

# Study guide ideas for biology

Since biology is taught at a conceptual level, knowledge is only the foundation to understanding the material. In order to fully comprehend and apply the information, you must make the necessary study **preparations** - this is the key to success.

## Preparation techniques:

- Read the assigned text pages the night they are assigned using the SQ3R reading strategy.
  - S(urvey) - Read the key concepts, section & subsection titles, and the topic sentences of each paragraph in the section. Do the vocabulary terms in your notebook. Be able to say the vocabulary words correctly and then you can own them.
  - Q(uestion) - Read the check point and section assessment questions, and turn the objectives, titles, and topic sentences into questions. Reread the key concepts.
  - R(ead) - Read the section or subsection several times until you stop stumbling over the new words and develop an understanding of their meaning.
  - R(ecite) - Depending on the difficulty, stop after each paragraph, section, or subsection and describe (orally or in writing) the main points you just finished reading. This is where you should orally answer the check point questions and section assessment questions in your head or aloud. (use the itext feature)
  - R(eview) - You should be able to answer all of the questions you formulated earlier. You certainly want to answer all section review questions in your notebook (and possibly the checkpoint questions) but you may also want to answer the chapter review questions found at the end of the chapter. This piece should be repeated several times during a long unit. Also be able to do the section review sheets first without your text and then with your text as a resource to check your work. Use the itext feature as a great review source.
- Remember, reading a science text is not like reading literature. Often, you will need to reread a paragraph several times to gain meaning.
- A paragraph's meaning is unlikely to be grasped unless the new vocabulary terms can be correctly and easily pronounced and understood.
- Outline the chapter in your notebook and include new terms and definitions, labeled diagrams, formulas, examples, and main points. Revisit these in the moments before class begins or while the teacher takes attendance. Come ready with questions that you don't understand or need further clarification. Besides doing the reading, worksheets, and labs, you must also work outside of class to "play" with the ideas.
- Complete all section review and chapter reading study guide worksheets and do all labs. Try to do as much as you can w/o referring to your notes or text. Check your work for accuracy by using your notes and text and by asking peers and the teacher. Your efforts will be rewarded on the tests & quizzes. Take good notes, participate in class discussions by answering and asking questions (in your head or aloud).
- Take notes using a 2/3 - 1/3 strategy. The left 2/3 of the notebook page is organized by chapter and section and is used to take down all notes and diagrams given in class, answer the section review questions, and outline the chapter section from the text. The right 1/3 is used to include **only** the main points of the section, any simplified diagrams that highlight the key ideas, and any terms that are difficult for you. You might want to place several key questions about the section material in this space. The 1/3 space now represents a quick look at the main points of the section and is ideal for studying from on a nightly basis or as a quick review before a quiz or test. There are many variations of this.