

Microbe Hunter or Weakest Link? Teacher's Guide

A curriculum activity to complement the December 1999 HHMI Holiday Lecture *2000 and Beyond: Confronting the Microbe Menace*

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The activity is a fun way to help the students assess their knowledge gained from watching the “2000 and Beyond” HHMI Holiday Lectures DVD. The game is simply a Microsoft PowerPoint file. If you have PowerPoint loaded on your computer, you should be able to run the file. If you do not have PowerPoint, a free PowerPoint file viewer is available. If you already have access to PowerPoint, you will be able to modify the files to add or delete questions or make your own contests.

Obtaining a free PowerPoint Viewer

[For windows \(a download from Microsoft.com\)](#)

<http://office.microsoft.com/downloads/9798/ppview97.aspx>

[For Macs \(a download from Microsoft.com\)](#)

<http://www.microsoft.com/mac/download/office98/powerpoint98viewer.asp>

Using “Microbe Hunter or Weakest Link?” in your classroom

Students can use this for self-assessment, or you can use it as a game for the entire class. It is especially effective as a whole class activity. If done as a whole class activity, the game works best if you have a smart classroom setup. Either a computer projector or a Gateway Destination-type setup works equally well.

Select two students from the class (preferably one male and one female). They will be the contestants in the game. Have them come to the front of the class. After each question, solicit the correct answer from both of the contestants. The students should be allowed to “phone a friend” on every question. I usually have them phone a friend by allowing them to poll the class (by show of hands) or ask a single person of their choosing. That requires the class pay attention and encourages them to participate also. We usually have the contestant poll all the boys or girls for help.

Modifying the game to add or delete questions

The game is a simple PowerPoint file. The multiple choice answers were added as an animation (on the Toolbar click SLIDESHOW and then click CUSTOM ANIMATION).

Highlight the answers and select ADD EFFECT and then select ENTRANCE. We have selected FLY RIGHT for each answer to zoom in

To highlight the answer, we simply duplicated the slide, removed the animation and changed the incorrect answers to a BLUE font color and the correct answer to a YELLOW font color. Remember to remove the animation also. To remove the animation, click on the answers, select SLIDE SHOW on the toolbar, select CUSTOM ANIMATION, and then select REMOVE.

If you simply open the file in a PowerPoint program, you will be able to see how I wrote the file.

Have fun with it.