

Nester's Microbiology

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

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NESTER'S MICROBIOLOGY: A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE, TENTH EDITION

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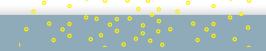
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About the Authors

The Nester Team:

Different Perspectives, One Vision, One Voice

The authors of this edition may be a set of individuals with different insights and unique experiences, but their cooperative relationship defines the word "team." What drives them is a single shared goal: to create the most learning-friendly introductory microbiology textbook available. Each chapter was edited with students in mind, using simpler words where appropriate while maintaining the scientific rigor so important for today's healthcare professionals.



Richard Moore

Denise Anderson

Denise Anderson is a Senior Lecturer Emeritus in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Washington, where she taught a variety of courses including general microbiology, medical bacteriology laboratory, recombinant DNA techniques, and medical mycology/parasitology laboratory for over 30 years. Equipped with a diverse educational background, includ-

ing undergraduate work in nutrition and graduate work in food science and in microbiology, she first discovered a passion for teaching when she taught microbiology laboratory courses as part of her graduate training. Her enthusiastic teaching style, fueled by regular doses of Seattle's famous coffee, received high reviews from her students.

Denise now relaxes in the Yorkshire Dales of England, where she lives with her husband, Richard Moore. When not editing textbook chapters, she can usually be found walking scenic footpaths, chatting with friends, fighting weeds in her garden, or enjoying a fermented beverage at the local pub.



Sandy Coetzee

and35508 fm i-xxxii.indd 4

Sarah Salm

Sarah Salm is a Professor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) of the City University of New York, where she teaches microbiology, anatomy and physiology, and general biology. She earned her undergraduate and doctoral degrees at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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Mira Beins

Mira Beins

Mira Beins is an Associate Teaching Professor in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Washington, where she teaches general microbiology, medical bacteriology, and medical mycology/parasitology. She completed her undergraduate studies in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the University of the Philippines before mov-

ing to Wisconsin for graduate work in Microbiology. Her graduate and postdoctoral research both focused on virology, which solidified her belief that viruses are amazing—although she now begrudgingly admits that bacteria, fungi, and eukaryotic parasites are pretty cool, too.

Mira lives in Seattle with her husband Mike and two kids, Maya and Noah. When she's not busy teaching or driving the kids to their many activities, she enjoys reading books, watching movies, hanging out with friends and family, and planning the next family trip (which Denise hopes will be to the Yorkshire Dales!).

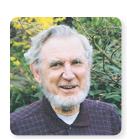


Mike Bohrer

Deborah Allen

Deborah Allen is a Professor at Jefferson College in Missouri, where she teaches microbiology as well as several other courses for students entering allied health careers. Her graduate work was in zoology at the University of Oklahoma and in neurobiology and behavior at Cornell University. She participated in cancer research at the

University of Arkansas Medical Center before embarking on a career in publishing, working in acquisitions and development for books in the life sciences. She is now thrilled to be working on the other end of the desk with the Nester team. Away from campus, Deborah reads or listens to her favorite Eve Dallas novels, floats the rivers and listens to folk music in the Ozarks, and fully appreciates the local microbes while visiting Missouri wineries.



Courtesy Eugene Nester

Eugene Nester

Gene (Eugene) Nester was instrumental in establishing the text's reputation for excellence over the decades. Although no longer an active member of the author team, he wrote the original version of the present text with Evans Roberts and Nancy Pearsall more than 30 years ago. That text, *Microbiology: Molecules, Microbes and Man*, pio-

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neered the organ system approach to the study of infectious disease and was developed specifically for allied health sciences.



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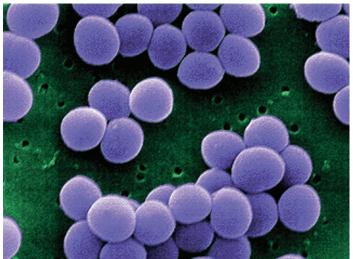
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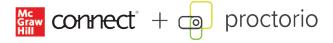


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- Jordan Cunningham, Eastern Washington University



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FOCUS ON UNDERSTANDING . . .

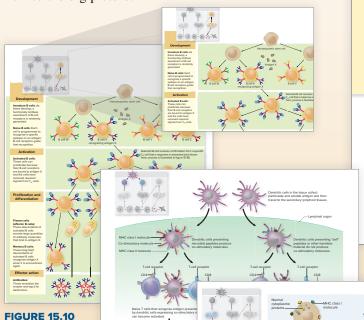
Student-Friendly Illustrations

Introduce the "big picture"

Focus figures provide an overview or highlight a key concept.

Keep the big picture in focus

A highlighted mini-version of the overview figure is often incorporated into the upper left corner of subsequent figures, helping students see how those figures fit into the big picture.



Focus Figure

is responsible for that recognition (figure 15.2). The antigen receptors on a single lymphocyte are identical and therefore recognize the same antigen, but because the body has hundreds of millions of different lymphocytes, the immune system can recognize a nearly infinite assortment of antigens. Conventional T-cell receptors (TCRs) only bind an antigen "presented" by one of the body's own cells, an interaction guided by a surface molecule called a CD marker (CD stands for cluster of differentiation to reflect that scientists use the molecules to distinguish different groups of cells). Cytotoxic T-cells have a CD marker called CD8, which is why the cells are sometimes referred to as CD8 T-cells or CD8+T cells; in contrast, helper T-cells have a CD marker called CD4, which is why the cells are sometimes referred to as CD8 T-cells or CD8+T cells; in is why the cells are sometimes referred to as CD4 T cells or CD4+ T cells. **B-cell receptors (BCRs)** are essentially

membrane-anchored versions of the Y-shaped antibody molecules that the B cell is programmed to make. Unlike T-cell receptors, they bind free antigens (in other words, antigens ont presented by one of the body's own cells). The two arms of the BCR are identical to each other, resulting in two antigen-binding sites.

