

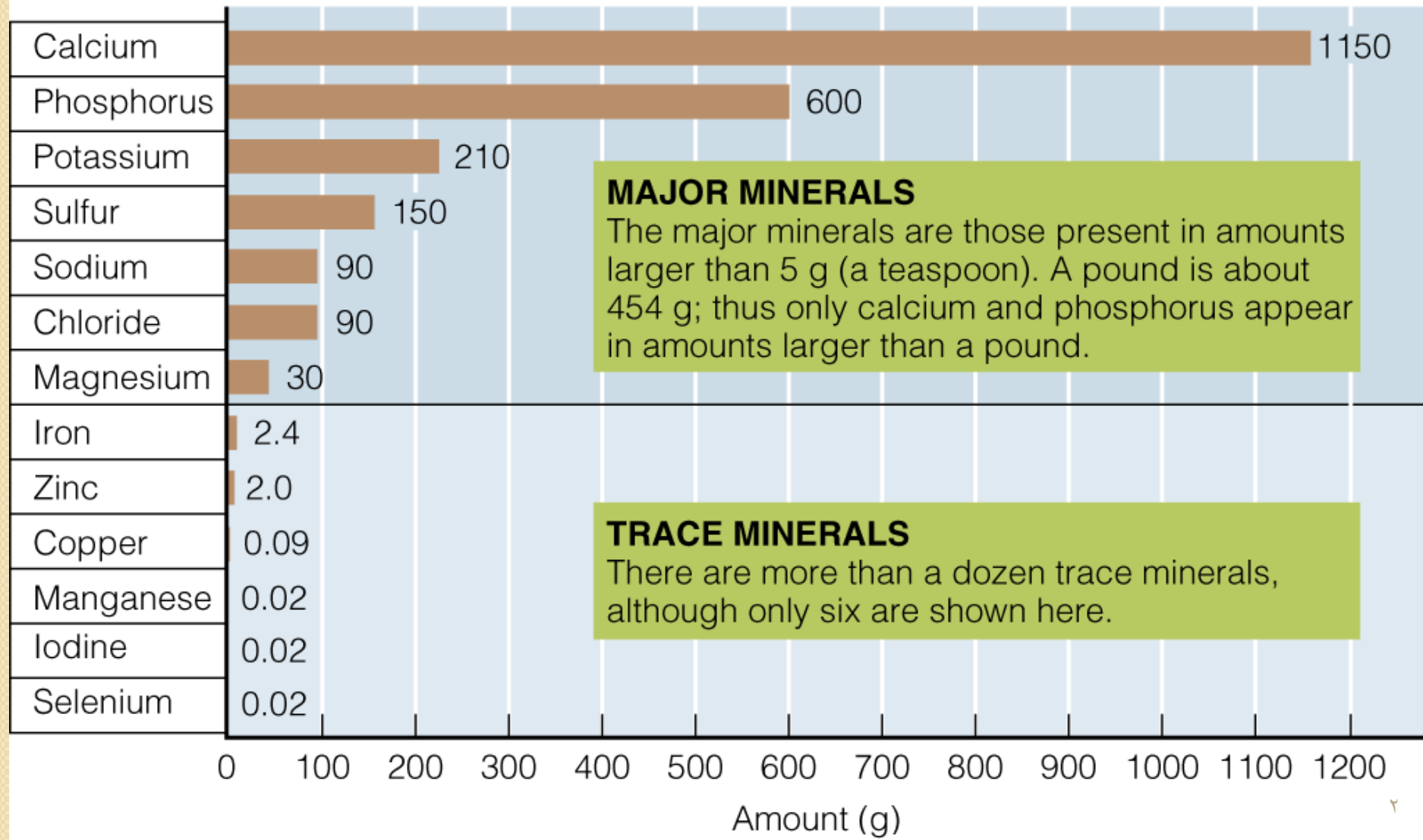
General Nutrition

L7: Minerals 1

Dr. Samah Al-Sufi

The Minerals - An Overview

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□ I - Major minerals

- Major minerals: essential mineral nutrients found in human body in amounts larger than 5 g; sometimes called macronutrients
- The main major minerals are:
 - * Sodium
 - * Chloride
 - * Potassium
 - * Calcium
 - * Phosphorus
 - * Magnesium
 - * Sulfate



