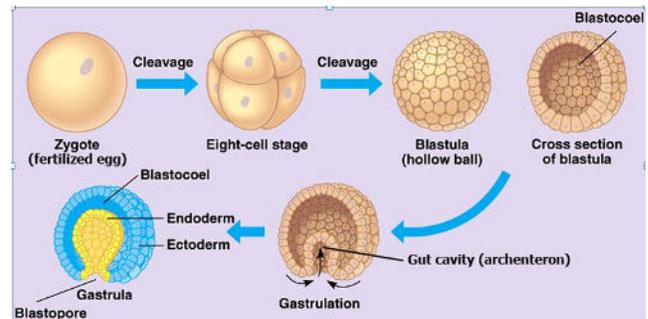
Section I: Introduction to Animals



All animals share specific characteristics. They are multicellular, which means their bodies are made up of many cells. They are eukaryotic, which means their bodies contain a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles. Unlike plants, animal cells do not have a cell wall. Animals are **heterotrophic** and must find their own food to eat to obtain energy. All animals move around in a particular way, reproduce, and find ways to protect themselves.

Animals do not live forever, so they must reproduce. Animals reproduce in two ways. **Asexual reproduction occurs** in organisms like sea stars and sea anemones when a single organism produces an organism identical to itself. During **sexual reproduction**, a new organism develops by joining two sex cells: a male sperm cell and a female egg cell. In all mammals and some fish, **fertilization** is internal.

Most animals develop from a fertilized egg cell called a **zygote**, which has genetically determined stages of development. In the beginning stages of development, the zygote will divide by mitosis and cell division to form two cells. Once cell division has begun, the zygote is referred to as an **embryo**, an organism at an early stage of growth and development.



The embryo will continue to divide from the two cells (blastomeres) to a ball of thirty, called a **morula**, which results from cleavage, until a cell-covered, fluid-filled ball called a **blastula** is formed. Depending on the organism's complexity, the blastula could take about ten hours to develop, like in sea urchin development, or five days, for example, in humans.

Cell division continues after the formation of the blastula until, eventually, the cells on one side begin to move inward to form a **gastrula**. A gastrula is a structure of two layers of cells with an opening at one end. The opening continues inward to form a cavity. The cells lining the inner surface of the cavity are called the **endoderm**, and the layer of cells on the outer surface of the gastrula is called the **ectoderm**. The endoderm cells develop into the lining of the organism's digestive tract and other organs associated with digestion. The ectoderm will also continue to grow and divide, eventually forming an organism's skin and nervous tissue.

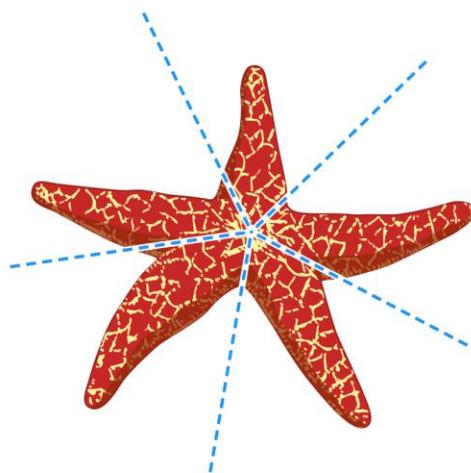
Animal Diversity - Invertebrates

Section I: Introduction to Animals Continued

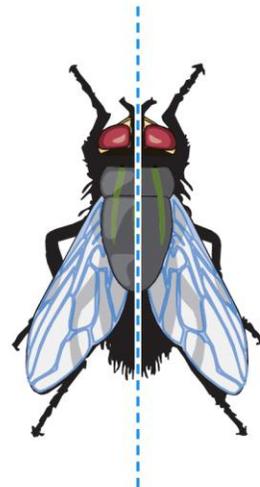
In some animals, a **mesoderm** is formed from the cells that break off the endoderm. The mesoderm is a third layer in the developing embryo between the ectoderm and endoderm. The term *meso* means "middle," which helps you remember where it can be found. The mesoderm cells develop into the muscles, circulatory system, excretory system, and respiratory system of some animals.

Animals are also categorized by the identifying features of their body or their body plan. **Symmetry** is a balanced arrangement of an animal's body structure. For example, in **radial symmetry**, the body parts are arranged around a central axis, as seen in a sea anemone. An animal with **bilateral symmetry** has halves mirrored images of each other, and an **asymmetrical** body plan has no definite shape.

radial symmetry



bilateral symmetry



© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Review:

1. Identify three characteristics of animals.
2. What is a gastrula?
3. Compare radial and bilateral symmetry.