

# The mechanism of passive transport

Learning objective

- to explain the mechanism of passive transport

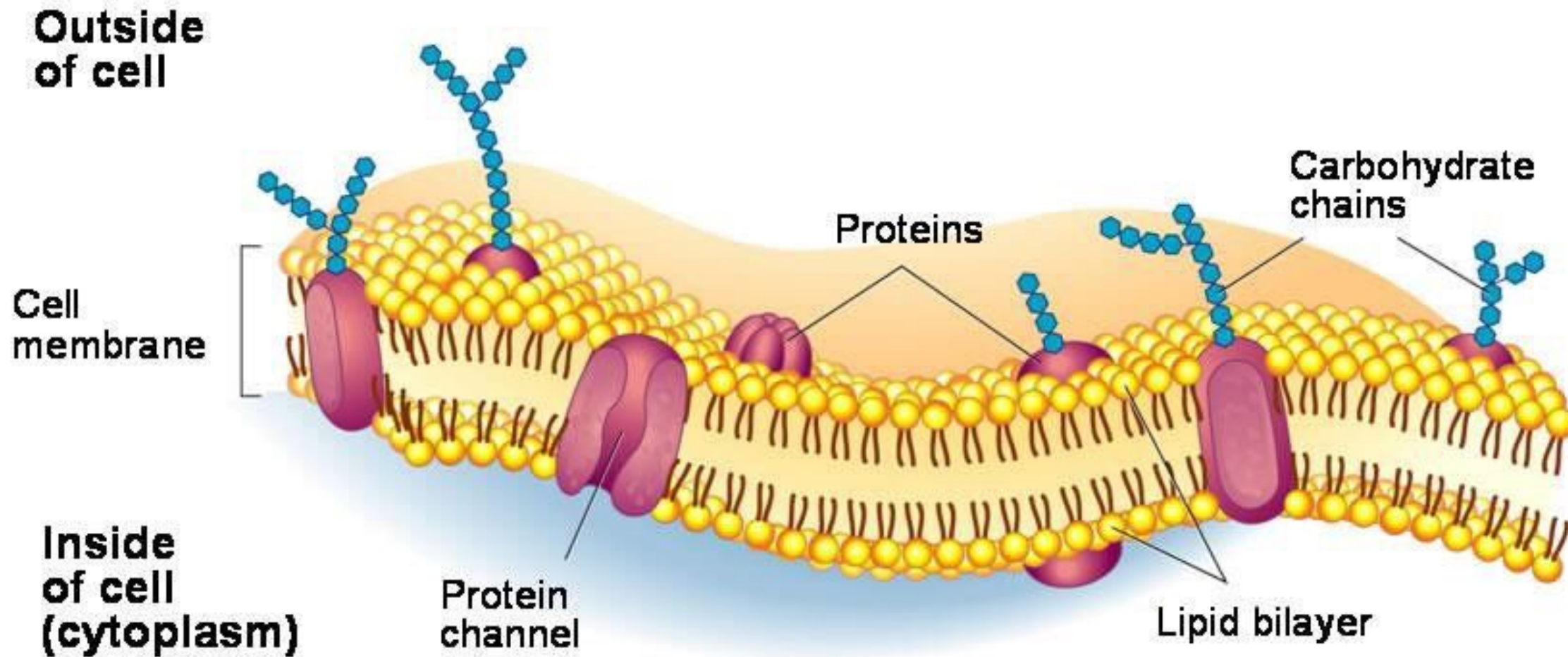
# Success criteria

- Describe types of passive transport in an oral or written form.
- Explain passive transport mechanism.
- In order to achieve learning objectives fulfill correctly at least 80% of work.

# Terminology

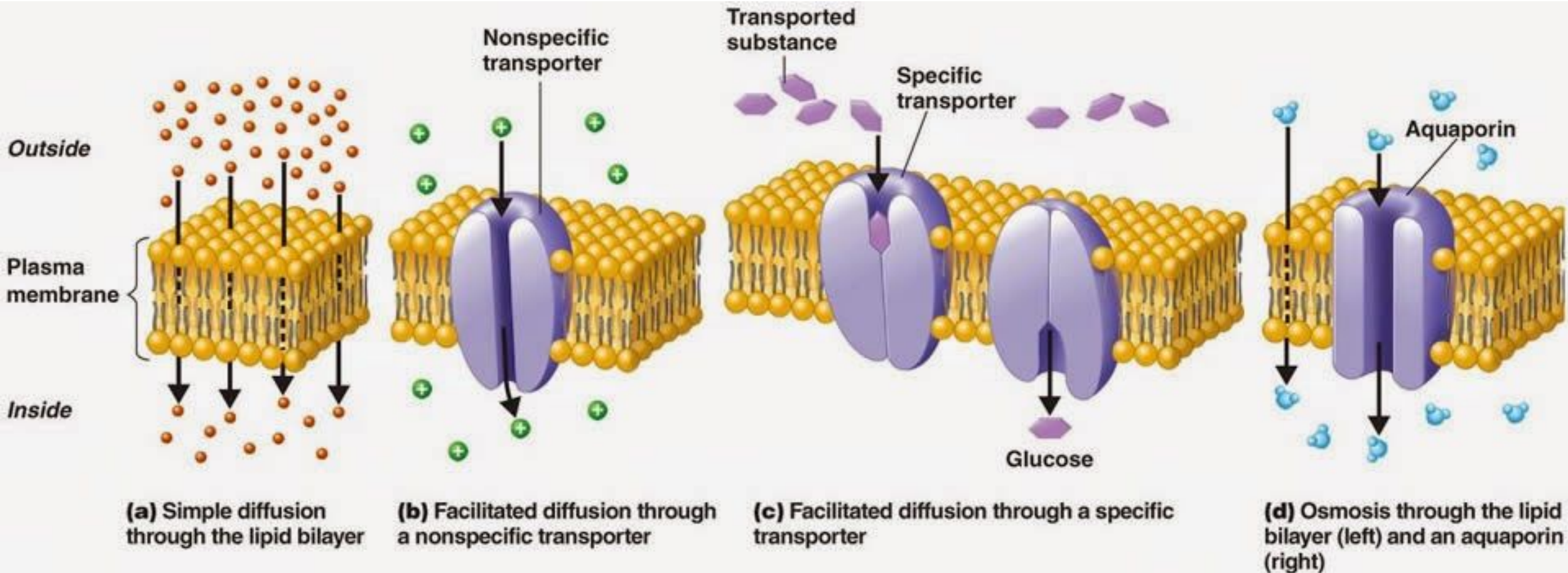
- Passive transport
- Diffusion
- Facilitate diffusion
- Osmosis
- Concentration gradient
- Channel proteins
- Gate
- Carrier proteins
- Plasma membrane/permeable membrane
- Randomly
- Passive movement
- Lower/high solute concentration
- Isotonic/hypertonic/hypotonic

**Cell membrane** is selectively permeable –  
not all molecules can **pass through**





# Types of passive transport



# Passive transport

The **movement of substances down a concentration gradient** from an **area of high concentration** to an **area of lower concentration** without the need for **energy to be used**.

3 types are passive transport:

- **Simple diffusion**
- **Facilitate diffusion**
- **Osmosis**



1. **Diffusion**: molecules move straight through the membrane.
2. **Facilitated diffusion**: molecules or ions move through channel proteins embedded in the membrane.
3. **Osmosis**: water molecules move through the membrane (mostly through protein channels).

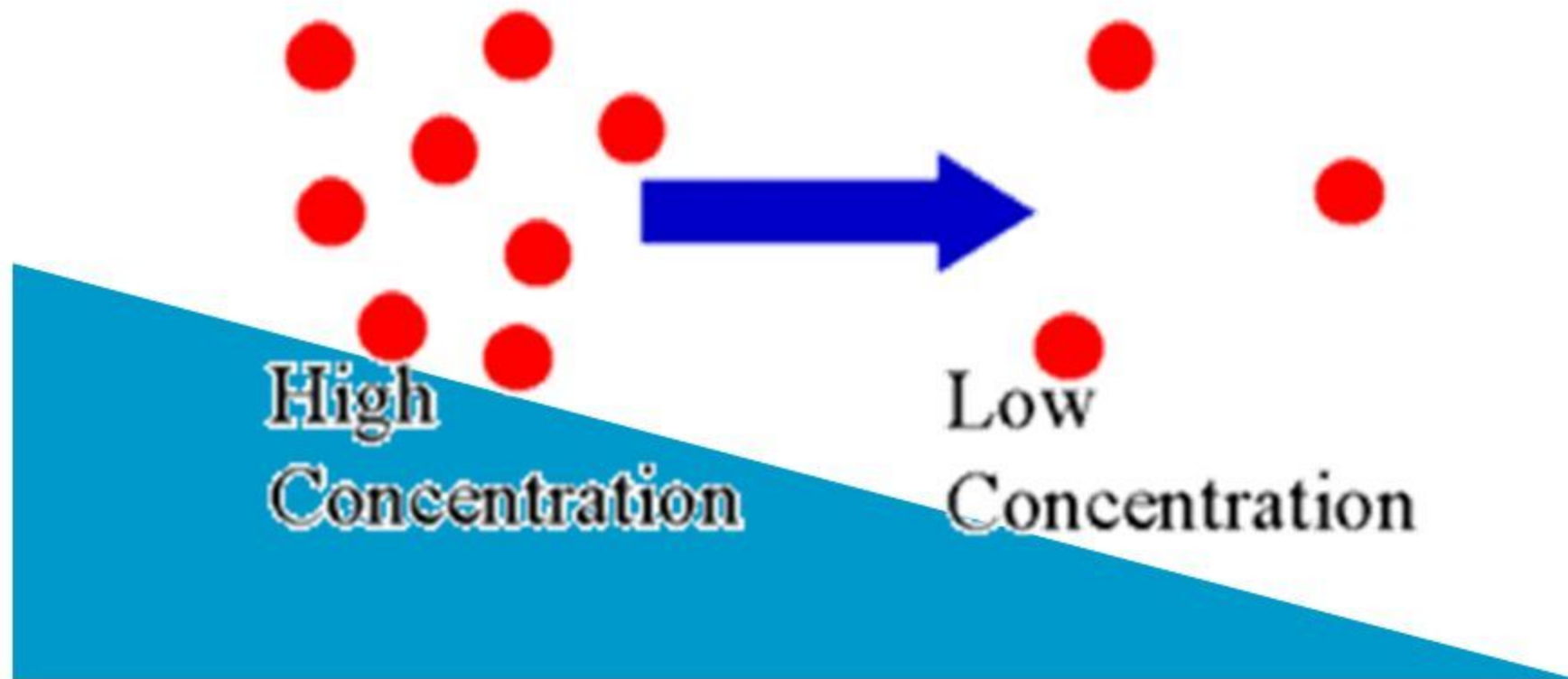
# Sample diffusion

- This is passive process, which takes place as molecules move randomly.
- No energy input is required, and movement occurs by way of a simple concentration gradient.

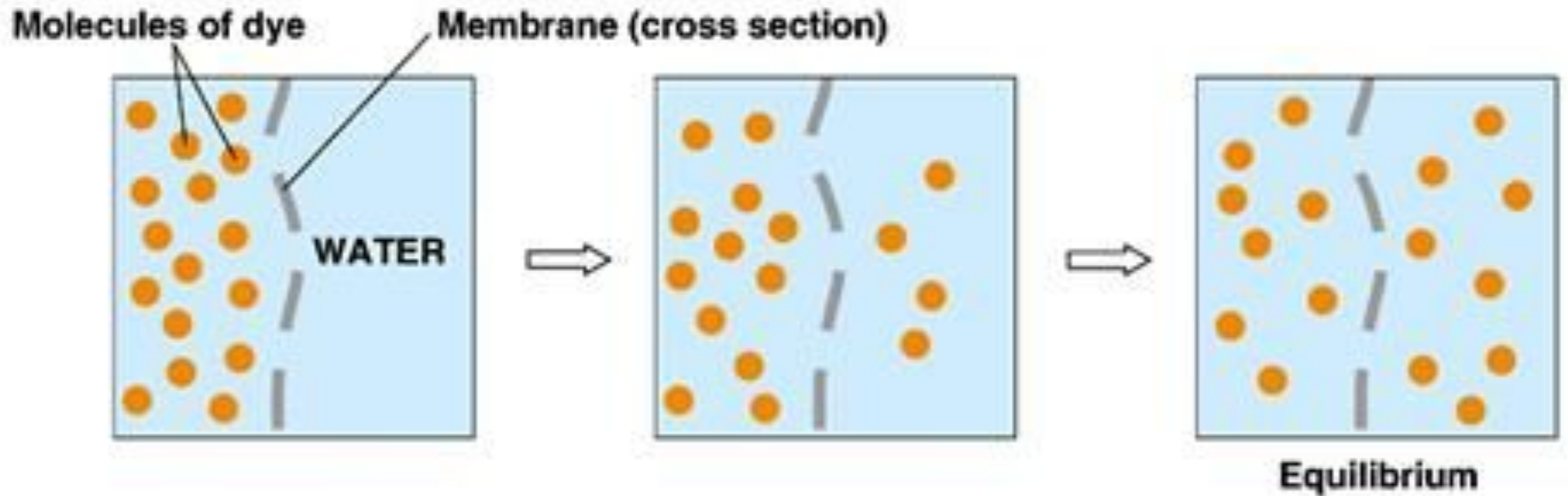


# Diffusion

- Movement of molecules from areas of high concentration to areas of lower concentration.

