

Grade 5 Science  
Week of October 5 – October 9

**Unicellular vs. Multicellular**

Some organisms are **unicellular**, and some are **multicellular**. What does this mean?

Well, first let's look what the prefixes '**uni**' and '**multi**'.

Can you think of some words that start with the prefix '**uni**'? How about the word '**unibrow**', '**unicorn**' or '**unicycle**'. The word unibrow means that someone only has **one** LONG eyebrow, a unicorn only has **one** horn and a unicycle only has **one** wheel! Essentially, the prefix '**uni**' means **one**.

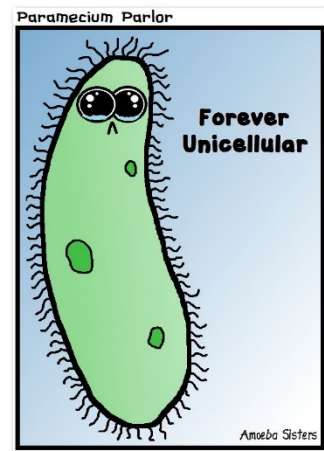


**Fun fact**, in 2013, Cary Gray broke a world record by traveling from South America, all the way to British Columbia on a unicycle. He traveled a total of 22,000 km! That's the same as traveling from Kelowna to Vancouver over 60 times!

Knowing what the prefix '**uni**' means, **can you guess what unicellular might mean?**

A unicellular organism is one that is only made up of **one** cell. These cells like living the single life and don't want to attach to other cells.

So if '**uni**' means one, what could '**multi**' mean? Think about the words '**multicultural**', '**multimillionaire**' and '**multicolored**'. The word multicultural means **many** cultures, a multimillionaire has **many** millions of dollars, and if something is multicolored, it's made up of **many** colors.



So, when we talk about a **multicellular organism**, this just means that **an organism is made up of many cells**. For example, humans are multicellular organisms. Can you think of some other organisms that might be multicellular?

1. What is the difference between a unicellular organism and a multicellular organism?

2. Are humans' unicellular organisms or multicellular organism?

3. Give an example of a specialized cell: