

Bacteria versus Viruses: a comprehension activity

Read the text and then answer the questions.

BACTERIA

A bacterium is a single, but complex cell. Bacteria can survive inside or outside the body, or on its own!

It is important to remember that not all bacteria are harmful to our body. The bacteria in our gut are very helpful as they help us to digest our food.

Some bacteria can harm us though when we get an infection. An example of a bacterial infection includes **ear infection, whooping cough and strep throat.**



VIRUS

A virus lives inside the cell of a host and multiplies. Without a host, they cannot reproduce.

Viruses are not good for humans. When a virus enters our body, they can make us sick. An example of a viral infection can include **chicken pox, flu and the common cold.**

Staying healthy and practising good hygiene is a great way to prevent some viral infections. There are also vaccinations available for many viral infections such as the flu and chicken pox.

Many viral infections can produce similar symptoms so your doctor may need a sample of your wee, poo or blood when you are sick so they can have the samples tested under a microscope or using other equipment in a laboratory. This will help them to decide on the best treatment to make you well.



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Answer the questions below:

REMEMBER

There are bacteria and viruses all around us, but our wonderful immune system is always working to protect us. Help your immune system by washing your hands regularly and by covering your face when you sneeze and cough.

1. Are bacteria and viruses the same? YES/NO
2. The bacteria in our are very helpful as they
3. Give two examples of a bacterial infection.
i) ii)
4. List three examples of a viral infection. i)
ii) iii)
5. How do scientists know what bacteria and virus cells look like?
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6. In your own words, describe the main difference between a bacteria and a virus.
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