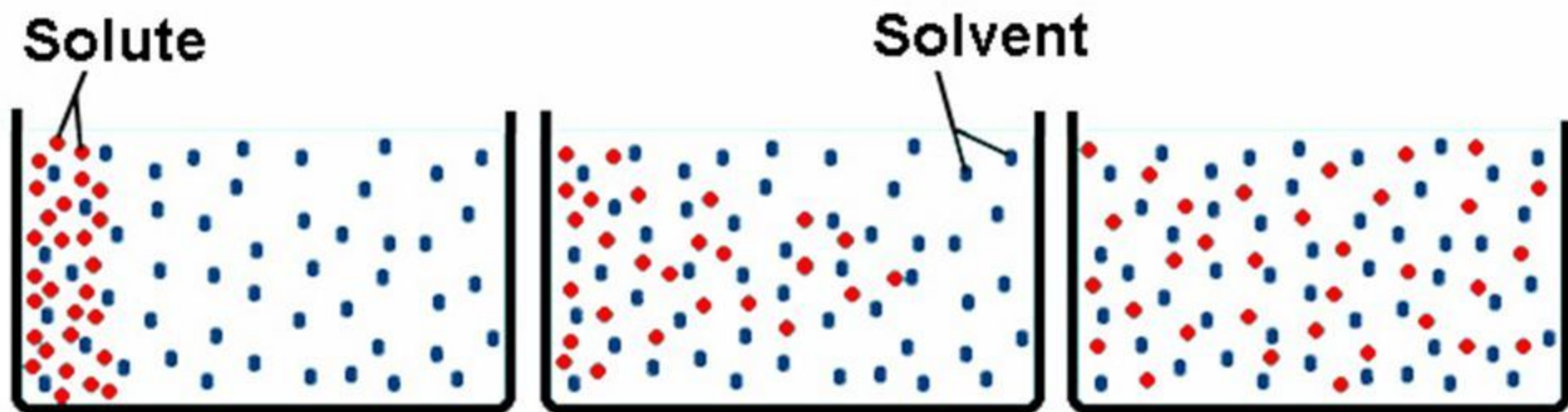


# Equilibrium





Diffusion will continue until **equilibrium** is reached. This means there will be an equal distribution of molecules throughout the space. This is why food coloring moves throughout a beaker of water; why odors smell strong at first and then disappear over time.



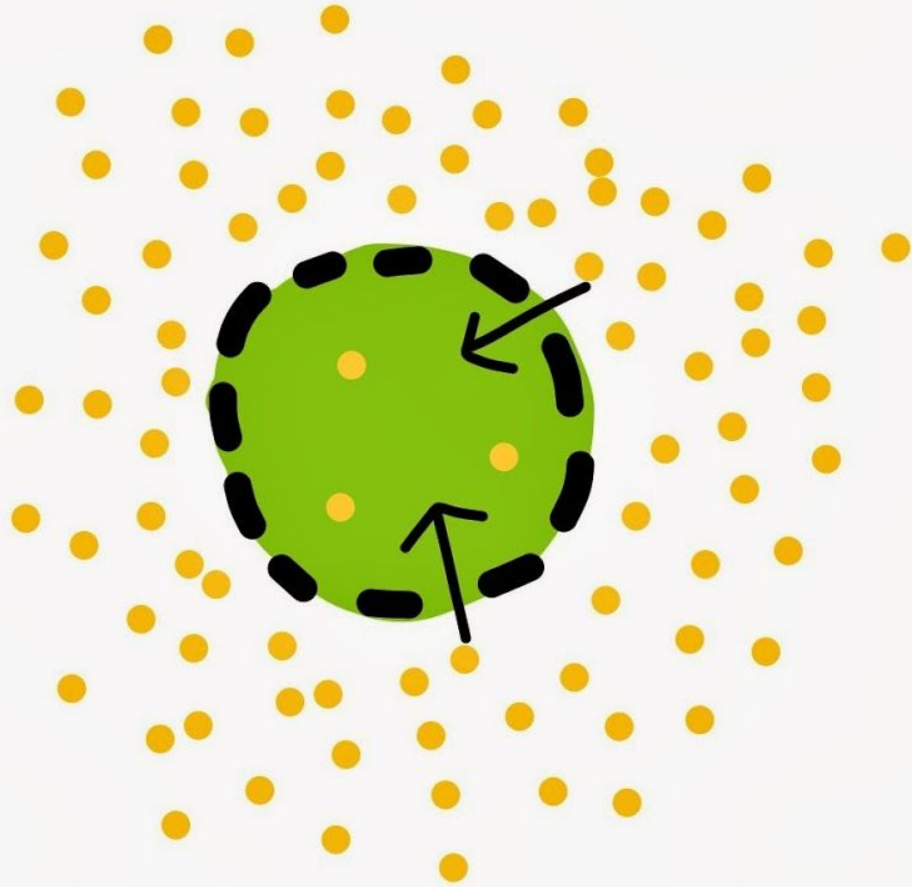
Equilibrium, a result of diffusion, shows the uniform distribution of molecules of different substances over time as indicated in the above diagram.

