

**Oncogene**

A gene that plays a role in the transformation of normal cells into cancerous cells. Some viruses are oncogene carriers.

**Pathogen**

Something that causes disease: pathogenic microbe.

**Photosynthesis**

Reaction through which chlorophyll plants transform light energy into organic substances.

**Polymer**

Long chain macromolecule formed by a repetition of small structural units.

**Porphyrin**

Essential biological pigment (e.g., chlorophyll, red blood corpuscles).

**Protein**

Macromolecule formed by a chain of amino acids that are joined together. They are the building units of all living beings. The proteins that catalyse the metabolic reactions are called enzymes.

**Restriction enzymes**

Particular enzymes, present in all cells, that are capable of recognizing and destroying DNA. Restriction enzymes are used in genetic engineering as biological "scissors" to cut the DNA and recombine it with other fragments.

**Yeasts**

Single-celled fungi.

With government support, Dawson Mines Limited of Elliot Lake, Ontario, has been successful in developing a biological leaching process that can be used for underground uranium.

It also plans to use bacteria to eliminate a source of pollution of its sulphur content. Rockwell International of Santa Fe, New Mexico, has installed a pilot laboratory to develop a process for the neutralization of mining waste. The company expects to market the process in two years.

**Clone**  
Group of cells that are all derived from a single initial cell through successive divisions.

**DNA**  
Deoxyribonucleic acid present in the nucleus of the cell. It contains the chromosomes and is the basis of heredity.

**Enzyme**  
Protein molecule that acts as a catalyst (accelerator) of biochemical reactions that take place within living organisms.

**Fermentation**  
Process that provides energy through the (incomplete) degradation of organic materials in the absence of oxygen.