

Parts of Blood

Plasma ~ 55% of blood

- liquid component of blood
- transports blood throughout the body, also carries nutrients, waste products, antibiotics, clotting proteins, chemical messengers (hormones)
- made of:
 - water
 - sugar
 - fat
 - proteins
 - salts

Erythrocytes (Red Blood Cells RBC) ~ 45% of blood

- biconcave disks (indents on both sides)
- produced in bone marrow and after maturing 7 days get released into the bloodstream
- only live 120 days, constantly replaced/produced
- hemoglobin = protein in RBC that carries oxygen

Leukocytes (White Blood Cells WBC) ~ less than 1%

- 2 main types

- Neutrophils = immediate response for infections
- Lymphocytes =
 - ↳ T = regulate immune cells, directly attack infected cells and tumors
 - ↳ B = make antibodies which target specific bacteria, viruses, and invaders

Thrombocytes (Platelets) ~ less than 1%

- help the blood clotting process (coagulation) by gathering at the site of an injury
- stick to the lining of an injured blood vessel and form a platform for coagulation and an area for new tissue to form