



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## GERMS

Our world is filled with viruses, bacteria, and fungi. Even the healthiest body can be attacked by one of these microscopic creatures. Millions of these microbes can be found in a spoonful of dust. But not all of these microbes are bad. Some of them are very good. The good ones help us digest our food. The bad ones are called germs.

Germs enter our body through our mouth, nose, other openings, or even a cut on the skin. It is important that we get enough sleep and eat healthy foods so that our bodies can withstand the attack of these bad germs. The less healthy we are, the easier it is for these germs to mount an attack.

These germs are spread by someone sneezing, coughing, or by touching door handles or other surfaces. We can also get some of these germs from some of the food we eat. These germs can be found in the water we drink. The older we get, the more experienced our body becomes at recognizing these germs and fighting them. The system that recognizes these germs is called our immune system. The cells in our immune system help us fight off these germs.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are the names of microbes mentioned in this article?
  - a. viruses, illness, fungi
  - b. viruses, germs, and colds
  - c. antibiotics
  - d. viruses, bacteria, fungi
2. Which of the following statements is listed in the passage about germs?
  - a. Germs enter our body through our mouth, nose, other openings, or even a cut on the skin.
  - b. Billions of these microbes can be found in our bodies.
  - c. Money has been raised to research more about how the immune system works.
  - d. The cells in our immune system learn to decode bad germs.
3. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
  - a. second paragraph
  - b. first paragraph
  - c. fourth paragraph
  - d. third paragraph
4. Without the immune system, what would happen?
  - a. Our bodies could filter all the germs inside.
  - b. There would be no predictable patterns.
  - c. Another organ of the body would have to take over its role.
  - d. The human body could not survive.