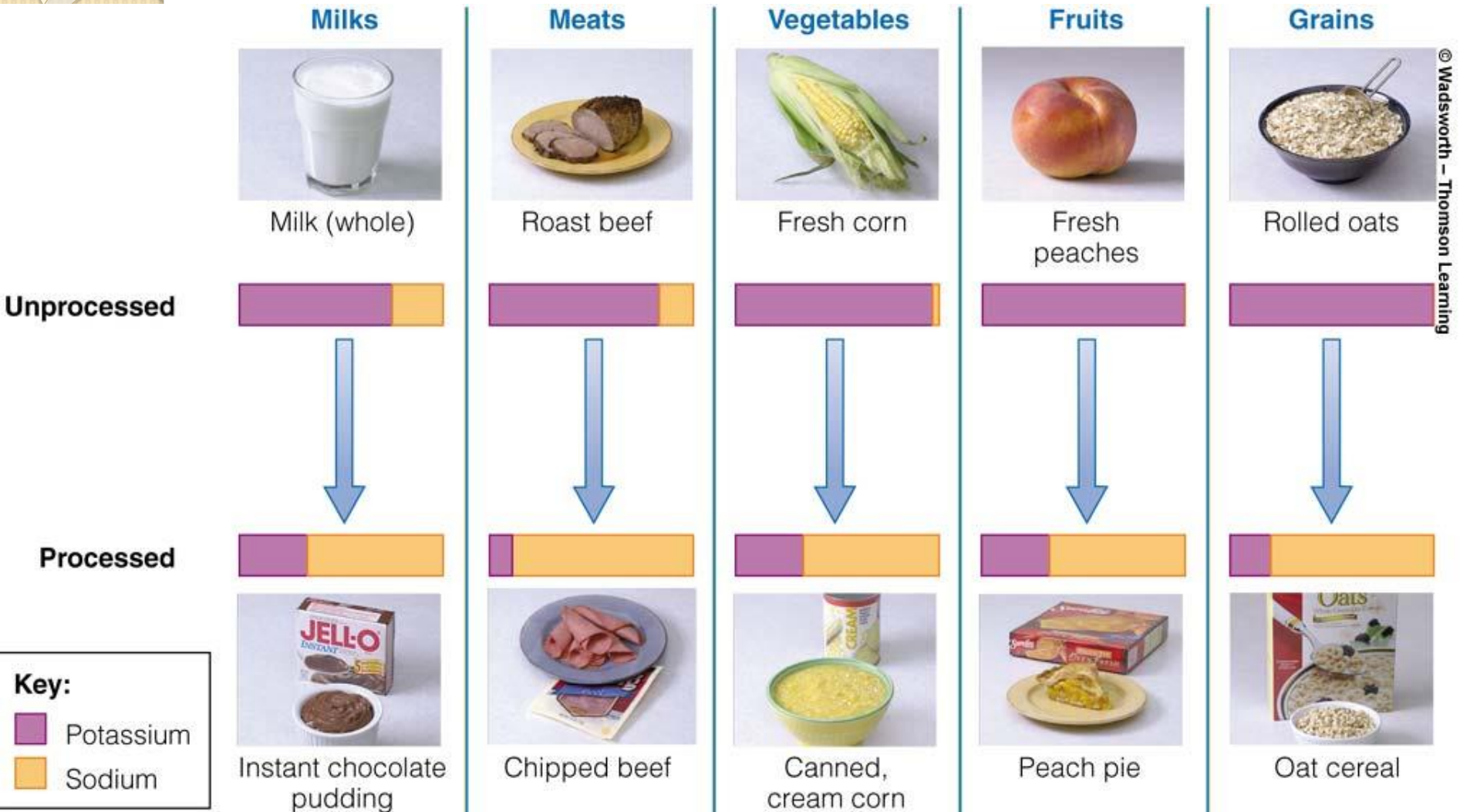
I - Sodium

- Roles in the body
 - Principal cation in the extracellular fluids of the body
 - AI for Na^+ is 1500 mg/day
 - Upper intake is 2300 mg/day

Sodium

- estimated minimum requirement for adults: 500 mg/day
- Chief functions in the body
 - Maintains normal fluid and electrolyte balance
 - Assists in nerve impulse transmission and muscle contraction

Sodium in Foods



Sodium

- Deficiency symptoms
 - Muscle cramps, mental apathy, loss of appetite
- Toxicity symptoms
 - Edema, acute hypertension
- Significant source
 - Table salt, soy sauce
 - Moderate amounts in meats, milks, breads, and vegetables
 - Large amounts in processed foods

Sodium Restriction

- Hypertension
 - Salt sensitivity
- Osteoporosis



2- Chloride

- Chlorine (Cl_2) vs. chloride ion (Cl^-)
- Roles in body
 - Principal extracellular anion
 - AI is 2300 mg/day
 - Upper intake is 3600 mg/day

Chloride

- estimated minimum requirement for adults: 750 mg/day
- Chief functions in the body
 - Maintains normal fluid and electrolyte balance
 - Part of hydrochloric acid found in the stomach, necessary for proper digestion

Chloride

- Deficiency symptoms
 - Do not occur under normal circumstances
- Toxicity symptom
 - Vomiting
- Significant sources
 - Table salt, soy sauce
 - Moderate amounts in meats, milks, eggs
 - Large amounts in processed foods

