Unicellular Organisms

The simple design and small size of **bacteria** cells enable them to grow rapidly and divide, and to survive in almost any environment. Bacteria are different from animal and plant cells in that they have no nucleus, no mitochondria, and no ribosomes.

Protists are found almost anywhere there is water. Unlike bacteria, protists have a nucleus and contain organelles.

Protists are not animals, plants or fungi but they do share characteristics with these groups. This group is VERY diverse. They are related by the common condition of each being one, independent cell.

Plantlike Protists

- **Diatoms** – contain chlorophyll
- **Euglena** – contain chloroplasts, an eyespot, contractile vacuoles and also has a flagellum and pellicle

Animal-like Protists

- **Amoeba** - bloblike organisms, pseudopod for travel, and feed by wrapping themselves around their food
- **Paramecium** - cilia for movement and feeding, and contain an oral groove, a gullet and contractile vacuoles.

Fungus

Fungi include many organisms that are multicellular, such as mushrooms, however there are a few unicellular fungi. **Yeast** has many different species. Like animal cells, yeast cells do not have chlorophyll and must rely on other organisms for their source of energy.