Biology Notes: Protista

**Protists** are a diverse group of multicellular or unicellular eukaryotes that lack complex organ systems and live in moist environments; may be autotrophic or heterotrophic.

### Animal-like Protists (protoza)

- reproduce asexually OR sexually
- grouped by the way in which they transport themselves
- Amoebas:
  - obtain no cell walls
  - form pseudopodia (cytoplasm-containing extensions of their plasma membrane)
  - shape of the cell changes as it moves
  - most live in moist or salt water places
  - receive nutrients by diffusion into their cell membranes

#### - Flagellates

- move by whipping their flagella from side to side
- most are parasites

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#### - Ciliates

- use cilia to move
- live in aquatic habitats
- reproduce asexually

- Sporozoans



- produce spores a reproductive cell that forms without fertilization; produces a new organism
- found in the blood or intestines of living animals (can cause malaria)
- All are parascitic

# **Plant-like Protists**

- photosynthesizing protists (contain chlorophyll which causes different colors)
- unicellular and multicellular
- have no roots, stems, leaves
- \* Classified into six phyla:
  - 1.) Euglenoids (unicellular)
  - do not have a cell wall made of cellulose, but do have flexible pellicle made of protein
  - have chlorophyll and photosynthesize
  - also can ingest food
  - use flagella to move



- 2.) Diatoms (unicellular, golden-yellow, bacillariophyta)
- shells composed of silica
- freshwater and saltwater
- have chlorophyll
- have cartenoids
- buoyant
- asexual and sexual reproduction



#### 3.) Dinoflegellates (dinoflagella)

- cellulose cell walls
- chlorophyll, carotenoids, red pigments
- flagella
- live mostly in salt water

- same are bioluminescent
- produce toxins

4.) Red Algae (rhodophyta)

- body is a thallus lacks roots, stems, leaves
- tropical
- contains chlorophyll
- 5.) Brown Algae (phaeophyta)
- salt water
- chlorophyll
- have air bladders so they will float
- example: kelp

6.) Green Algae (chlorophyta)

- chlorophyll
- most in fresh water
- can be unicelluar, colonial, or multicellular
- asexual and sexual reproduction
- during asexual reproduction fragmentation breaks into pieces and grows into a new individual
- very complex lifestyle

# Life Cycles

- \* Alternation of generations
  - gameotophytes produce gametes
  - gametes form zygotes (called sporophytes)
  - these cells undergo meiosis
  - these form into a new gameotophyte

# **Fungus-like Protists**

• slime modes, water molds, mildew

- decompose organic material
- \* Slime molds:
- like protozoans and fungi (classified by the way they reproduce)
- live in cook, moist places
- plasmodial slime molds (myromycota)
  - -no cell wall or membrane
  - -like an amoeba
  - -can become spore producing (meiosis can take place)
- cellular slime molds
  - -independent
  - -divides by cell division
  - -when food is scarce, they join together to reproduce
- water molds (opmycota)
  - -live in moist places
  - -feed on dead organisms (others are plant eaters)
  - -fuzzy white growths
  - -produce flagellated reproductive cells