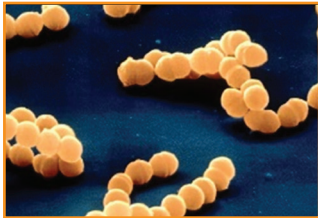
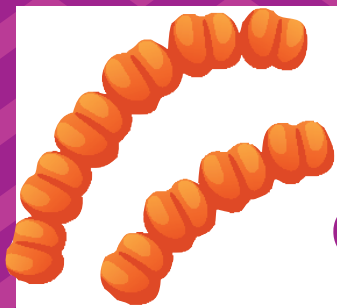
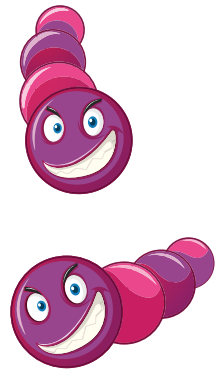


BUILD A STREP A BUG



Streptococcus A is a group of bacteria that is found in the throat and on the skin. The most common infections caused by Strep A are sore throat and skin infections. For most people infected with Strep A, their symptoms are mild. However, in some cases it can also cause serious symptoms such as a high fever, muscle aches and pain, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

Strep A is contagious and can easily spread to other people. Because Strep A bacteria live in the nose and throat, people who are infected can easily spread the bacteria by talking, coughing or sneezing.



Create your very own model of a Strep A bacterium by following the instructions below!



You will need:

- polystyrene balls (ideally 25-30mm in diameter)
- orange and/or purple paint
- googly eyes
- orange pipe cleaners
- non-toxic PVA glue
- bamboo skewers
- black marker

Instructions:

1. Poke polystyrene balls through the middle with the skewer, leaving a small gap in between of approximately 5mm. The skewers can be sharp, so you may need to ask an adult to help you with this.
2. Paint the balls with your preferred colour using a paintbrush and leave to dry.
3. Once the paint has dried, remove the polystyrene balls from the skewer. Each ball should have a hole through the middle from where the skewer was poked through. Use these holes to thread the balls onto a length of pipe cleaner. Thread on as many balls as you wish, but don't pack them too tightly or you won't be able to bend the pipe cleaner into shapes very easily.
4. Fold a little bit of the pipe cleaner at each end to keep the balls securely in place.
5. Now decorate your Strep A bacterium! Glue on some googly eyes and draw a mouth, nose and eyebrows using the black marker. You can twist your Strep A bacterium into whatever shape you like.



There is currently no vaccine to prevent the spread of the Strep A disease. The Strep A team at Telethon Kids are working hard to learn more about this group of bacteria, to find better ways to treat and prevent kids getting sick from this serious disease. This includes working on creating a vaccine to prevent Strep A from spreading in the future.