

Lesson 1 – Meet the Germs

GLOSSARY

Bacteria

A type of germ, or microorganism, which usually has only one cell and reproduces by dividing. Some bacteria help people and some make us sick.

Genetic material

The molecule in living cells that directs their reproduction when they multiply. People, animals and bacteria all have DNA in their cells. Viruses can have DNA or RNA.

Microorganisms

Life forms unable to be seen by the naked eye.

Virion

A single viral particle comprised of genetic material enclosed in a protein coat.

Virology

The study of viruses, a field founded by Martinus Beijerinck.

Virus

A type of germ, or microorganism, that contains either DNA or RNA and makes copies of itself by taking over host cells so the cell produces more virions.