

- ✓ Microorganisms are living things that are too small to be seen without a microscope. Bacteria, viruses, and some molds are examples of microorganisms. Most microorganisms are helpful to life on Earth. However, some of them are harmful to humans, animals, and plants and can cause disease.
- ✓ Bacteria are small organisms, or living things, that can be found in all natural environments. They are made of a single cell.
- ✓ A fungus is a simple organism, or living thing, that is neither a plant nor an animal. When there is more than one fungus they are called fungi. Some familiar fungi are mushrooms, molds, mildews, truffles, and yeasts.
- ✓ Molds are forms of fungus. There are thousands of different species, or types, of mold. They grow in moist places throughout the world, both indoors and outside.
- ✓ Protozoans, algae, and slime molds belong to a group of living things called protists. Protists are not animals, plants, fungi, or bacteria.
- ✓ Viruses are tiny particles that cause disease in people, animals, and plants. Different viruses cause the common cold, flu, chicken pox, and many other diseases.

Definitions from <https://kids.britannica.com/>

How are microorganisms helpful and harmful?

- ✓ Helpful - Bacteria helps to break down food in our bodies and helps with digestion.
- ✓ Harmful - Some microorganisms can make us sick, spread diseases, destroy living things, causes tooth decay

Ways we depend on microorganisms: (information from Science textbook and workbook)

- 1) Helps decay dead animals and plants.
- 2) They provide certain foods: cheese, yogurt, bread
- 3) Fights off bad diseases that try to attack our bodies.
- 4) Breaks down food in our bodies.
- 5) Breaks down the soil and provides nutrients to the soil for animals/plants.

If all microorganisms disappeared, what would be the effect?

- 1) More diseases would spread and more people would get sick
- 2) Not as many medicines would be produced
- 3) We would have a hard time digesting our food.
- 4) Dead plants and animals all over the place.
- 5) NO cheese, NO bread, NO yogurt