# Sample diffusion

- Many molecules pass into and out of cells by diffusion, for example:
- Oxygen
- CO<sub>2</sub>
- Water

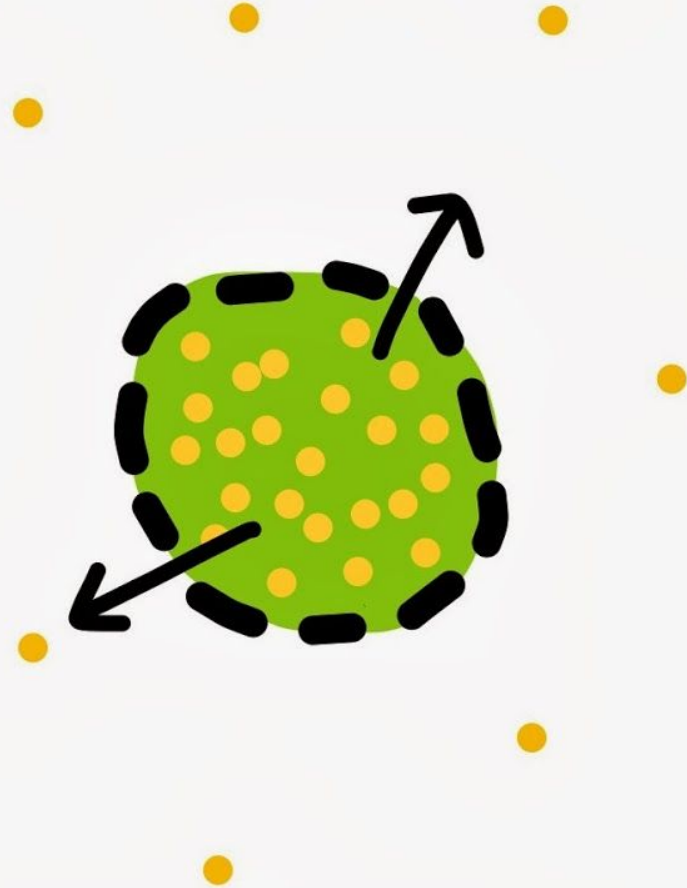


# Diffusion

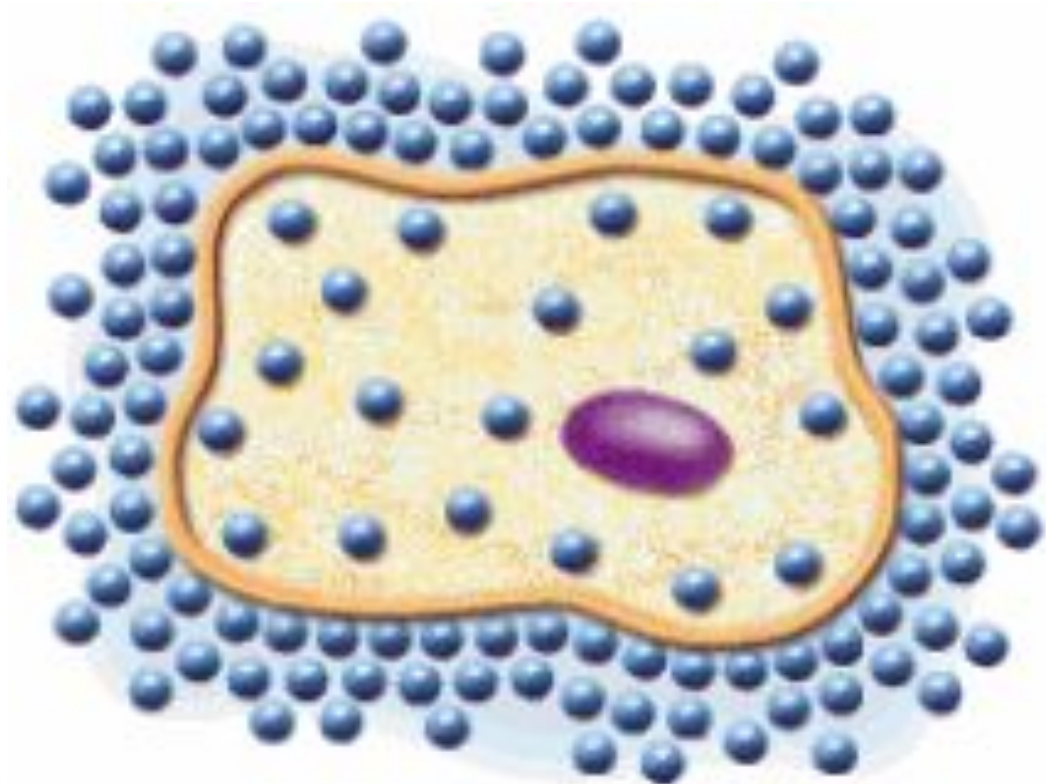


**Higher Concentration of  
IONS in Extra Cellular  
Fluid**

# Diffusion

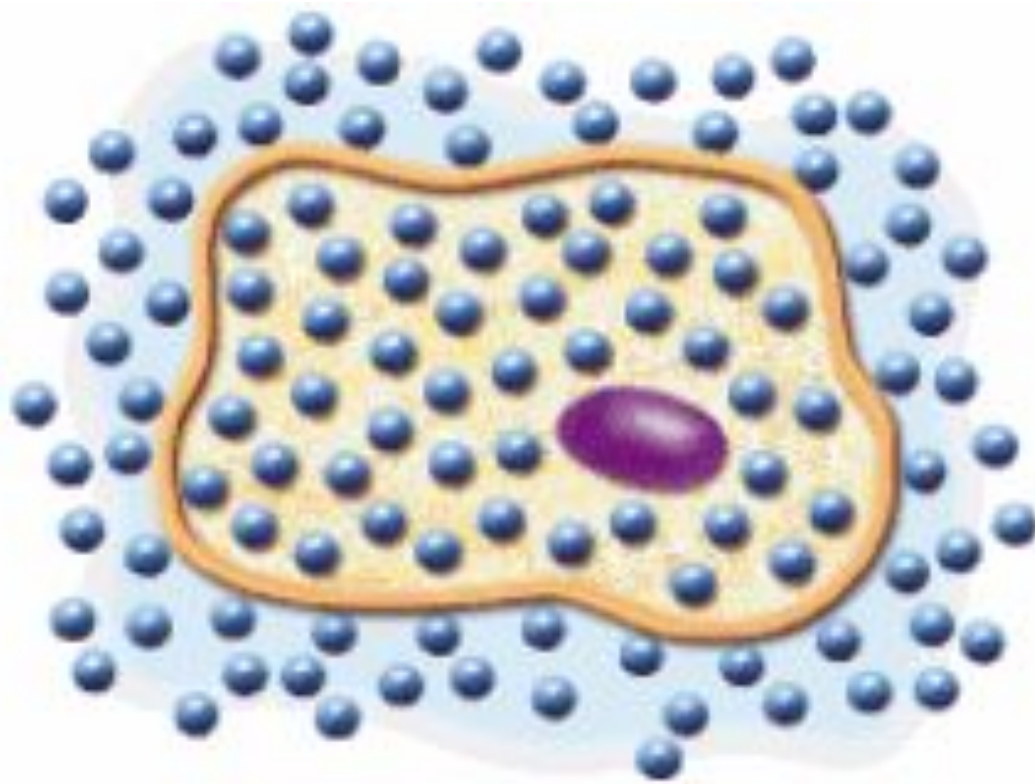


**Higher Concentration of  
IONS within the Cell**



**Before Diffusion**

There is a higher concentration of oxygen molecules outside the cell than inside the cell.



**After Diffusion**

The concentration of oxygen molecules is the same outside and inside the cell.

# Facilitated diffusion

Many polar molecules movement through **channel proteins**.

**Polar molecules cannot diffuse through the lipid bilayer of the membrane.**

Carrier protein first combines with the diffusing molecules on one side of the membrane, carries them through the **channel protein and releases them on the other side.**

Faster than simple diffusion.

