Plasma Membrane

Use with Chapter 7, Section 7.2

Diagram showing the components of a phospholipid molecule:
- Polar head
- Phosphate group
- Glycerol backbone
- Fatty acids
- Phospholipid molecule
- Cholesterol
- Membrane protein
- Cytoplasm
- Filaments of cytoskeleton
1. Describe the phospholipid in the upper left part of the transparency.

2. Which end of a phospholipid is attracted to water?

3. How are phospholipids oriented in the plasma membrane?

4. What is the function of membrane proteins?

5. Why is the model of a membrane shown in the transparency referred to as the fluid mosaic model?

6. How would the membrane shown in the transparency behave if its fatty acid tails consisted mostly of unsaturated fatty acids?

7. What is the function of the cholesterol molecules shown in the transparency?