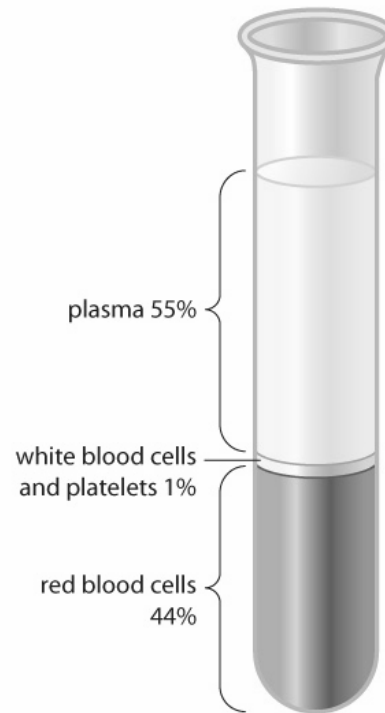


CHAPTER 8**OVERHEAD****The Cellular Components of Blood****BLM 8.2.1**

The three main components of blood can be separated using a special medical device called a blood centrifuge. When the blood is separated, it briefly settles into layers, as shown here.



Point of comparison	Red blood cells	White blood cells		
		Granulocytes and monocytes	Lymphocytes	Platelets
Origin	red bone marrow	red bone marrow	thymus, red bone marrow	red bone marrow, lungs
Cells present per mm³ of blood (approximate)	5 500 000 (male) 4 500 000 (female)	6000	2000	250 000
Relative size	small (8 µm diameter)	largest (up to 25 µm)	large (10 µm)	smallest (2 µm)
Function	to carry oxygen and carbon dioxide to and from cells	to engulf foreign particles	to play a role in the formation of antibodies (defence function)	to play a role in the clotting of blood (defence function)
Life span	120 days	a few hours to a few days	unknown	2–8 days
Appearance				