



Lipids

- Lipids are composed of C, H, O
 - long hydrocarbon chains (H-C)
- "Family groups"
 - ♦ <u>fats</u>
 - phospholipids
 - ♦ steroids
- Do not form polymers
 - big molecules made of smaller subunits
 - not a continuing chain

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Building Fats

- Triacylglycerol
 - 3 fatty acids linked to glycerol
 - ester linkage = between OH & COOH Ester linkage hydroxyl carboxyl

Ester linkage	hydroxyl	carbo
		H-Q-H
		H
		H-Q-H

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(b) Fat molecule (triacylglycerol)

Dehydration synthesis









Phospholipids



Phospholipids in water

- Hydrophilic heads "attracted" to H₂O
- Hydrophobic tails "hide" from H₂O
 - can self-assemble into "bubbles"
 bubble = "micelle"
 - can also form a phospholipid bilayer
 - early evolutionary stage of cell?



Why is this important? Phospholipids create a barrier in water define outside vs. inside they make cell membranes! Dutside of Cell



Steroids

- Structure:
 - + 4 fused C rings + ??
 - different steroids created by attaching different <u>functional groups</u> to rings
 - different structure creates different function
 - ◆ <u>examples: cholesterol, sex hormones</u> H₃C



Cholesterol

- Important cell component
 - animal cell membranes
 - precursor of all other steroids
 including vertebrate sex hormones
 - high levels in blood may contribute to cardiovascular disease







From Cholesterol → Sex Hormones ■ What a big difference a few atoms can make!







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Phospholipids & cells



