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Chapter 6

Tissues

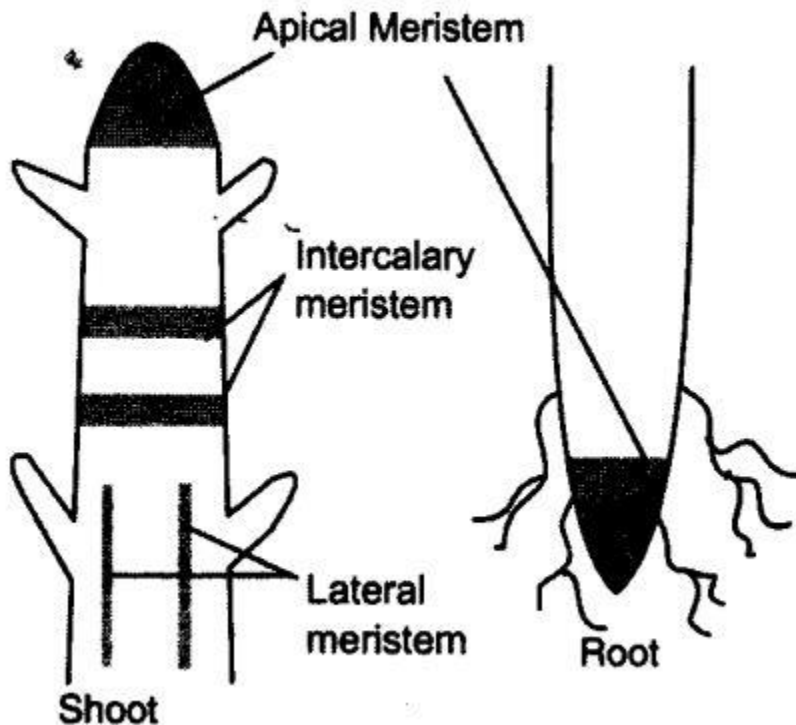
Tissues

Group of cells having a common origin and similar function are termed as tissues.

A. Plant tissues: On the basis of the dividing capacity, plant tissues are of two types:

1. Meristematic tissues
2. Permanent tissues

1. Meristematic tissues: Consist of actively-dividing cells. Meristematic tissues are of three types:



- **Apical meristem:** Present at the growing tips of stems and roots. Important function: To increase the length of stems and roots.
- **Intercalary meristem:** Present at the base of leaves or internodes. Important function: For the longitudinal growth of plants.
- **Lateral meristem:** Present on the lateral sides of the stems and roots. Important function: To increase the thickness of stems and roots.

2. Permanent tissues: Formed from meristematic tissues, the cells in the tissue lose the ability to divide. Permanent tissues are divided into two categories:

- **Simple permanent tissue:** Consist of only one type of cells.
Types of simple permanent tissues:
 - **Parenchyma:** Composed of unspecialised living cells with relatively thin cell walls, intercellular space, present in soft parts of the plant. Their main function is storage.
 - **Collenchyma:** Composed of living and elongated cells with cell walls irregularly thickened at the corners. No intercellular space. It provides mechanical support and elasticity to plant. It helps in bending of leaves and stems.
 - **Sclerenchyma:** Composed of long, narrow, and thick-walled cells. This tissue is made up of dead cells and there are no intercellular spaces. Sclerenchyma cells are dead, present in seeds, nuts, the husk of a coconut, fibres of jute etc.

- **Complex permanent tissue:** Made up of more than one type of cells (Conducting tissues.)

Types of complex permanent tissues:

- **Xylem:** Conducts water and minerals from the roots to the different parts of the plant.
Composed of four different types of cells—tracheids, vessels, xylem parenchyma and xylem fibres.
- **Phloem:** Conducts food material from the leaves to the different parts of the plant.
Composed of four different types of cells—sieve tubes, companion cells, phloem parenchyma and phloem fibres.
Protective tissue: It is made of a single layer of cells. E.g., epidermis.
The epidermis of the leaf bears stomata.