



Vocabulary: Osmosis



Vocabulary

- Cell membrane – a double-layered membrane that surrounds the cell.
 - Also called the *plasma membrane*, the cell membrane regulates what enters and leaves the cell.
- Concentration – a measure of how much of a given substance is mixed with another substance.
 - To measure the *percentage concentration* of a substance, divide the number of molecules of the given substance by the total number of molecules in that volume, and then multiply by 100.
- Diffusion – the spontaneous net movement of particles from an area of high concentration to an area of low concentration.
 - Tiny particles are in constant, random motion. Over time, particles will tend to spread throughout their container.
 - Examples of diffusion include the spread of food coloring in a glass of water and the spread of air freshener through a room.
- Dynamic equilibrium – a state of balance in which there is little or no total change.
 - When particles in two regions are in dynamic equilibrium, they may move back and forth between the regions, but the total number of particles in each region remains roughly constant.
- Osmosis – the movement of solvent molecules across a semipermeable membrane from an area of high solvent concentration to an area of low solvent concentration.
 - Osmosis often refers to the flow of water molecules across a cell membrane.
- Semipermeable membrane – a membrane that allows certain substances to pass through but does not allow the passage of other materials.
 - Cell membranes are examples of semipermeable membranes.
- Solute – a substance that is dissolved in another substance to form a solution.
 - In salt water, the solute is salt.
- Solvent – a liquid or gas that dissolves a solute to form a solution.
 - In salt water, the solvent is water.

