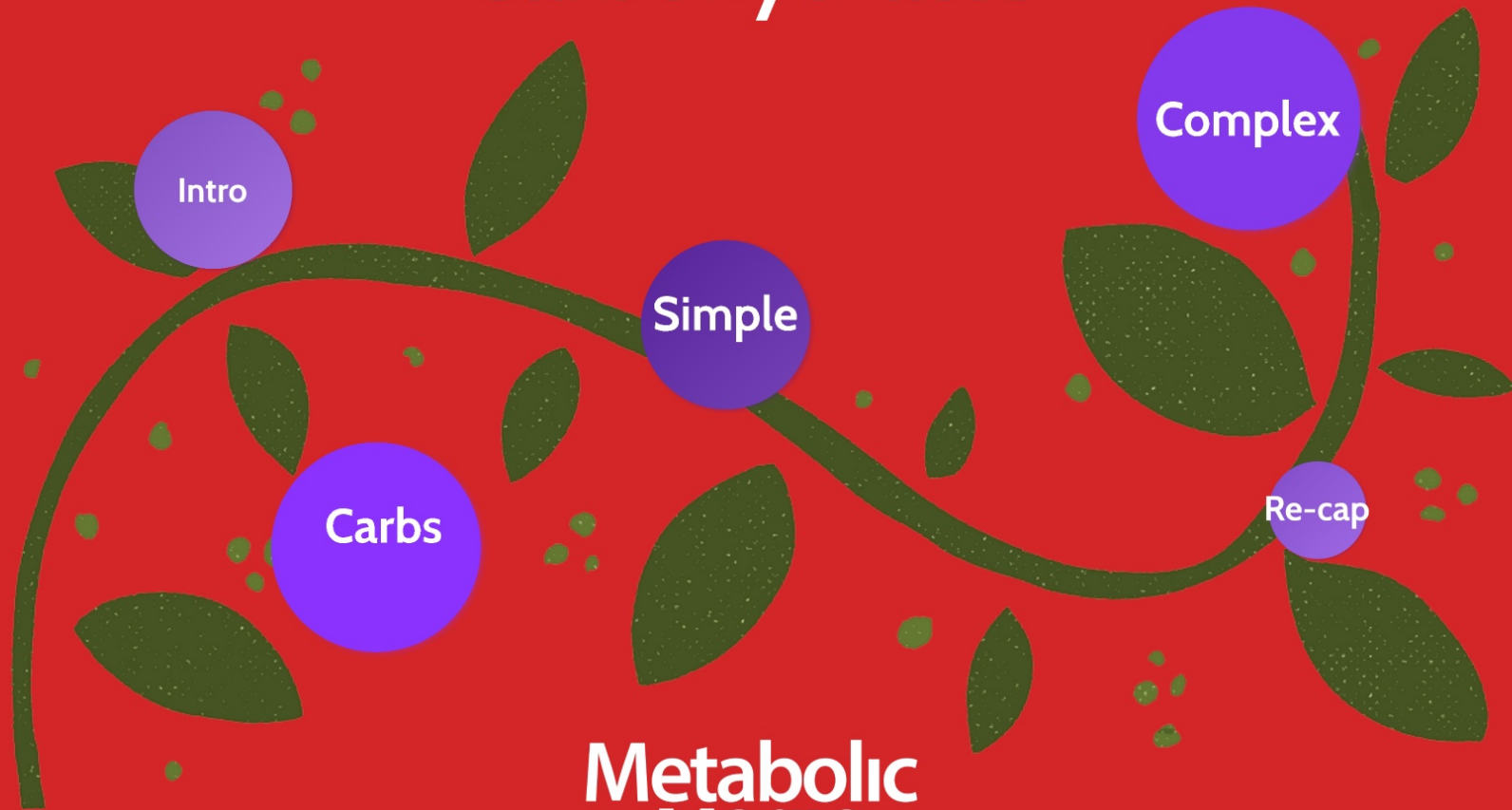


# Carbohydrates



Metabolic  
Magic

# Carbohydrates and Energy

All the things you do every day require **energy**, from walking to class to dancing to simply breathing.