3- Potassium

- Principal intracellular cation
- Potassium is recommended for hypertension patients
- AI is 4600 mg/day

Potassium

- estimated minimum requirement for adults: 2000 mg/day
- Chief functions in the body
 - Maintains normal fluid and electrolyte balance
 - Facilitates many reactions
 - Supports cell integrity
 - Assists in nerve impulse transmission and muscle contractions

Potassium

- Significant sources
 - All whole foods
 - Meats, milks, fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes



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Potassium

- Deficiency symptoms
 - Muscular weakness
 - Paralysis
 - Confusion
- Toxicity symptoms
 - Vomiting
 - If given into a vein, can stop the heart

4- Calcium

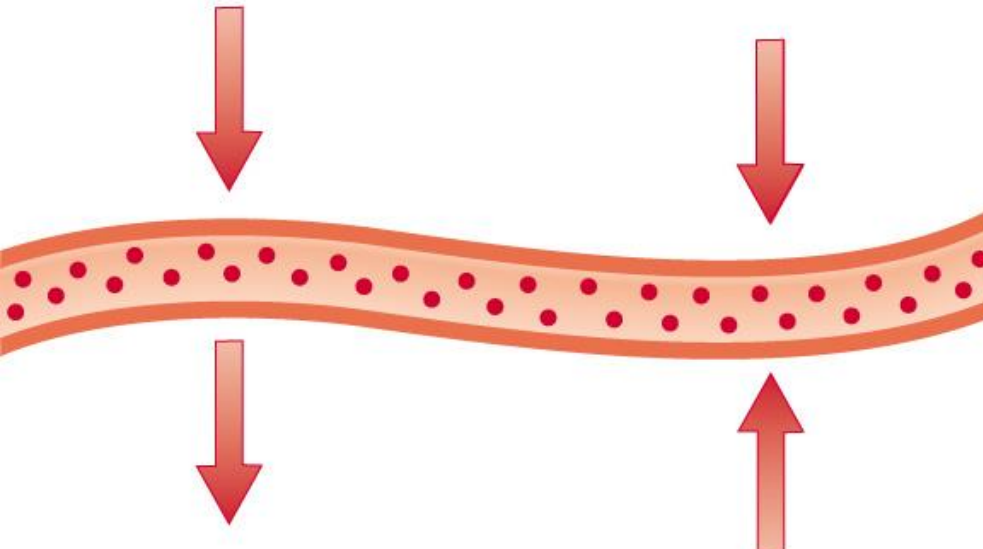
- Calcium is the most abundant mineral in the body; found primarily in the body's bones and teeth

Calcium



With an adequate intake of calcium-rich food, blood calcium remains normal . . .

With a dietary deficiency, blood calcium still remains normal . . .



. . . and bones deposit calcium. The result is strong, dense bones.

. . . because bones give up calcium to the blood. The result is weak, osteoporotic bones.

Calcium

- adequate intake (AI)
 - Adults 19-50 years: 1000 mg/day
 - Adults 51 and older: 1200 mg/day
- Upper level for adults: 2500 mg/day

