

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Molecules of Life: Protein

Carbohydrates, fats, proteins and nucleic acid's are the four major groups of organic molecules found in living organisms. This Lab-Aids kit deals with the important class of organic molecules known as proteins. They are the main structural and growth components of cells in tissues such as skin, hair, muscle and blood. Other proteins serve in a regulatory capacity as enzymes or hormones. Proteins always contain nitrogen in addition to carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. Phosphorus and sulfur are also found in many proteins.

The amino acid is the basic structural unit of all proteins. There are only about 20 different amino acids known.

				to make proteins	
		Enzymes;		• Building blocks of	



The generalized structure of an amino acid molecule. FIG. 1

Procedure:  
Students should work independently or in teams of 2 as directed by their instructor. It is suggested that students be assigned to work on the following questions.