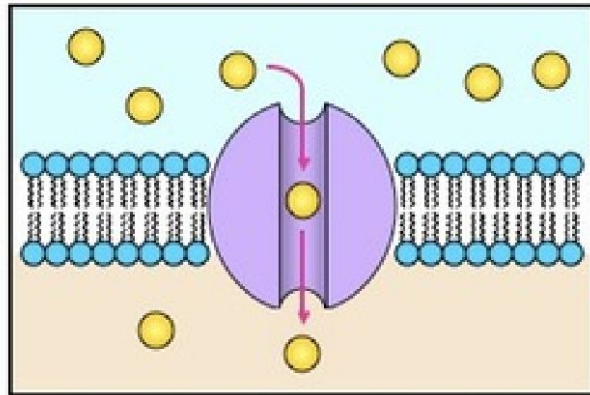
**No ATP energy input.**



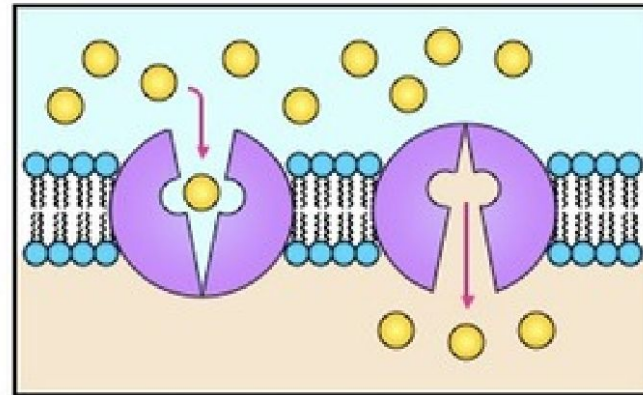
# Facilitated Diffusion

Diffusion involving the presence of protein carrier molecules to allow the passive movement of substances across a plasma membrane.

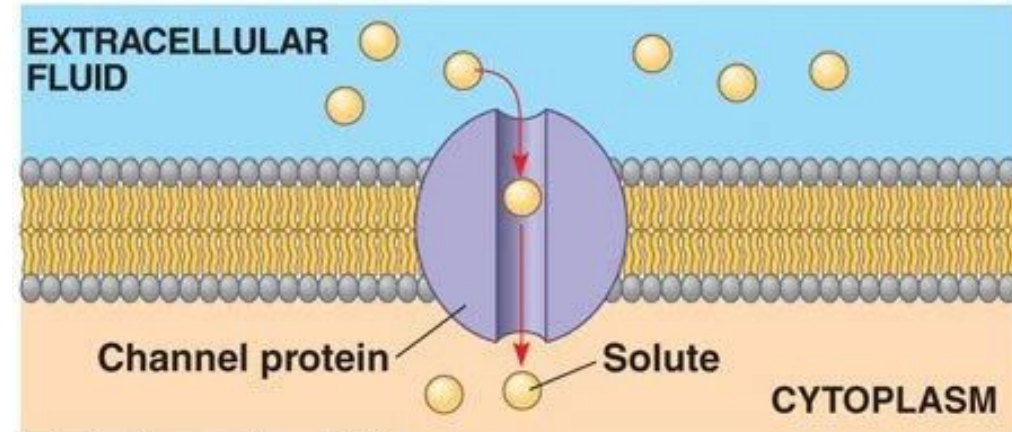
Facilitated Diffusion



Protein Channel

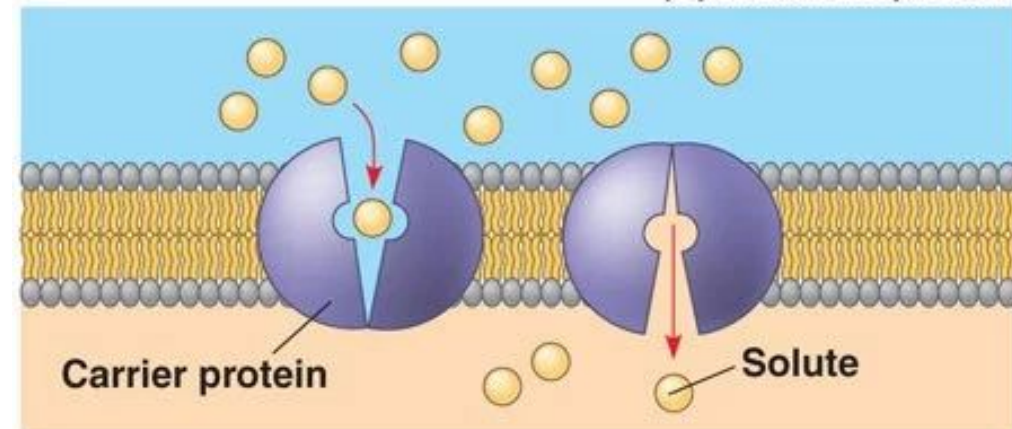


Carrier Protein



(a) A channel protein

(b) A carrier protein



# Facilitated diffusion

- The movement of substances down a **concentration gradient from** an **area of high concentration** to an **area of lower concentration** without the need for energy to be used.