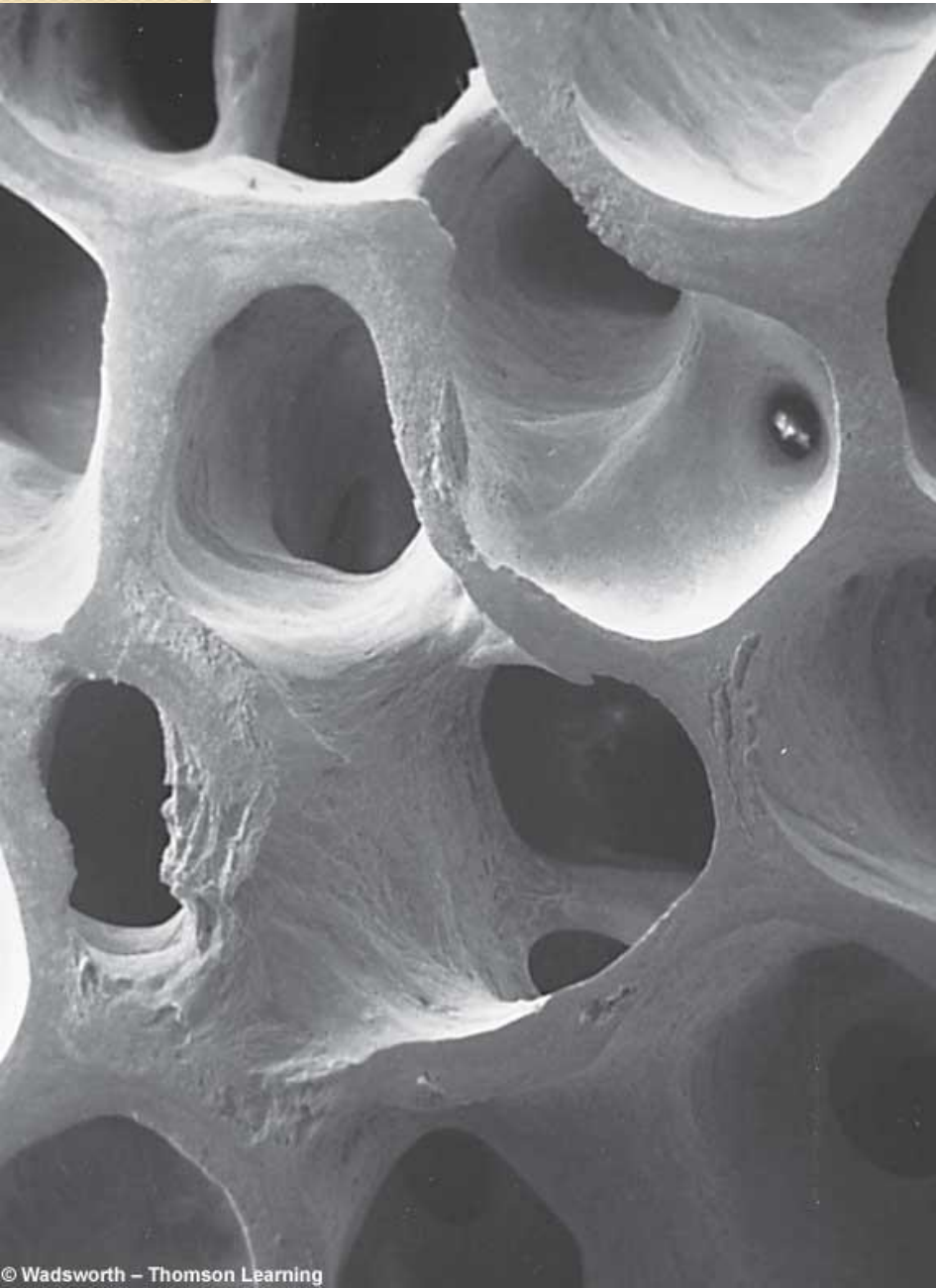
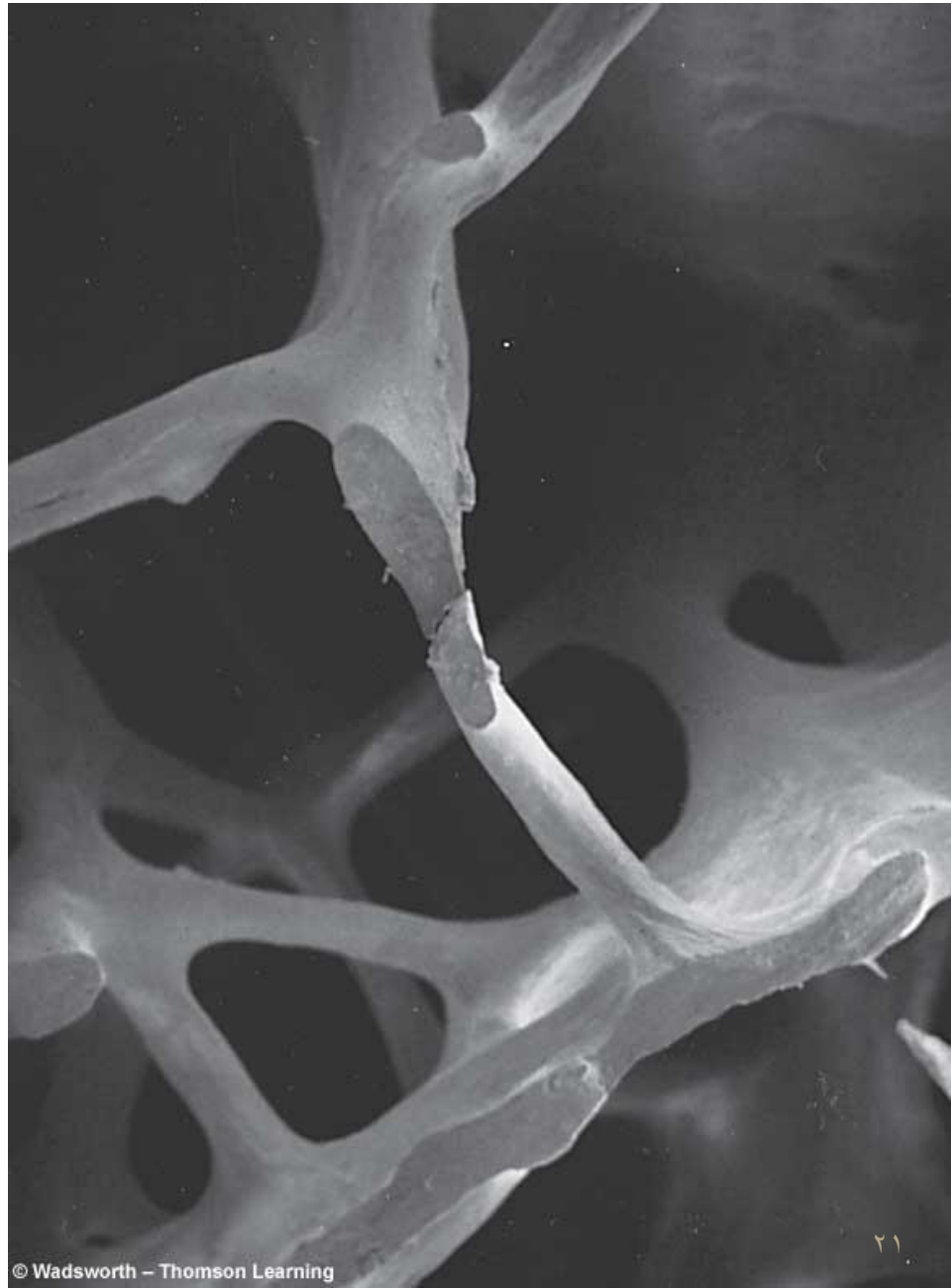
Calcium

