**How Cells Reproduce**

All (1)organisms, including you, began life as a (2)single cell. How does one cell (3)produce a multicellular organism? A cell (4)divides itself over and over again to make new (5)cells. Remember that cells can only come from previously (6)existing cells. During cell division, one (7)cell divides to become two cells. Then each of these two cells divides into two more cells, and so on. In this way, with amazing (8)speed, the single (9)fertilized egg cell from which a human (10)develops eventually produces a baby consisting of (11)trillions of cells.

This (12)process does not stop when a baby is born. How do you think you grew up to your present (13)size? More cells have been (14)added to your body continually since you were born, making you (15)taller and (16)heavier. Even when you are a fully grown adult, many of your cells continue (17)dividing.

**Regeneration**

Some animals possess the ability to (18)regenerate body parts. This is called (19)regeneration. Humans do not possess the ability to regenerate a new arm or leg, but we do show a kind of regeneration. When we scrape a knee, or break a bone, the wound or bone can heal because dead and (20)damaged cells are replaced by new ones. The new cells, produced by (21)cell (22)division, grow over the injury and (23)repair the wound.

Like organisms, individual cells have a life (24)cycle. They grow, divide, and eventually (25)die. Different cells grow and divide at (26)different rates, depending on their structure and function. For example, the cells in your skin wear out quickly and last only days or weeks. The longest-lived cells in your body are nerve cells, which can last a (27)lifetime.

(28)Regeneration is evidence that organisms can produce new cells throughout their lives. For example, some lizards can (29)regrow their tails after a predator snatches away their old one. Lobsters, newts, tadpoles, and insects can grow new legs. Deer shed their antlers each year, then grow new ones to (30)replace them.

