

# 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.
  
- 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.
  
- 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.
  
- 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.

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

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TRUE or FALSE

A carcinogen is something harmful or dangerous to cells.

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

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	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.		