- Chief functions in the body
 - Mineralization of bones and teeth
 - Involved in muscle contraction and relaxation, nerve functioning, blood clotting
 - Blood pressure, immune defenses

Calcium

- Deficiency symptoms
 - Stunted growth in children
 - Bone loss (osteoporosis) in adults

Healthy vs. osteoporotic trabecular bone

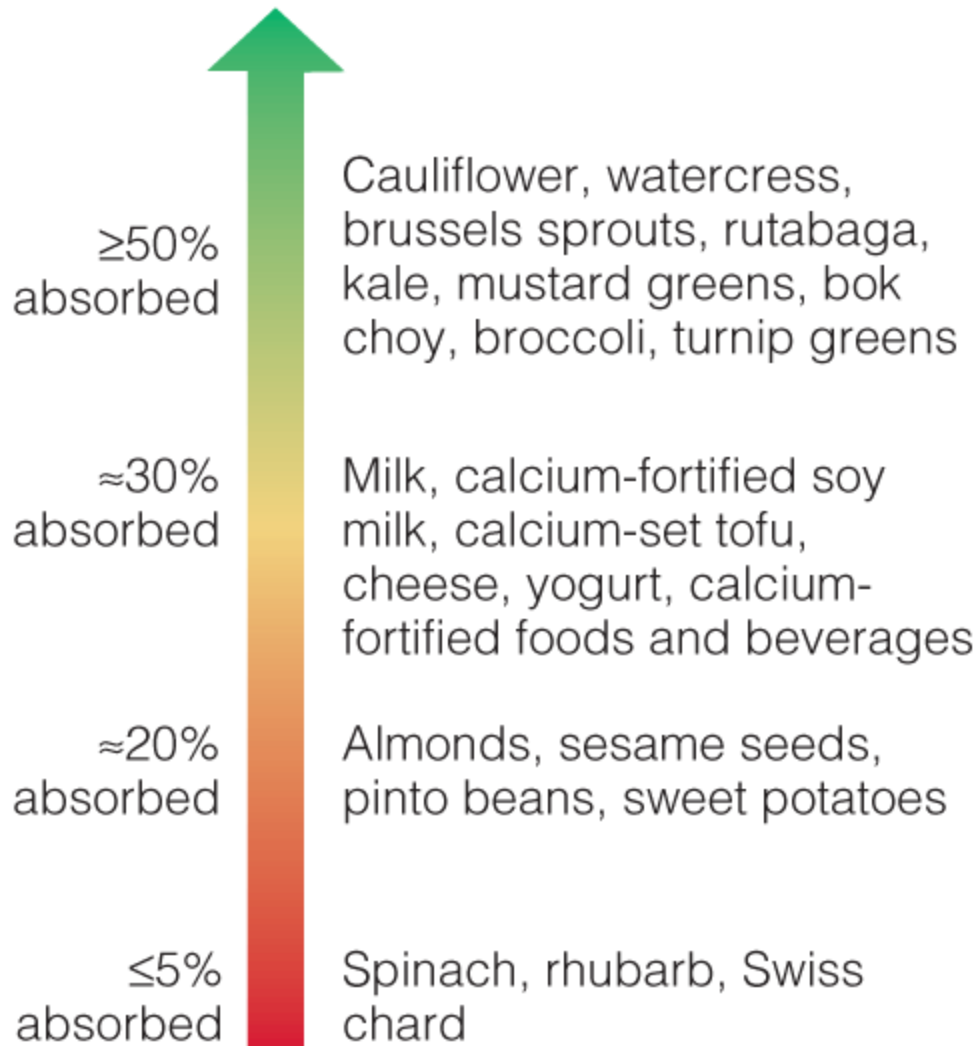


Calcium

- Toxicity symptoms
 - Constipation
 - Increased risk of urinary stone formation and kidney dysfunction
 - Interference with absorption of other minerals mainly iron

