

CHAPTER 6.1—6.2: Plasma Membrane Structure

1. Describe the structure of a phospholipid molecule. Be sure to describe their behavior in relationship to water.

2. What happens when a collection of phospholipids molecules are placed in water?

3. Explain the significance of this behavior in relationship to the evolution of life.

4. What is meant by the phrase “the plasma membrane is fluid”?

5. Explain the fluid mosaic model.

6. How is the fluidity of the cell membrane altered?

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7. Describe components of the cell membrane. Explain the function of each.

8. Describe how the structure of membrane proteins allows some proteins to be permanently anchored within the cell membrane as a transmembrane protein whereas other proteins can move freely about the surface of the membrane.

9. What are the two types of membrane carbohydrates and describe their functions.