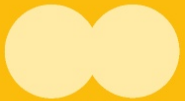


This energy mostly comes from an important **macronutrient** called carbohydrates, or carbs.

Carbohydrates are  
**units of sugars.**

**Some are made of one single unit,  
and some have more than one,  
linked together like a chain.**

Single or small units of sugars =  
**Simple Carbs**



Chains of units of sugars =  
**Complex Carbs**



## Simple Carbs

- Your body can only use single units of sugars for energy. (Anything bigger and it needs to break it down first.)
- Simple carbs give you **fast energy**. Your body can use that food for energy right away!
- Fast energy means your body uses it up quickly too.

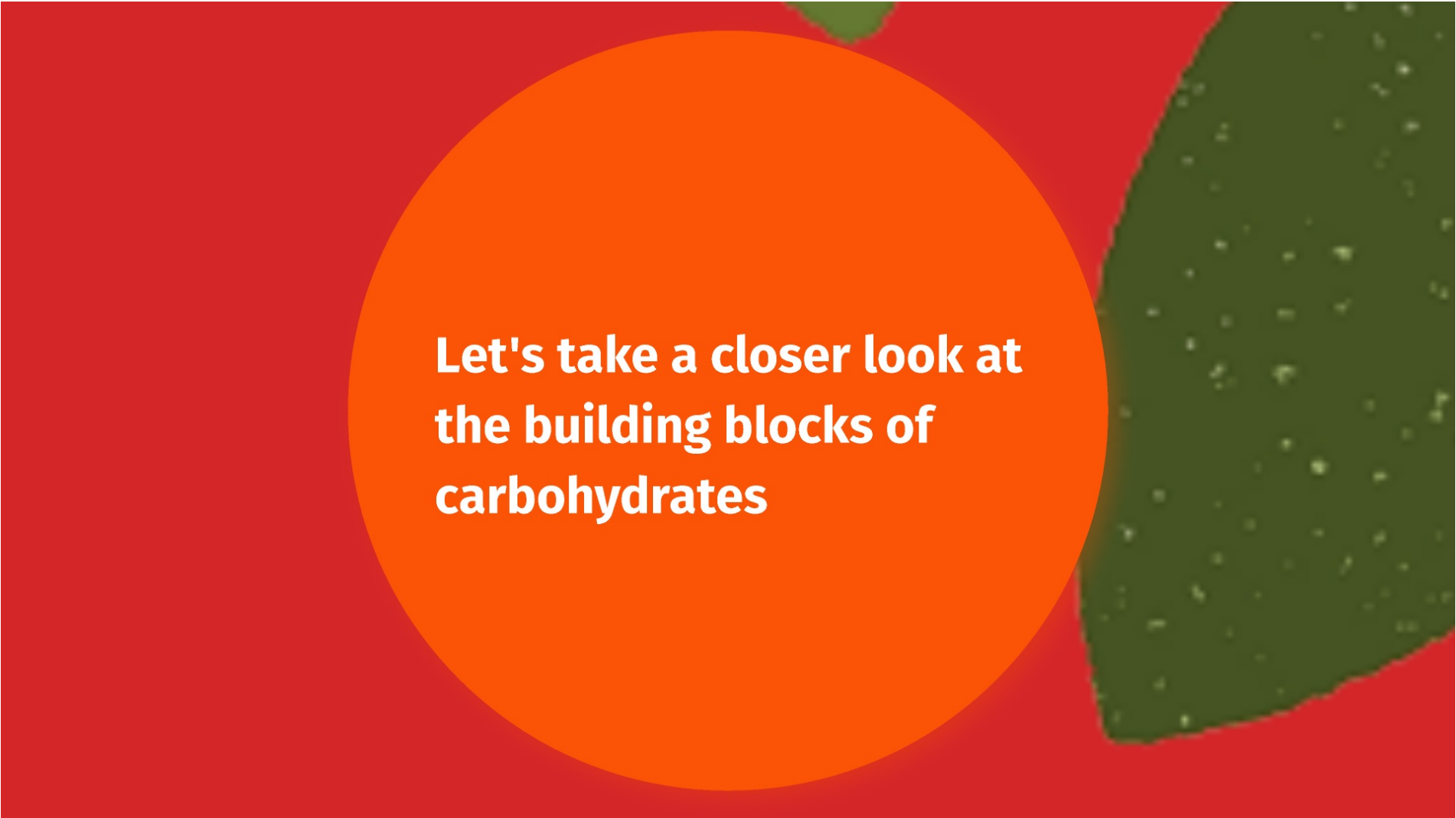




## Complex Carbs

**The energy from complex carbs lasts longer!**

- **Because complex carbs are made of long chains of sugars, your body needs to break it into single units before it can be used for energy.**
- **Since it takes longer to break down, your body gets a slower, steady stream of energy.**



**Let's take a closer look at  
the building blocks of  
carbohydrates**

# Simple Carbohydrates

**Monosaccharides**

**Disaccharides**

...are made of single units of sugar, or  