Calcium:

Bioavailability of Calcium from Selected Foods



- Significant sources
 - Milk and milk products
 - Small fish (with bones)
 - Tofu (bean curd), greens (broccoli, chard), legumes

Calcium

- Calcium bioavailability is reduced by binders.
 - Binders: chemical compounds in foods that combine with nutrients (minerals) to form complexes the body cannot absorb. Such as:
 - Phytates: in whole grains
 - Oxalates: in spinach

Rising blood calcium signals the thyroid gland to secrete calcitonin.*

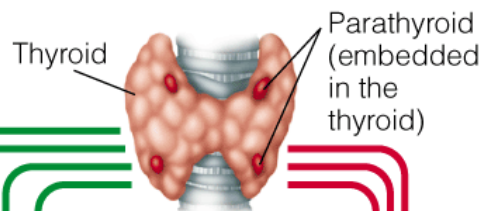
1 Calcitonin inhibits the activation of vitamin D.

2 Calcitonin prevents calcium reabsorption in the kidneys.

3 Calcitonin limits calcium absorption in the intestines.

4 Calcitonin inhibits osteoclast cells from breaking down bone, preventing the release of calcium.

All these actions **lower blood calcium levels**, which inhibits calcitonin secretion.



Falling blood calcium signals the parathyroid glands to secrete parathormone.

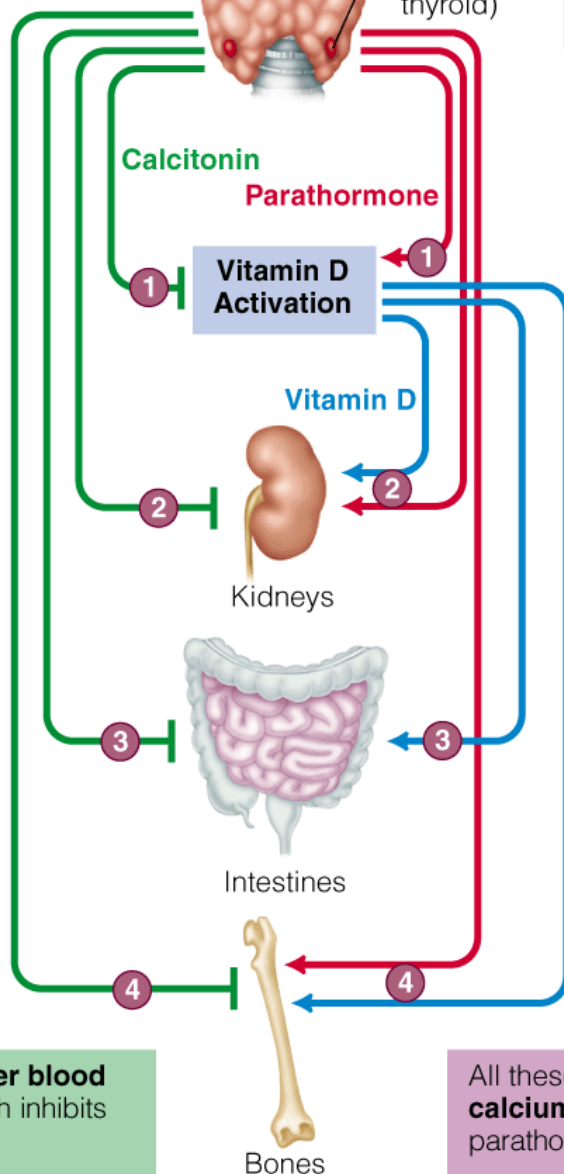
1 Parathormone stimulates the activation of vitamin D.

2 Vitamin D and parathormone stimulate calcium reabsorption in the kidneys.

3 Vitamin D enhances calcium absorption in the intestines.

4 Vitamin D and parathormone stimulate osteoclast cells to break down bone, releasing calcium into the blood.

All these actions **raise blood calcium levels**, which inhibits parathormone secretion.



Calcium-Balance

*Calcitonin plays a major role in defending infants and young children against the dangers of rising blood calcium that can occur when regular feedings of milk deliver large quantities of calcium to a small body. In contrast, calcitonin plays a relatively minor role in adults because their absorption of calcium is less efficient and their bodies are larger, making elevated blood calcium unlikely.

