

The Town of Widget Making (Cell Analogy Practice)

PART 1. Read the two terms below and use this to complete this homework practice sheet.

Nucleolus: INSIDE THE NUCLEUS-it makes RIBOSOMES

Protein: SUBSTANCE that all living things and their cells are made of.

PART 2: Read the following story about a town called Peabody City, which makes and exports widgets. Match the parts of the city (underlined) with the parts of the cell. (Refer to your Section 3-2 Chart of organelles to help you out)



In a far away city called Peabody City, the main export and production product is the steel widget. Everyone in the town has something to do with steel widget making and the entire town is designed to build and export widgets. The town hall has the instructions for widget making, widgets come in all shapes and sizes and any citizen of Peabody can get the instructions and begin making their own widgets. Widgets are generally produced in small shops around the city, these small shops can be built by the carpenter's union (whose headquarters are in town hall).

After the widget is constructed, they are placed on special carts which can deliver the widget anywhere in the city. Sometimes widgets don't turn out right, and the "rejects" are sent to the scrap yard where they are broken down for parts or destroyed altogether. Materials needed to construct the widgets are stored in warehouses that are taken when needed. The town powers the widget shops and carts from a hydraulic dam that is in the city. The entire city is enclosed by a large wooden fence, only the postal trucks (and citizens with proper passports) are allowed outside the city.

1. Mitochondria _____
2. Ribosomes _____
3. Nucleus _____
4. Endoplasmic Reticulum _____
5. Protein _____
6. Cell Membrane _____
7. Lysosomes _____
8. Nucleolus _____
9. Vacuoles _____

PART 3: Critical Thinking Questions (Answer the following questions using complete sentences)

1. Look at your answers (1-9) on the front side of this paper. Pick one and explain how the organelle matches with that part of city.

2. Do you think this city best represents a plant or animal cell? Explain.

3. Analogies, like the Peabody city, are used to help relate organelles to objects and systems that people are more familiar with. Is this analogy helpful? Explain.