**Monosaccharides**

Sometimes these single units pair up  
and become  
**Disaccharides**

Both are considered "Simple Carbs"

## **Mono-saccharides** **(Single units of sugars)**

### **1. Glucose**

This sugar unit circulates in the blood. It is also called "blood sugar".

### **2. Fructose**

It naturally occurs in fruit, milk and honey.

### **3. Galactose**

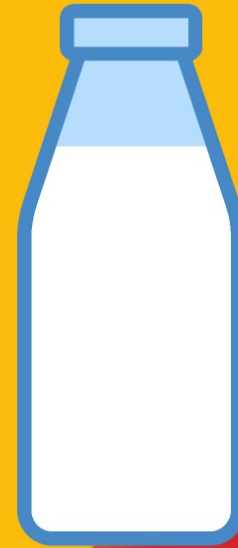
It is found in milk. Similar to glucose but less sweet.



These Foods have  
simple sugars in the form  
of Monosaccharides



Honey  
Fruit  
Milk



# Disaccharides

(another form of simple sugar)

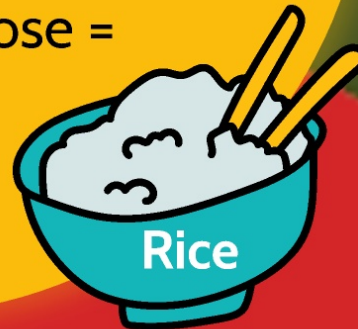
Glucose + Galactose = Lactose



Glucose + Fructose =  
Sucrose



Glucose + Glucose =  
Maltose



These Foods have simple  
sugars in the form of  
disaccharides



## Complex Carbohydrates

are made up of many units of sugars, forming a **chain**



**Starches** and **Fiber**  
are considered Complex Carbs

**Starch**

**Fiber**

# Starch

Starch is your body's main source of energy!

Starch comes from plant-based foods:

Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and beans



# Fiber

Good sources  
of fiber:

