

Microbe Feud

An activity for eighth grade Life Science students for use with the December 1999 HHMI Holiday Lecture DVD "2000 and Beyond: Confronting the Microbe Menace"

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Materials required

- Dry erase boards and markers
- Classroom blackboard

Activity

1. Divide the class into teams of 2,3,or 4 students. Have each team select a name. Write the team names on the board.
2. Give each team a dry erase board and a marker.
3. Ask questions. Have the teams write answers on the dry erase boards.
4. If a team answers the question correctly.... Award the points.
5. After all the questions are asked, total the points
6. Award prizes.

Sample questions

1. What does HHM stand for
Answer: Howard Hughes Medical Institute
2. What bacteria killed thousands of people around 1348?
Answer: Black Death or the plague
3. What important viral disease began infecting people around 1980
Answer: AIDS or HIV
4. What is the scientific name for germs?
Answer: microbes
5. Which is larger--a bacterium or a virus?
Answer: a bacterium
6. What are three beneficial roles of microbes?
Answer: aid indigestion, produce vitamins, protect against pathogens
7. Will E. coli turn pink or purple in a gram stain?
Answer: pink

8. How long does it take for E. coli bacteria to double under ideal conditions in the laboratory?
Answer: 20 minutes
9. How long does it take for E. coli to double in the human intestine?
Answer: 24 hours
10. What causes ulcers--a bacterium, a virus, stress, or something else?
Answer: a bacterium
11. Which of the following is not a bacterial disease: strep throat, food poisoning, pneumonia, AIDS?
Answer: AIDS
12. What are two ways to fight bacterial infectious diseases?
Answer: Antibiotics and vaccines
13. Which killed more people in the Civil war; infectious disease or gunshot wounds?
Answer: infectious disease
14. List five ways bacteria can enter the body.
Answer: oral, fecal, water, air, food
15. Approximately how big is a bacterium?
a. 1 mm, b. 0.1 mm, c. 0.01 mm, or d. 0.001 mm
Answer 0.001 mm