5- Phosphorus

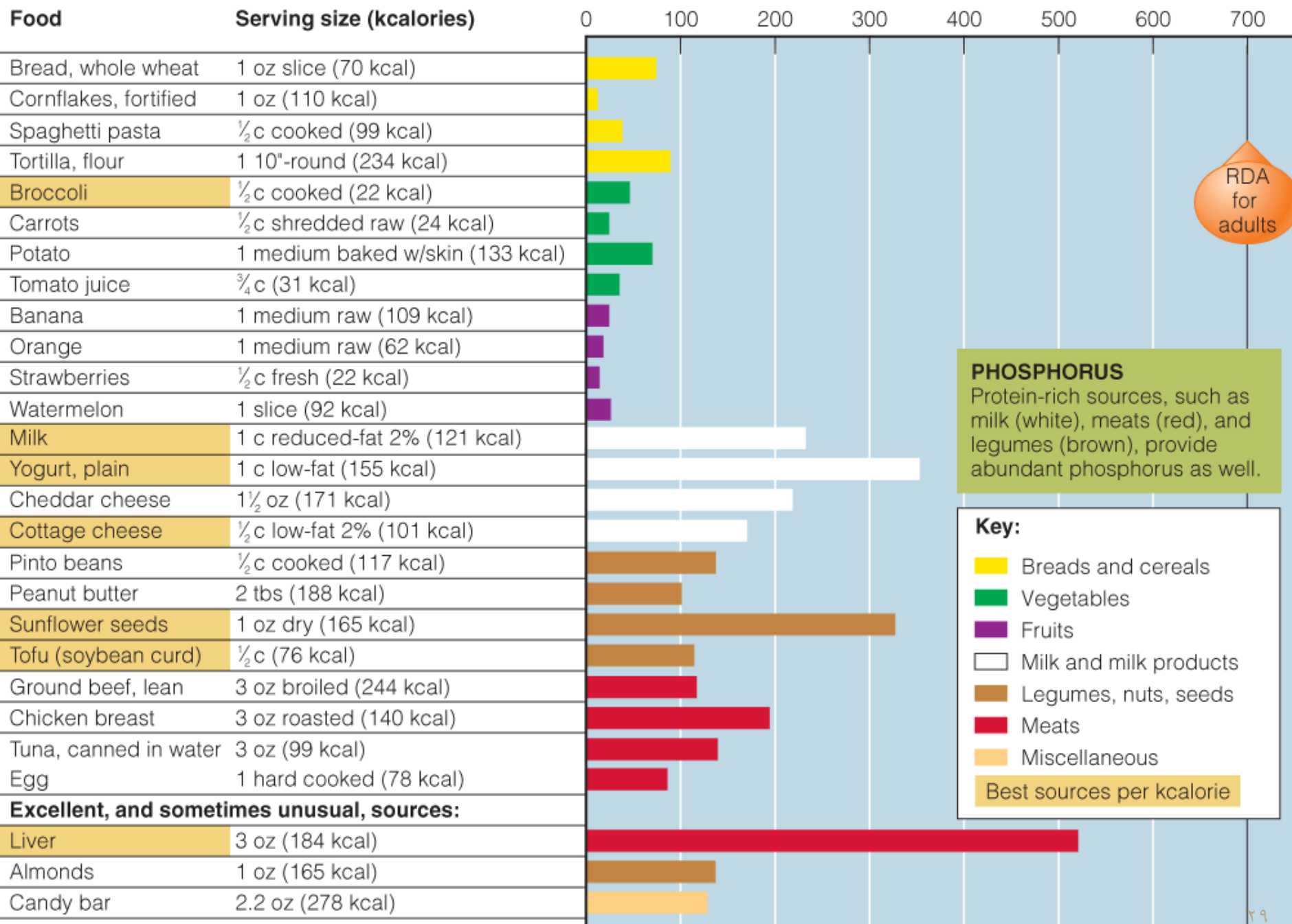
- RDA for adults: 700 mg/day
- Upper level for adults (19-70 years): 4000 mg/day
- Chief functions in the body
 - Mineralization of bones and teeth
 - Part of every cell
 - Important in genetic material, part of phospholipids

Phosphorus

- Chief functions in the body (continued)
 - Used in energy transfer and in buffer systems that maintain acid-base balance
- Deficiency symptoms
 - Muscular weakness, bone pain

Phosphorus

- Toxicity symptoms
 - Calcification of nonskeletal tissues, particularly the kidneys
- Significant sources
 - All animal tissues (meat, fish, poultry, eggs, milk)



NOTE: See p. 327 for more information on using this figure.

