

# Biology in the News: Anthrax WebQuest

By Peter Hughes, Cresskill High School, Cresskill, NJ

**The Purpose:** This exercise is not meant to scare you about the potential threat of Anthrax. It is meant to give you hard facts about the bacteria as well as practical information that will help you deal with your fears. There are also ways to help you protect yourself from the bacteria. It just requires one thing - education.

<http://www.anthrax.osd.mil> - View this site and comment on the following:

1. **Why is the Defense Department concerned about Anthrax as a threat?**
  2. **What does the Defense Department say about the safety of the Anthrax Vaccine?**
- Once the Main Screen comes up: Click on the Disease to learn more about Anthrax.
3. **What is the bacterium called that causes Anthrax?**

View pictures of the Anthrax bacteria at:

<http://www.bact.wisc.edu/Bact330/lectureanthrax>

4. **Draw what the cells look like.**

Go to the following Website about the Anthrax bacteria:

<http://www.aomc.org/ComDiseases/Anthrax.html>

5. **Anthrax is not new to us. It occurs naturally throughout the world. Who usually gets Anthrax?**
6. **What is the treatment for anthrax?**
7. **What are the symptoms of anthrax?**
8. **Are there adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccine?**

Go to <http://my.webmd.com/content/article/1728.93237>

9. **What is the controversy about the Anthrax Vaccine?**

Go to this article <http://www.msnbc.com/news/638169.asp#AnthraxNeen>. In it, you will find a map of the United States. Click on the Start Button in the lower right hand corner of this screen. It will take you through an interactive tutorial on Anthrax. Answer the following questions:

10. **What are some suspicious things you should look for on your mail?**
11. **Who should you call first if you suspect an Anthrax letter?**
12. **What happens to people who may have come into contact with Anthrax?**
13. **Which organization is responsible for searching for Anthrax spores?**
14. **How long do you have to be treated for Anthrax after being affected?**

- 15. Inhaled anthrax causes what to happen in the body?**
- 16. What happens to your body in the case of skin anthrax?**
- 17. Which form of Anthrax is deadly?**

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/654843.asp> - Take a quiz on Bioterrorism

- 18. How many of the 6 questions did you get right?**