Fruits  
Vegetables  
Beans  
Lentils  
Whole grains  
Nuts

Fiber is a complex carb that does  
NOT provide energy to your body

**BUT it has some very important  
jobs:**

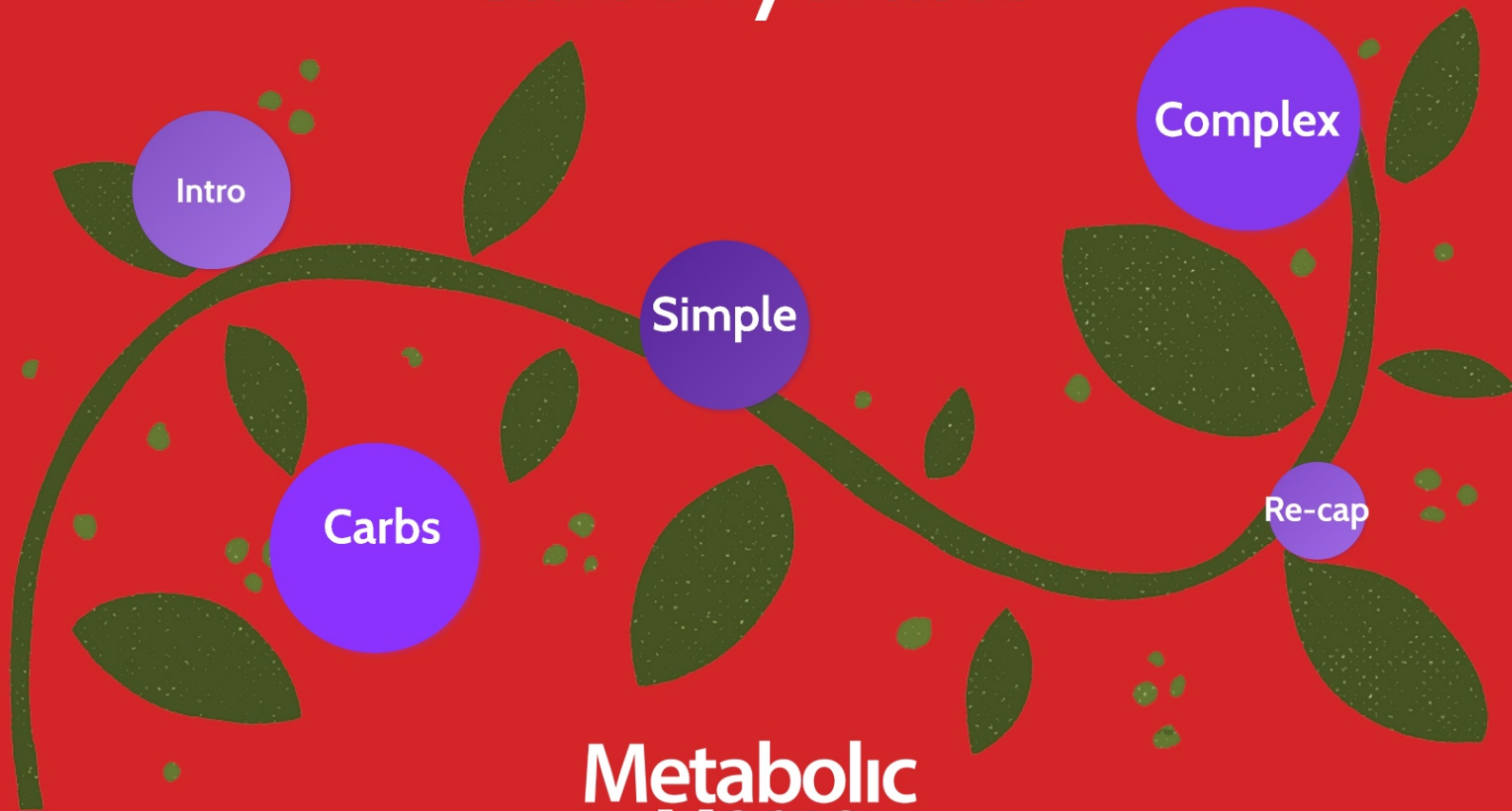
- Reduces blood cholesterol
- Stabilizes blood sugar
- Absorbs water, keeping you  
regular
- Helps you feel fuller after eating
- Fiber is like a broom, **sweeping  
toxins out of your body**



## Summary

- Everything we do requires energy, and carbohydrates are your main source of energy!
- Carbs can be either **SIMPLE** or **COMPLEX**
- **Simple carbs** provide quick energy
  - Fruits, milk, cake and soda are some examples.
- **Complex carbs** provide slow and steady energy
  - Bread, beans, and starchy vegetables such as potatoes are a few examples.
- **Fiber** is a type of complex carbohydrate that does not provide energy but has other jobs. It's "nature's broom," sweeping toxins from your body.

# Carbohydrates



Metabolic  
Magic