

Figure 8. Different states of pluripotency. Classical mouse ES cells are derived from the ICM of the blastocyst and are designated as "naïve." In contrast, EpiSCs are derived from the epiblast of the implanted embryo and are designated as "primed," implying that these cells are less immature and more differentiated than naïve cells. The differences between the two states of pluripotency are reflected in morphology, clonogenicity (ability to form discrete colonies), signal transduction pathways, their pluripotency as assayed by their ability to contribute to tissues in a chimera or form a teratoma, gene targeting by homologous recombination, and the state of X inactivation. Human ES cells, although also derived from the blastocyst, resemble the primed state by many criteria and differ from the naïve state of pluripotency.

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