

The [bone marrow](#) and [thymus](#) are primary lymphoid tissues and the sites of [lymphocyte](#) development.

[T cells](#) or [T lymphocytes](#) are a type of [lymphocyte](#) (itself a type of [white blood cell](#)) that play a central role in cell-mediated [immunity](#). They can be distinguished from other lymphocytes, such as [B cells](#) and [natural killer cells](#) (NK cells), by the presence of a [T-cell receptor](#) (TCR) on the [cell surface](#). They are called T cells because they mature in the [thymus](#) (although some also mature in the [tonsils](#)).

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:57**

