

90168 - Describe how humans use and are affected by micro-organisms

GLOSSARY

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
aerobic bacteria	bacteria that require oxygen
agar	jelly-like substance extracted from seaweed used to grow bacteria
alcohol	common name for ethanol
anaerobic bacteria	bacteria that don't require oxygen
antibiotic	medicine taken internally capable of destroying pathogenic bacteria
antiseptic	chemical applied to living tissue to kill micro-organisms
bacteria	type of microorganism that may be coccus, rod or spiral
binary fission	the way bacteria reproduce by splitting into two
biotechnology	making use of living things for the good of humans and the environment
capsule	slimy protective layer around bacterial cells
cell membrane	controls movement in and out of a cell
cell wall	maintains shape of a cell
culture	to grow microorganisms
decomposer	a microorganism that causes decay
decomposition	the breaking down of a dead plant or animal material
denitrifying bacteria	bacteria which can convert nitrogen containing compounds into nitrogen gas
disease	illness affecting part or all of an organism
disinfectant	a powerful chemical which kills microorganisms
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
epidemic	spread of an infection within a country
exponential growth	rapid increase in numbers in a population
fermentation	conversion of sugars into alcohol using yeast, a form of anaerobic respiration
flagellum / flagella	structure(s) which help bacteria move
fungi	a type of microorganism which include yeasts, moulds and mushrooms
germ	microorganism that causes disease
HIV	type of virus that can lead to AIDS
hyphae	fine threads that make up the structure of fungi
immune system	the body's second "line of defence" to kill pathogens which enter the body
incubated	placed in favourable growing conditions
infectious	capable of being passed on from person to person

inoculating	placing bacteria on an agar plate
lactose	a sugar occurring in milk
lymphocyte	type of blood cell which makes antibodies
microorganisms	collective term for bacteria, fungi and viruses
moulds	types of fungi made of many threads
mucus	runny, sticky substance on lining of nose, mouth etc
mushroom	type of edible fungi
mycelium	thread like network of a fungus, which spreads out as each hypha grows
nutrient	substance used as food
pandemic	infection spread across countries
parasitic	living off another living thing
pasteurised	method of treating milk by rapid heating to reduce bacterial contamination
pathogen	disease-causing microorganism
penicillin	the first antibiotic developed, extracted from a type of mould
petri dish	round shallow dish of plastic or glass used to grow bacteria and fungi
phagocyte	a type of white blood cell that engulfs and digests microorganisms
respiration	process by which living cells release energy from sugar (aerobic respiration requires O ₂ , anaerobic respiration does not).
saprophytic	living off dead plant or animal material
spontaneous generation	incorrect theory which said that microbes could arise out of nothing
sporangium	ball shaped part of fungi which produces spores (for reproduction)
spore	reproductive cells of fungi
sterile	free from infection with microorganisms
tinea	athlete's foot, a fungal infection which causes red itchy shin between the toes
toxins	poisonous substances produced by microorganisms, particularly bacteria
viruses	types of microorganism that consist of nuclear material in a protein coat
yeast	a single-celled fungi
yoghurt	food made when particular bacteria act on milk, changing milk sugar (lactose) into lactic acid