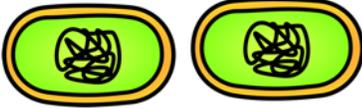
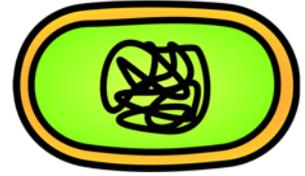


Name: _____



Bacteria



Bacteria, like a virus is another name for germs. Like germs, bacteria can usually just be seen under a microscope, millions of bacteria are about the size of a pin prick. Bacteria germs can be found everywhere, on your skin, in your mouth, in the air, in the soil, in plants and animals and in water. Your body can handle some bacteria as there is good and bad bacteria, the good bacteria is helpful in our body. Good bacteria helps to digest food and helps to keep us healthy. Bacteria grows and multiplies very quickly which isn't so great if it's bad bacteria. Bacteria can grow and split into two more, then four more, then eight more in just a matter of minutes! The bad bacteria can cause you to become ill with ear or other infections, tuberculosis, and illnesses like strep throat and bacterial pneumonia. Bacteria can also be very contagious. Every time you open your mouth, to sing, to laugh, to talk, to yawn, to whistle, some bacteria is released as particles into the air! Your body tries to protect you from catching bad bacteria in several ways. The saliva in your mouth helps to kill germs, the acid in your stomach tries to destroy bad bacteria and the wax in your ears tries to trap it from going any further and your poop is full of bacteria but your system gets rid of it. Since bacteria is so contagious, it is very important to protect yourself by washing your hands frequently and sanitizing surfaces that are high touch areas and don't share items that could be contaminated easily.

QUESTIONS:

- ❶ In your own words, define bacteria.
- ❷ How does bacteria spread?
- ❸ How can you protect yourself from catching bad bacteria?
- ❹ What 3 illnesses can you name that are caused by bacteria?
- ❺ How does your body protect you from catching bad bacteria?