

What is Cancer?

By Tim Brainpop



Name: _____

1 **Cancer** is a condition where cells divide uncontrollably inside someone's body.
 2 A **tumor** is a mass of cancer cells that can interfere with the surrounding
 3 normal cells and prevent them from doing their job. This growth can damage
 4 surrounding tissues or organs, which can be very dangerous and often deadly.
 5 Tumors, or clumps of cancer cells, aren't contagious – so you can't catch cancer
 6 from a person who has cancer.

What is the scientific term for **cell division**? (such as a skin cell dividing to become 2 skin cells)

7 Cancer is caused when there is a **mutation** in the **DNA** of cells in the body. A
 8 mutation is a random change to the DNA of a cell. It is not always known why a
 9 mutation occurs. Some mutations are caused by exposure to **carcinogens** in the
 10 environment such as chemicals, cigarette smoke, or too much radiation from
 11 the sun. Other mutations can be passed down to you from your parents.
 12 Certain people may have a higher chance of developing cancer because of their
 13 inherited DNA. Someone who has an **increased chance** of developing cancer,
 14 due to their inherited DNA, is said to have a **genetic predisposition** to cancer.

TRUE or FALSE
 A carcinogen is something harmful or dangerous to cells.

15 DNA is the **genetic material** in the nucleus of almost every cell in your body.
 16 DNA provides instructions for how cells should behave and do their jobs.
 17 Genetic material (DNA) gets damaged in cancer cells, and causes them to divide
 18 repeatedly without stopping.

Using information from the previous paragraph, what is the scientific term for DNA that is changed?

19 There is currently no overall cure for cancer, but there are lots of successful
 20 treatments that help people that have cancer, including surgery, radiation
 21 treatments, and chemotherapy.

	Statement	T/F	Evidence (line numbers)
1	Cancer cells have normal DNA.		
2	Cancer can be caused by carcinogens in a person's environment.		
3	Both the environment and your genetic predisposition can influence your chances of getting cancer.		
4	Cancer can be transmitted from one person to another like the flu.		