THE CELL CYCLE

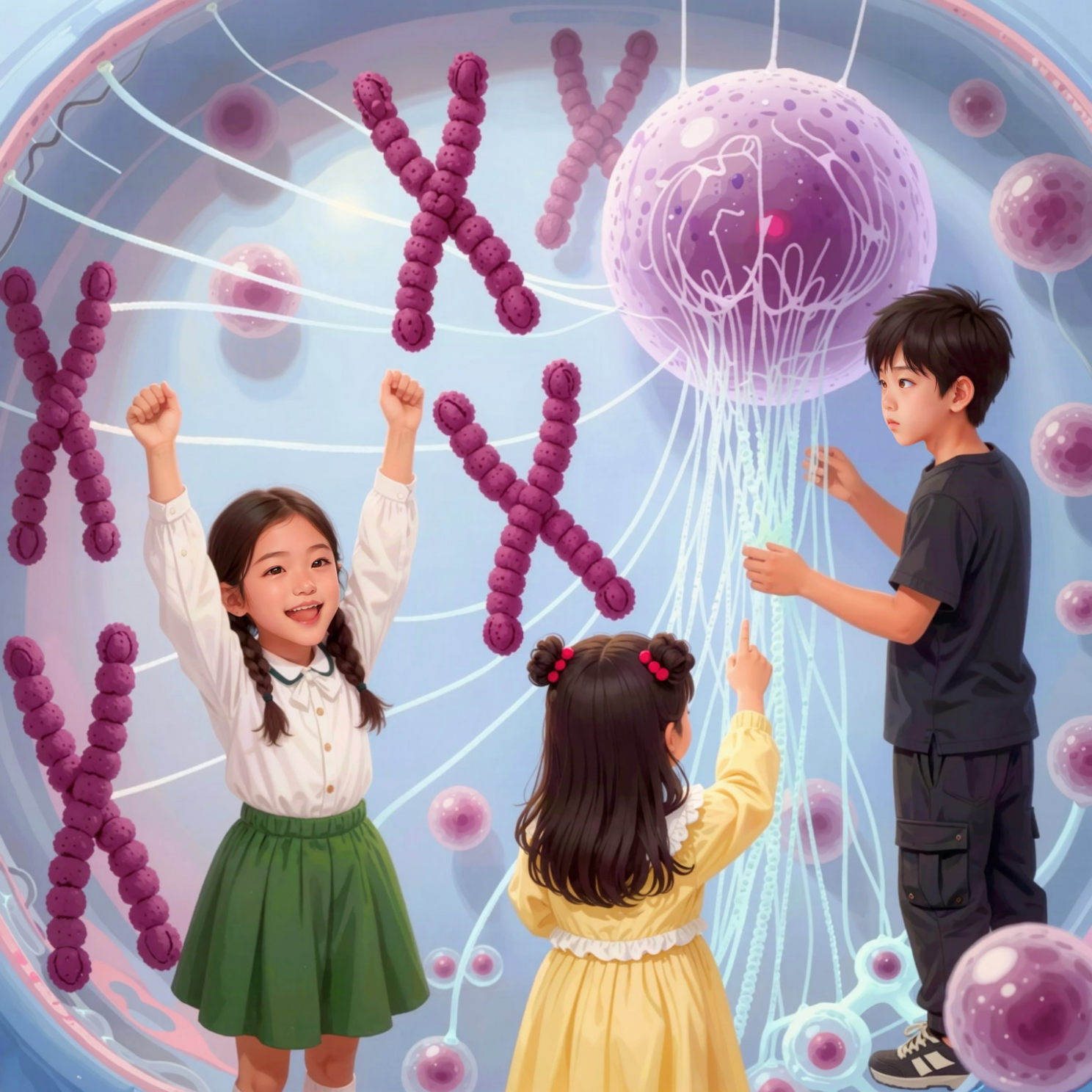


BY CHILDBOOK.AI

Yuuki, Takashi, Nanako, and Akihito shrank down tiny to peek inside a cell so small. 'Welcome to Interphase!' cheered Takashi with glee, 'the cell grows and readies, just wait and see!' In Gap 1, the cell grew big and strong. In S-phase, it copied chromatin all day long, making sister chromatids, two matching twins in a row. In Gap 2, it checked twice before it could go, making sure centrosomes and centrioles stood near, ready for the next big step to appear.



'Now it's Prophase!' said Nanako with a cheer. The chromatin coils up tight, chromosomes appear! Each chromosome has two sister chromatids, stuck together tight, holding hands like best friends, day and night. Centrosomes move to opposite sides of the cell, and spindle fibers stretch out, growing strong and well. 'Wow,' said Akihito, 'those fibers look like string, ready to pull and tug on everything!' Yuuki watched the nucleus fade away, as the cell got ready for a brand new day.



'Metaphase time!' called out Takashi with a grin. Chromosomes line up right in the middle, tucked in. Spindle fibers from each centrosome hold them tight, lined up straight like soldiers, ready for flight. 'Now, Anaphase!' Nanako shouted with delight, as spindle fibers pull sister chromatids apart with all their might! They become their own chromosomes, pulled side to side, racing to opposite ends for the ride. 'Hooray!' cheered Akihito, 'the cell's almost done, splitting its chromosomes, having so much fun!'



'Telophase now!' whispered Yuuki with a smile. Chromosomes unwind and relax after their while. Two new nuclei form at either end, as the cell stretches, ready to bend. 'Cytokinesis!' they all shouted together with cheer, as the cell pinches in the middle, splitting clear! Now there are two cells, each one brand new, with chromatin, centrosomes, and centrioles too! 'We saw the whole cell cycle!' Takashi said with pride. Four friends shrank back up, happy for the ride.



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