# CANCER INQUIRY ACTIVITY

Part I: Intro to Cancer

Name: _____

**Cancer Inquiry Activity**

Part I: In the film, you were introduced to Sharon Belvin who has been diagnosed with melanoma. Melanoma is a type of skin cancer that occurs when melanocyte cells grow out of control. Melanocyte cells produce melanin, which gives skin its brown color. Melanoma is less common compared to some other types of skin cancer, however, it is quite dangerous because of its tendency to spread throughout the body. Shown below, is an illustration depicting normal skin tissue. Based on your current understanding of cancer, predict how cancerous melanoma skin cells might look different. In the box provided on the right of the illustration draw a small section of the epidermis and dermis showing cancerous skin cells (you can sketch it by hand or use a drawing tool such as Google Drawings). On the next page, record a brief description to summarize the key features of your drawing.

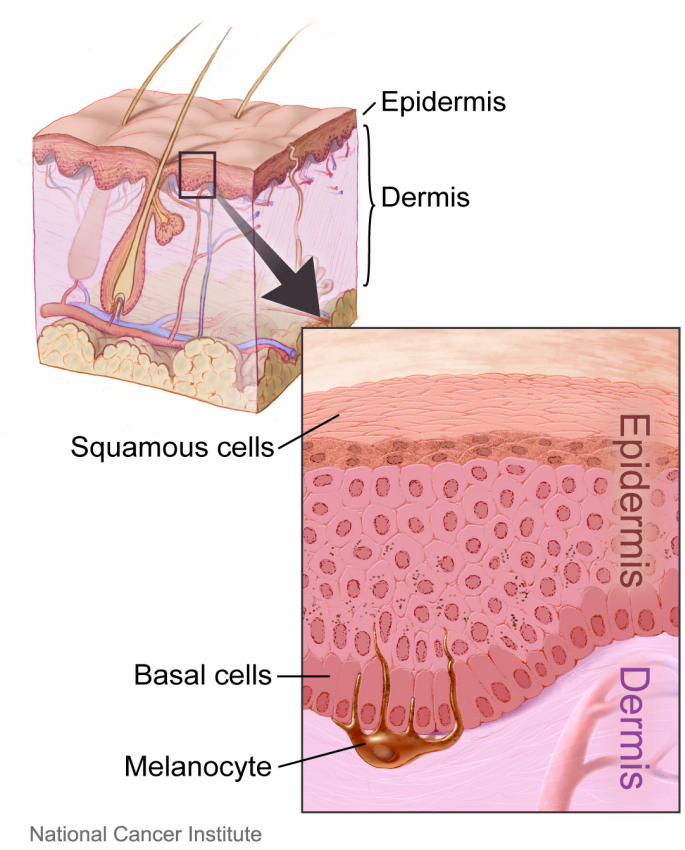



***Illustration of Normal Skin Cells***

***Cancerous Melanoma Drawing***

I think cancer cells will look like this because:

Part II: Your teacher will share an illustration showing the potential effects of melanoma on the cells. Observe the picture and record as many similarities and differences you can see between cancerous melanoma and normal skin cells. After a few minutes, you will discuss what you recorded with a peer and later as part of a class discussion. What patterns do you notice?

| Similarities Between Cancer and Normal Cells | Differences Between Cancer and Normal Cells |
|---|---|
| | |

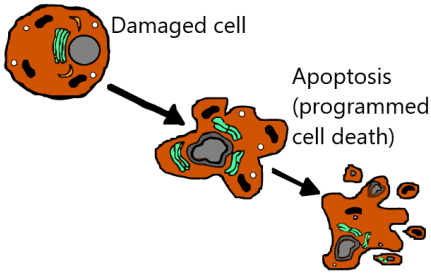
Predict: Sharon got melanoma at a young age. Why do you think some people get cancer and others do not?

Now that we have talked about some key differences between cancer and normal skin cells, see if you can apply what you have learned to sort the provided cells (see next page) into the right category (below). You can drag and drop the cells into the correct column or alternatively, you can use a printout and cut out and place the cells instead.

| Cancer Cells | Normal Cells |
| --- | --- |
| | |

Reflection (complete this after we go over the correct answers for the sort): Cancer cells are different from normal cells in the following ways:




Damaged cell
Apoptosis
(programmed
cell death)