

AIDS

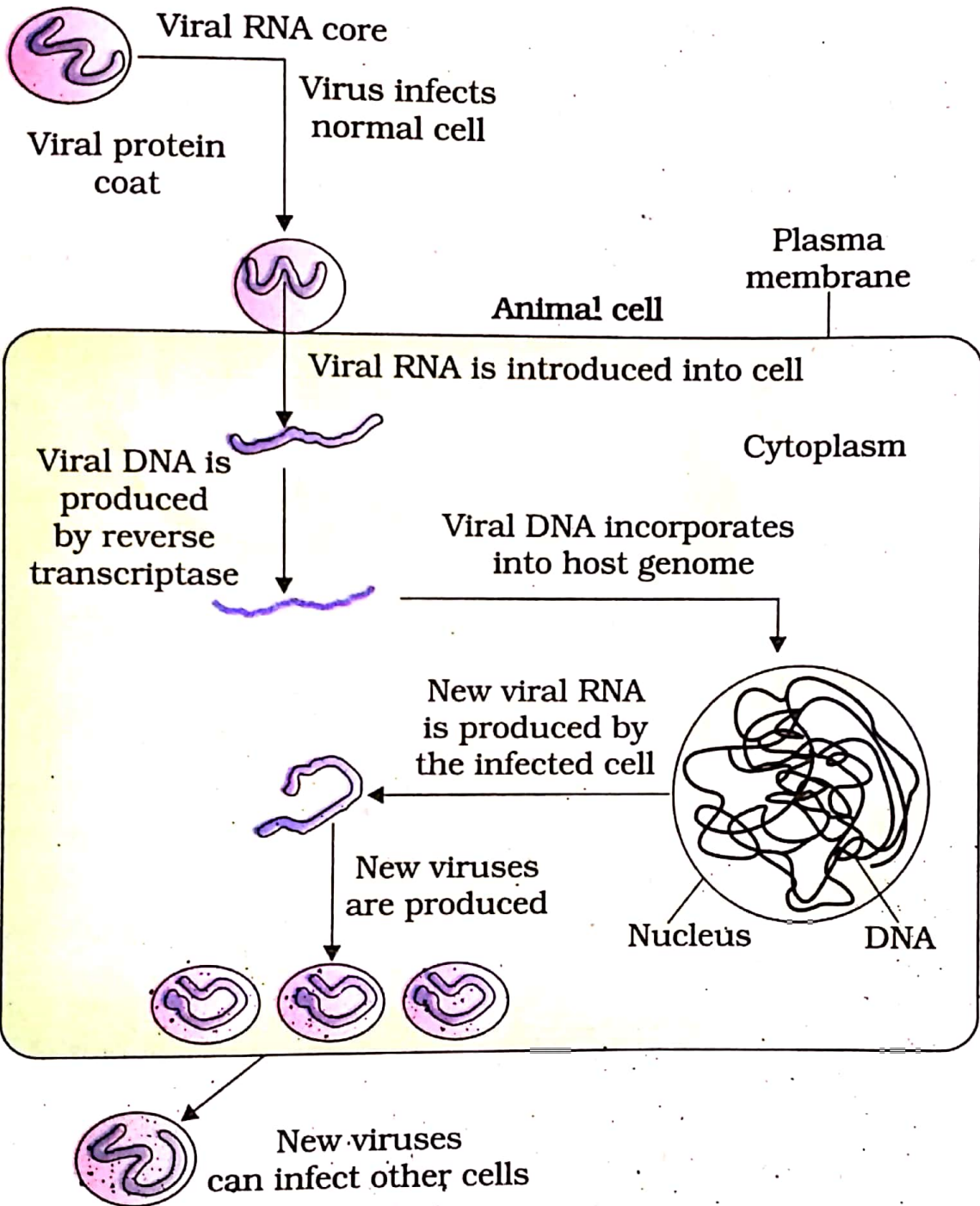
The words AIDS stands for Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome. This means deficiency of immune system acquired during the lifetime of an individual indicating that it is not a congenital disease, 'syndrome' means a group of symptoms. AIDS was first reported in ~~1980~~ 1981 and in the last twenty-five years or so. It has spread all over the world killing more than 25 million persons.

AIDS is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), a member of a group of viruses called retroviruses, which have an envelope enclosing the RNA genome. Transmission of HIV-infection generally occurs by (a) sexual contact with infected person, (b) by transfusion of contaminated blood and products, (c) by sharing infected needles as in the case of ~~transfusions~~ intravenous drug abusers and (d) from

Sexual partners, drug addicts who take drugs intravenously, individuals who require repeated blood transfusion and children born to an HIV infected mother.

Do you know - when do people need repeated blood transfusion? Find out and make a list of such conditions. It is important to note that HIV/AIDS is not spread by mere touch or physical contact; it spreads only through body fluids. It is, hence, imperative, for the physical and psychological well-being, that the HIV/AIDS infected persons are not isolated from family and society. There is always a time-lag between the infection and appearance of AIDS symptoms. This period may vary from a few months to many years (usually 5-10 years). Fig!

Retrovirus



NOTE: Infected cell can survive while viruses are being replicated and released

Figure 8.6 Replication of retrovirus