

Microorganism Vocabulary

Microorganism- a microscopic organism, especially a bacterium, virus, or fungus.

Organism- an individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form.

Germ- a microorganism, especially one that causes disease.

Fungi- any of a group of unicellular, multicellular, or syncytial spore-producing organisms feeding on organic matter, including molds, yeast, mushrooms, and toadstools.

Reproduce- produce again

Hygiene- conditions or practices conducive to maintaining health and preventing disease, especially through cleanliness.

Virus- an infective agent that typically consists of a nucleic acid molecule in a protein coat, is too small to be seen by light microscopy, and is able to multiply only within the living cells of a host.

Decay- rot or decompose through the action of bacteria and fungi

Harmful- causing or likely to cause harm

Microbe- a microorganism, especially a bacterium causing disease or fermentation.

Bacteria- a member of a large group of unicellular microorganisms that have cell walls but lack organelles and an organized nucleus, including some that can cause disease.

Illness- not in full health; sick

Beneficial- favorable or advantageous; resulting in good

Decomposer- an organism, especially a soil bacterium, fungus, or invertebrate, that break down organic material

Infection- the presence of a virus

Food Production- Food production is the process of transforming raw ingredients into prepared food products.

Immune System- the interacting combination of all the body's ways of recognizing cells, tissues, objects, and organisms that are not part of itself, and initiating the immune response to fight them.

Pandemic Outbreak- (of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world.

Parasite- an organism that lives in or on another organism (its host) and benefits by deriving nutrients at the host's expense.

Resistance- the ability not to be affected by something, especially adversely

Symptom- a physical or mental feature that is regarded as indicating a condition of disease, particularly such a feature that is apparent to the patient

Mutate- change or cause to change in form or nature

Endemic- regularly found among particular people or in a certain area

Contagious- spread from one person or organism to another by direct or indirect contact

Microscopic- so small as to be visible only with a microscope

Macroscopic- visible to the naked eye; not microscopic.

Cell Wall- a rigid layer of polysaccharides lying outside the plasma membrane of the cells of plants, fungi, and bacteria. In the algae and higher plants, it consists mainly of cellulose.

Single Cell- composed of only a single cell, unicellular.

Multicellular Organism- organisms made of more than one cell.

Microbiology- the branch of science that deals with microorganisms.

Microscope- an optical instrument used for viewing very small objects, such as mineral samples or animal or plant cells, typically magnified several hundred times.

Molecule- a group of atoms bonded together, representing the smallest fundamental unit of a chemical compound that can take part in a chemical reaction.

Ecosystem- a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

Archaea- microorganisms that are similar to bacteria in size and simplicity of structure but radically different in molecular organization.

Prokaryote- a microscopic single-celled organism that has neither a distinct nucleus with a membrane nor other specialized organelles.