The Cell Cycle

There are 3 main parts to The Cell Cycle :

INTERPHASE

Welcome to the most laid back, relaxed part of the cycle. This is when the cell grows nice and big, and when it makes a full copy of it's DNA to pass on to the duplicate cell it makes.

MITOSIS

My - TOE - sis

This is the BUSIEST part! We actually need to split it into 4 phases:

Prophase	The cell **P**repares to split. Everything gets ready
Metaphase	Both sets of DNA **M**eet in the middle of the cell
Anaphase	Each set of DNA begins to move **A**way from each other.
Telophase	Everything has finished moving **T**o **T**he side.

CYTOKINESIS

Sy - toe - kin - E - sis

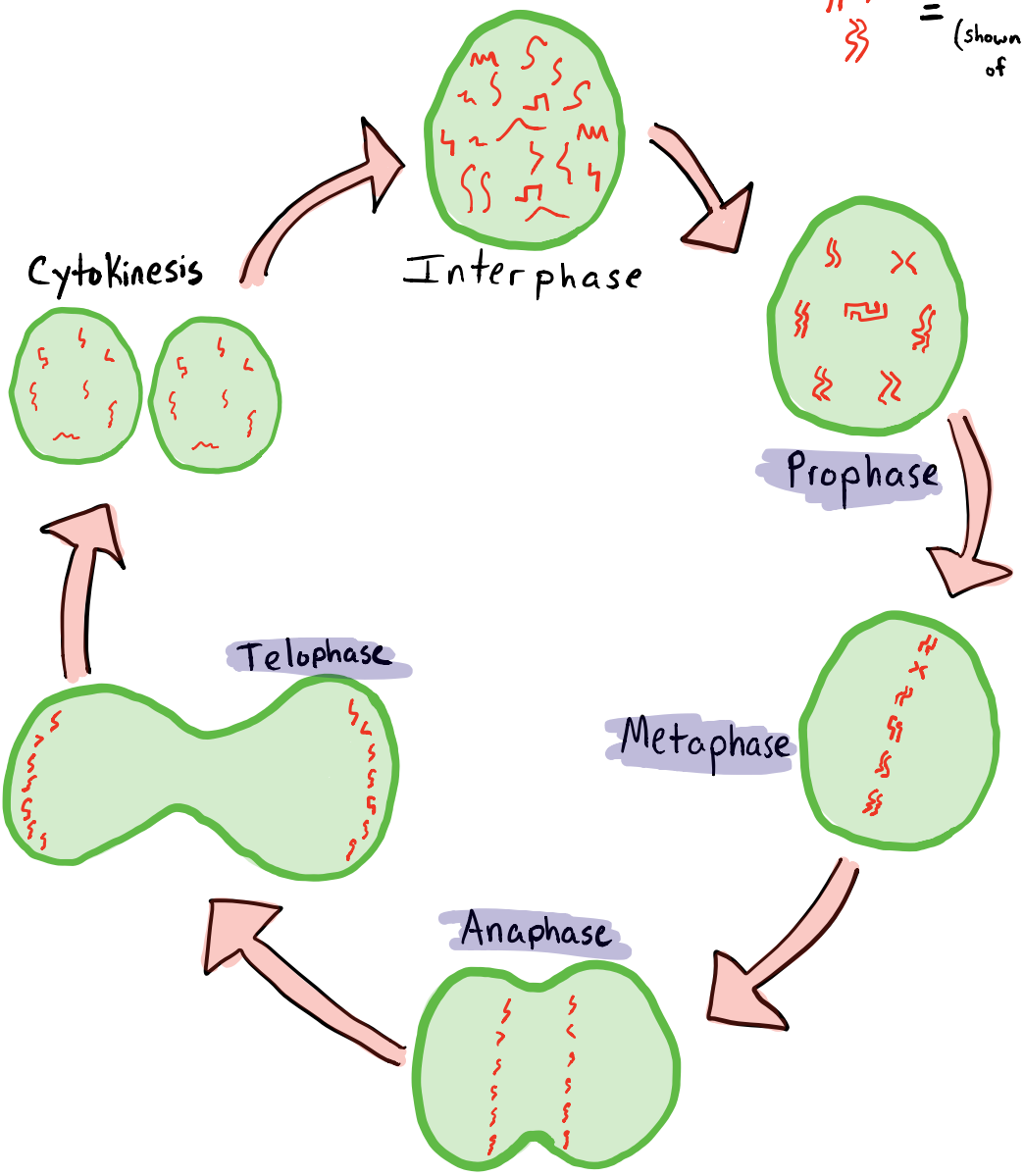
Everything is in place. This is the one final step when the stretched-out cell officially splits into two new, identical cells.

Show me what it looks like!

K. Fine.

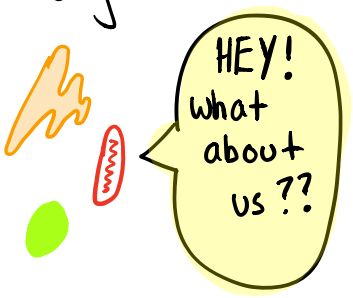
= A part of Mitosis

= our DNA (shown in pairs of chromosomes)



Tell Me More

Well, did you notice how literally EVERY organelle was missing from those drawings? That's just saving space. In real life those organelles are there too, making copies and moving around just like the DNA does.



How long does this take?

Usually about 24 hours. :)

So, it took 16 days to make 16 cells?!

No, you silly goose! All cells go through mitosis, not just one.

Let's use math:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
•	••	::	::::	::::::
one cell	two cells	four cells	eight cells	16 cells