

## Chapter 7

### Membrane Structure and Function

- The plasma membrane separates the cell from its surroundings
  - Composed of proteins and lipids
  - Exhibits selective permeability
- The membrane is fluid with a mosaic of proteins

- Phospholipids move laterally within the plasma membrane
- Many factors influence the fluidity of plasma membranes
  - Temperature
    - as temp drops, membranes become solid
  - Fatty acids tails
    - Unsaturated fatty acids = more fluid
    - Saturated fatty acids = more viscous (molasses)

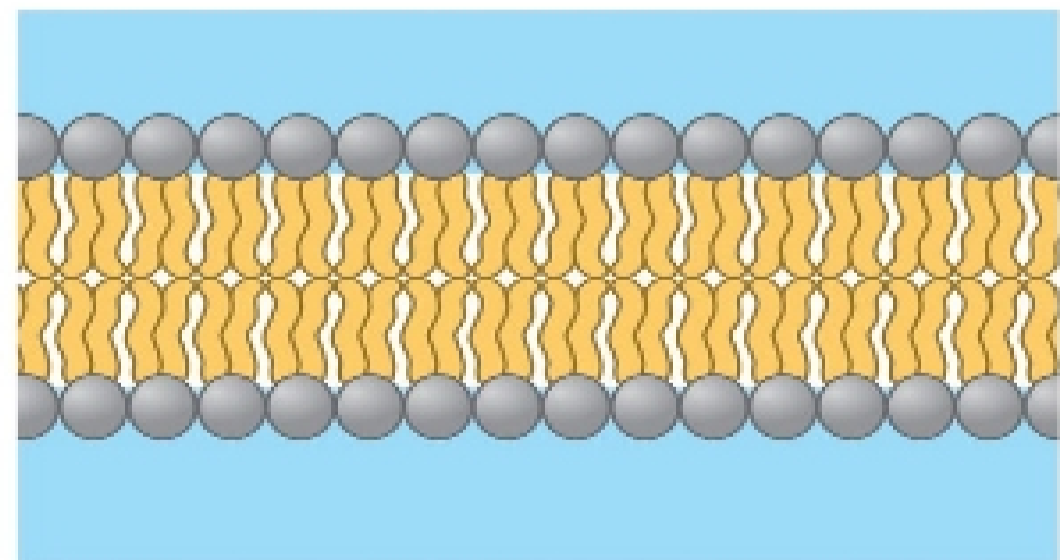
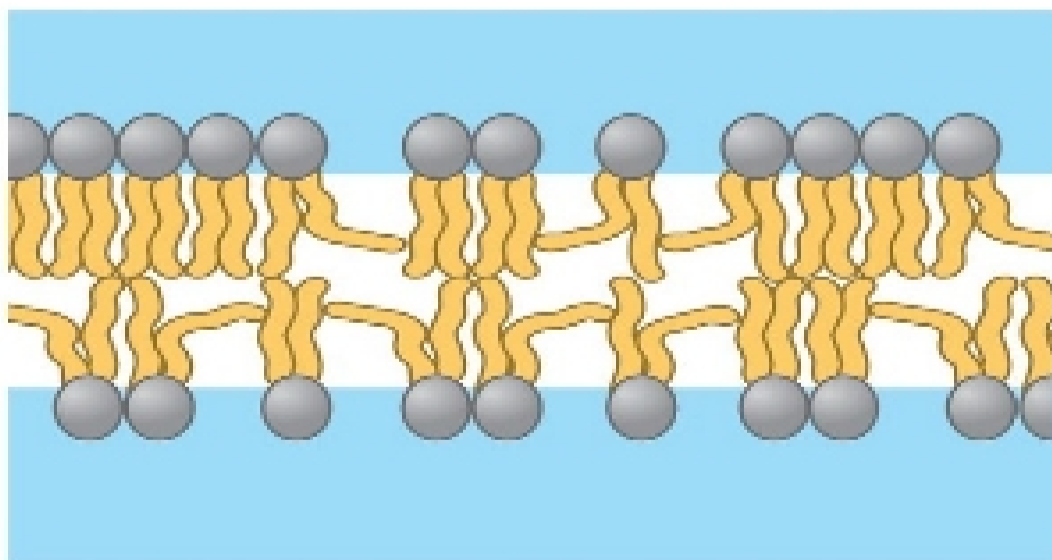


Fluid

Viscous

Unsaturated hydrocarbon tails with kinks

Saturated hydrocarbon tails



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