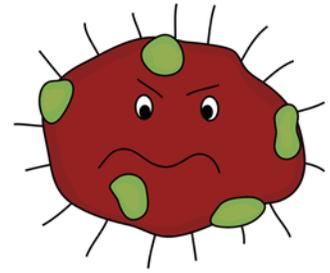


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Germs



Germs are everywhere, they are all around us! Some germs have been around for over a billion years.

Every single illness is caused by germs. Germs are tiny things that cause us to become sick. Germs can be found in the air, on plants, in the water, and on many objects like handles, ledges, and door knobs. Germs are sometimes called 'cooties' or 'bugs' or 'bad critters' that make us sick. Germs can travel from one person to another!

Germs are actually bacteria and viruses. Germs are very, very tiny living things that can only be seen under powerful microscopes. You can't see germs with your eyes. There are good germs and there are bad germs. Some of the good germs are found in our stomach and intestines and they help us digest our food. But some germs are bad germs and they become harmful by causing viruses and bacteria in the body which can often lead to sickness. Everyone at some point in their lives will become infected by germs. These harmful germs can get into your body from many openings like your ears, your eyes, your mouth and your nose. When you touch something that has germs on it and then touch your mouth or nose or any body opening, you could become infected by those germs and it may cause you to become sick. When germs enter your body, they swim around and get nutrition which helps them grow and multiply very quickly. Once they grow, they can cause colds, strep throat, ear infections, mumps, chicken pox, and other sicknesses. When germs make you sick enough to go to the doctor, the doctor then has to act like a detective and determine whether it's a bacterial or viral germ, that is causing you to be sick. Once the doctor knows what type of germ you have, they will be able to treat you or help you get better. The best way to stop germs is to wash your hands frequently and don't touch any body openings. Another way, is to frequently sanitize or wash surfaces that are high touch areas.

- ❶ What are germs (in your own words)?
- ❷ Where are germs found?
- ❸ What can bad germs cause?
- ❹ What are the two main types of germs?
- ❺ How can you protect yourself from germs?
- ❻ How do you get germs?