

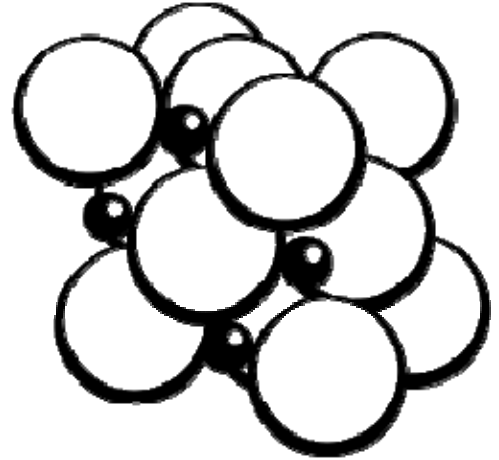
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## What are Germs?

The term "germs" refers to the microscopic bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa that can cause disease.

Hand washing is the single most important thing you can do to prevent germs from leading to infections and sickness.



### Types of Germs

**Bacteria** are tiny, single-celled organisms that get nutrients from their environments. In some cases, that environment is children or some other living being.

Some bacteria are good for our bodies — they help keep the digestive system in working order and keep harmful bacteria from moving in. Some bacteria are used to produce medicines and vaccines.

Bacteria can cause trouble, too, as with cavities, urinary tract infections, or strep throat. Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections.

**Viruses** cannot survive, grow, and reproduce unless a person or an animal puts up rental space. Viruses can only live for a very short time outside other living cells. For example, viruses in infected bodily fluids left on surfaces like a countertop or toilet seat can live there for a short time, but quickly die unless a live host comes along.

Once a virus has moved into someone's body, it can spread easily and can make a person sick. Viruses are responsible for some minor sicknesses like colds, common illnesses like the flu, and extremely serious diseases like smallpox or HIV/AIDS.

Antibiotics are not effective against viruses. Antiviral agents have been developed to fight off a small select group of viruses.

Many, such as athlete's foot and yeast infections, are not dangerous in a healthy person. People who have weakened immune systems (from diseases like HIV or cancer), though, may develop more serious fungal infections.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## What are Germs? Multiple Choice Questions

1. Germs are

- a) Microscopic
- b) Macroscopic
- c) Can be seen with naked eye
- d) Our friends

2. Which of the following is a disease-causing germ?

- a) Bacteria
- b) Virus
- c) Protozoa
- d) All of the above

3. Antibiotics are used to treat \_\_\_\_\_ infections.

- a) Bacterial
- b) Viral
- c) Both a and b option
- d) None of the above

4. Antibiotics are effective against viruses. Is this statement true?

- a) True
- b) False



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## What are Germs?

### *Answers*

1. a
2. d
3. a
4. b

### *Explanation of Answers*

1. Germs are microscopic and they cannot be seen with naked eye.
2. The term "germs" refers to the microscopic bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa that can cause disease.
3. Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections.
4. False statement.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## What are Germs? Writing Activity

1. Define germs.

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2. Is it true that all bacteria are harmful for humans? If No, Explain your answer.

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3. What do you know about Viruses?

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