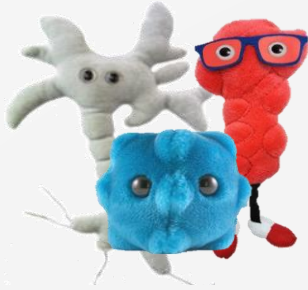


Microbes – Part 1

You don't have to be big to be important!



Even though microbes are small, they can have a very big influence on our lives. We often hear about microbes that can make us sick or





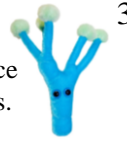
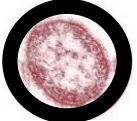
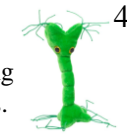



hurt our pets and plants, but there are many microbes that are helpful – even critical – for human life. Some examples of good microbes are included on the other side of the page.

Living with the Bad Microbes

In the mid 1800's scientists, doctors and engineers started understanding that many illnesses were caused by bad microbes (**GERMS**). They also learned that they could protect themselves from these **GERMS** by doing things like washing their hands regularly. They also realized that they could use **ENERGY** to kill **GERMS**. For example, when water is heated to boiling (100°C or 180 °F) it destroys the bad microbes. There are also some wavelengths of ultraviolet light that can kill **GERMS**.



IDEA! Have a little microbe fun with the microbe match below.

I am the part of your blood that fights off infections.	1 	A  Nerve Cell <i>Neuron</i>
I often appear during your teenage years.	2 	B  Penicillin <i>Penicillium Chrysogenum</i>
I am a member of the fungi kingdom & produce many types of medicines.	3 	C  Measles <i>Morbillivirus</i>
I carry messages through your body using electrochemical signals.	4 	D  Pimple <i>Propionibacterium acnes</i>
I can make you very sick if you don't get the proper vaccine.	5 	E  White Blood Cell <i>Leukocyte</i>



IDEA! Using the microbe pictures on the [GiantMicrobes](http://GiantMicrobes.com) website make your own microbe memory game. For some added fun include one or two facts about each microbe on each card.