

Name _____

The Incredible Composition of Blood: Red Cells, White Cells, and Platelets

Short Answer Key

1. The absence of a nucleus in red blood cells allows them to have more space for hemoglobin, which is essential for oxygen binding and transport.
2. One type of white blood cell is neutrophils, which play a key role in defending against bacterial infections by engulfing and destroying bacteria.
3. Platelets contribute to blood clotting by rushing to the site of an injury, forming a plug, and releasing substances that help create a stable clot to stop bleeding.
4. The primary function of plasma is to serve as a transportation system, carrying nutrients, hormones, and waste products throughout the body. It also helps maintain blood pressure and temperature.
5. As a red blood cell, my journey begins in the lungs, where I pick up oxygen and release carbon dioxide. Then, I travel through the bloodstream, guided by the heart's pumping action, until I reach a distant body cell. There, I release oxygen, which the cell needs for energy production.