6- Magnesium

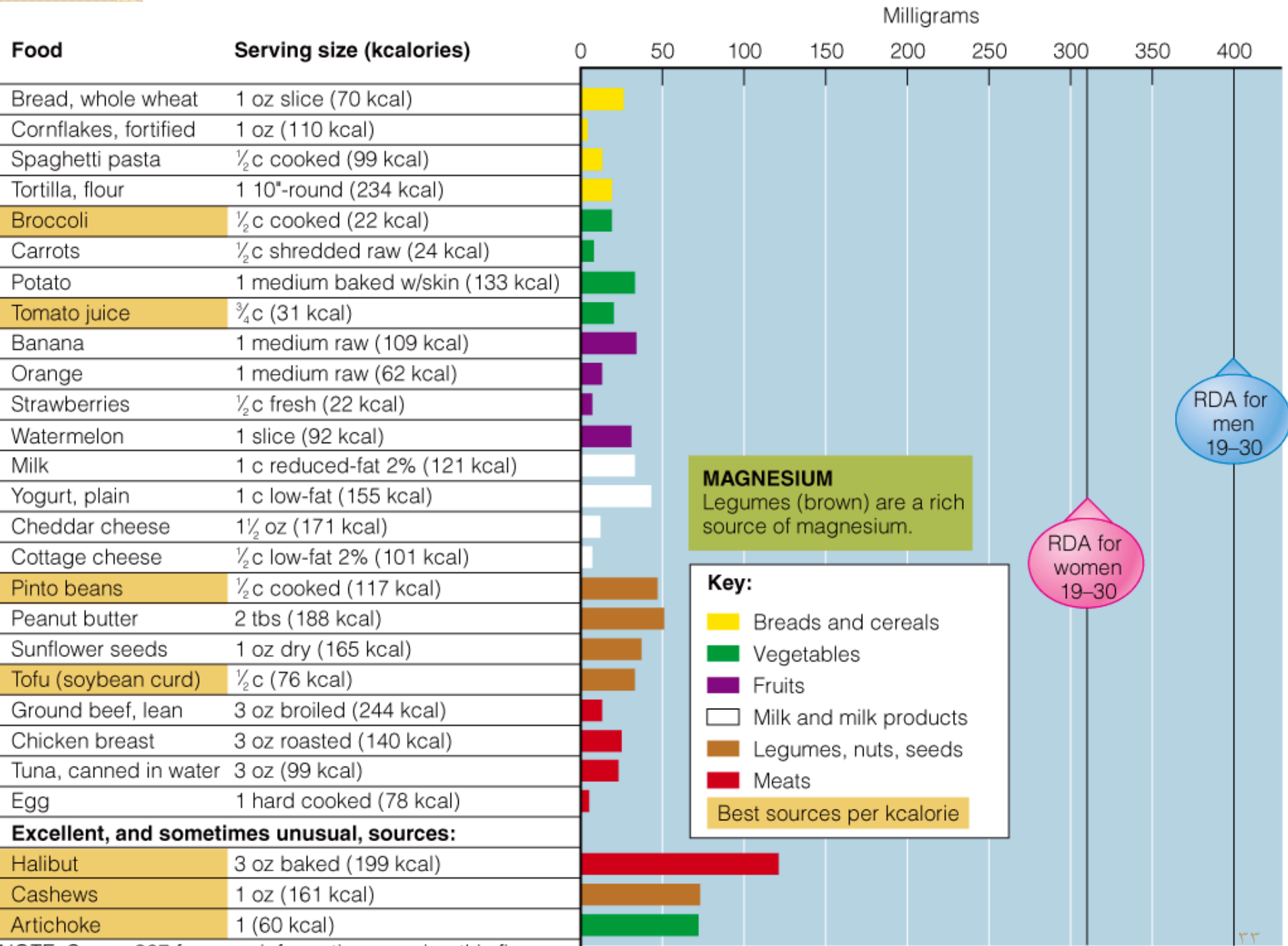
- RDA
 - Men (19-30 years): 400 mg/day
 - Women (19-30 years): 310 mg/day
- Upper level for adults: 350 mg nonfood magnesium/day
- Chief functions in the body
 - Bone mineralization, building of protein, enzyme action, normal muscle contraction, nerve impulse transmission, maintenance of teeth, and functioning of immune system

Magnesium

- Deficiency symptoms
 - Weakness
 - Confusion
 - If extreme, convulsions, bizarre muscle movements (especially of eye and face muscles), hallucinations, and difficulty in swallowing
 - In children, growth failure

Magnesium

- Toxicity symptoms
 - Diarrhea, alkalosis, dehydration
- Significant sources
 - Nuts, legumes
 - Whole grains
 - Dark green vegetables
 - Seafood
 - Chocolate, cocoa



NOTE: See p. 327 for more information on using this figure.