# Facilitated Diffusion

Facilitated diffusion uses the same principle as **ordinary diffusion**, except that **protein carriers** are involved.

Small molecules like **O<sub>2</sub>** and **CO<sub>2</sub>** can simply diffuse across a membrane without any help.

**Larger molecules** like **amino acids** and **glucose** can't diffuse directly through the phospholipid bilayer.

They still move down a **concentration gradient**, but because they're so big, they move through **carrier proteins** or **channel proteins**.

Facilitated diffusion is also **passive** (no energy).



## Simple Diffusion

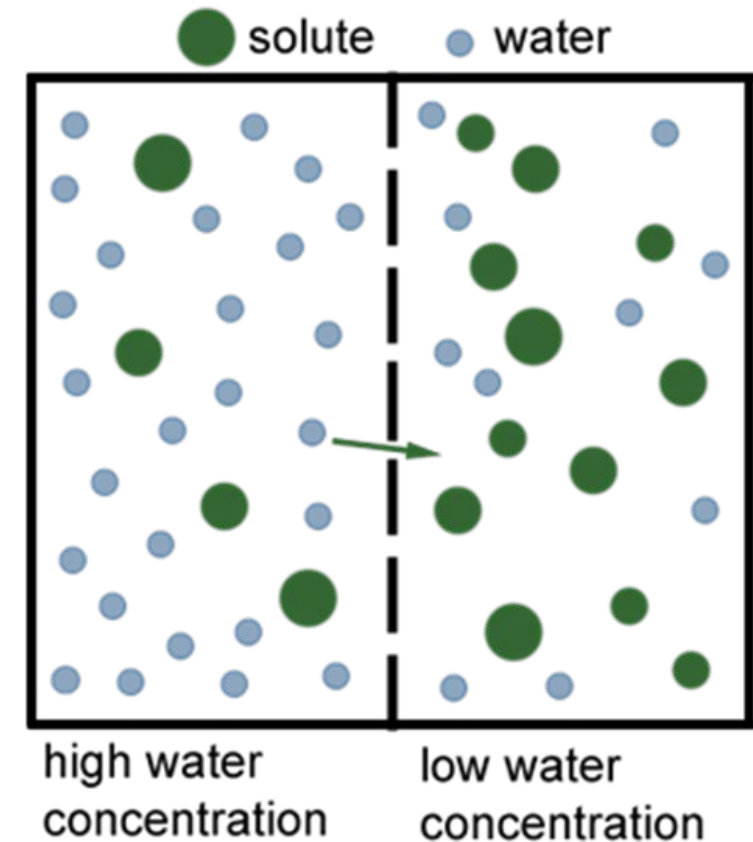
- Through the phospholipid bilayer
- Happens to the small and non-polar particles

## Facilitated Diffusion

- Through the transport protein
- Happens to large or polar particles

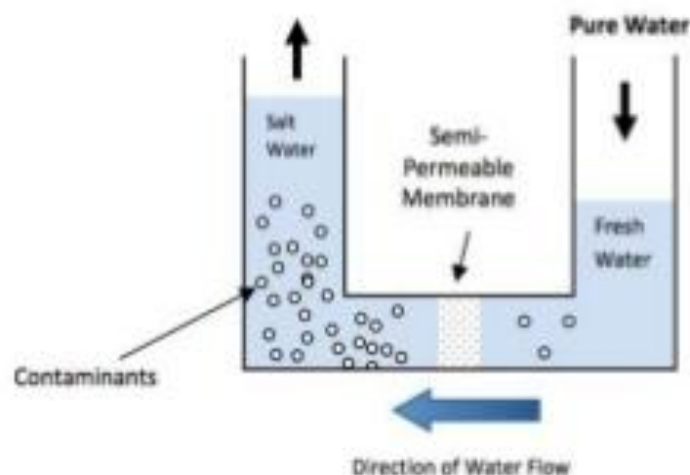
# Osmosis

- **A special case of diffusion is osmosis.**
- This is **passive movement of water** across partially permeable membrane from an area of lower concentration to an area of high solute concentration.
- **Aquaporin** - also called water channels, are integral membrane proteins.



# Osmosis

- To understand purpose and process of RO, you must first understand naturally occurring process of Osmosis
- It is a process where a weaker saline solution will tend to migrate to a stronger saline solution
- For example, Plant root absorbs water from soil & Kidney absorbs water from blood
- In diagram, salts are more concentrated in salty water so natural flow of salts will be from right side to left side and water will flow from right side to left side



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