Specialized Cells

2.9, p. 54-56 Name: _____

Cut out the pictures, and glue them in the box with the most appropriate description. In the function column, we will describe the reason for each of the special characteristics.

Cell Type	Structure – special charteristics	Function	Picture
Red blood cells	• disk-shaped, flattened and smooth • flexible • don't contain nuclei	To move easily through small blood vessels To squeeze through narrow blood vessels More space to carry oxygen	
Skin cells	• very thin & flat & overlapping • contain a lot of keratin (a structural protein)	So gases can pass through, and overlapping for protection Makes it strong for protection	
Sperm cells	• have a long tail (a flagellum) • pointed end	To swim up the fallopian tubes to meet an egg cell To push into an egg cell through its membrane	
Nerve cells	• very long • have branches to connect to other nerve cells	To conduct messages rapidly To pass messages to other cells	
Muscle cells	• long and narrow • appear striated due to microtubules	So cells can fit tightly together in order to contract and relax at the same time The microtubules are filaments involved in contraction	
Fat cells	• large, round and empty looking	Store fat when there is an excess