Cell-mediated and humoral immunity are both powerful and, if misdirected, can damage the body's own tissues. To provide the immune tolerance necessary to prevent inappropriate responses, two sequential processes are used:

■ Central tolerance. This takes place as lymphocytes mature (T cells in the thymus marrow and B cells in the bone marrow); it climinates immature T and B cells found to recognize certain "self" molecules.

FIGURE 15.10 FIGURE 15.13

FIGURE 15.14

FIGURE 15.16

"Provides a logical unfolding conceptual framework that fosters better understanding."

—Jamal Bittar, University of Toledo

FIGURE 15.18

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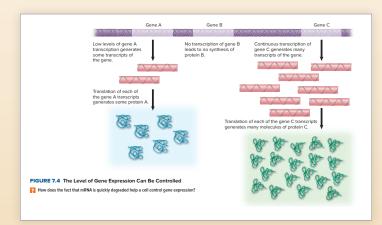


Walk through the processes

Step-by-step figures direct the student using numbered icons, often with corresponding icons in the text.

"The text and illustrations are 'tight' and give each other good support."

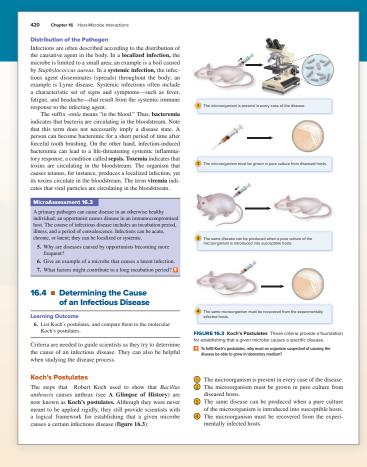
—Richard Shipee, Vincennes University



Introduce the body systems

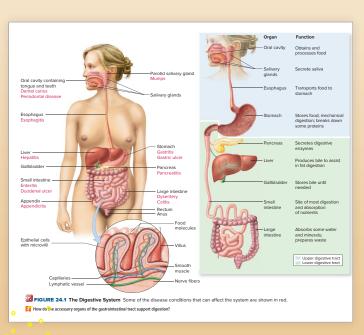
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Each disease chapter includes a stunning figure that introduces the students to the anatomy of the body system.



Encourage deeper understanding

Figures have accompanying questions that encourage students to think more carefully about the concept illustrated in a figure.



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FOCUS ON UNDERSTANDING . . .

Student-Friendly Chapter Features

Provide the tools for understanding

Key Terms for each chapter are defined on the opening page.

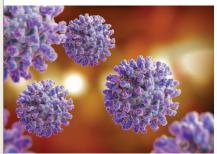
Share the history

A Glimpse of History opens each chapter, featuring engaging stories about the men and women who pioneered the field of microbiology.

Define the expectations

Learning outcomes are found at the beginning of each numbered section, allowing organization, evaluation, and assessment of instruction.

Nervous System Infections



A Glimpse of History

Today it is hard to appreciate the fear and loathing once attached to leprosy (lepros, meaning "scaly"). Many historical and religious texts refer to several disfiguring skin diseases, including leprosy, and portray those suffering from the diseases as unclean and sinful. Lepers were regularly segregated from mainstream society.

Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen (1841–1912) was a Norwegian

physician with many interests, ranging from science to religion to polar exploration. After graduating from medical school, he went to work with Dr. Daniel C. Danielson, a leading authority on leprosy. Danielson believed that leprosy was a hereditary disease and considered the idea that it was contagious to be a "peasant superstition." Hansen, howe disproved Danielson's hypothesis in careful studies conducted over a number of years. He found a unique bacterium associated with the dis-

number of years. He found a unique bacterium associated with the dis-asea in every leprosy patient he studied. His 18173 report of the findings marked the first time that a specific bacterium was linked to a disease— almost a decade before Koch's proof of the cause of tuberculosis. In the United States, even during the first half of the twentieth century, people diagnosed with leproyr risked having their houses burned to destroy the source of infection. Their names were changed to avoid embarrassing their families, and they were sent to a leprosarium such as the one at Carville, Louisiana, which was surrounded by a 12-foot fence topped with barbed wire. Sufferers were separated from spouses and children and were denied the right to marry or vote. Those who tried to escape were captured and brought back in hand-cuffs. The Carville leprosarium was finally closed and converted to a military-style academy in 1999.

KEY TERMS

Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Fluid

Because the word *leprosy* carries centuries of grim overtones, many people prefer to use the term *Hansen's disease*, a name that honors the discoverer of the causative bacterium. Today, the disease can be treated.

ervous system infections are frightening. They threaten a person's ability to move, feel, or even think. Consider poliomyelitis, which can result in a paralyzed limb or the inability to breathe without mechanical assistance. Hansen's disease (leprosy) can result in loss of fingers or toes or deformity of the face. Infections of the brain ringers or uses or tectoring you the fact. Interculs of in the one is covering membranes can render a child deaf or intellectually disabled. Before the discovery of antibiotics, bacterial infections of the nervous system were often fatal. Fortunately, these infections are uncommon.

26.1 Anatomy, Physiology, and **Ecology of the Nervous System**

- 2. Differentiate between the central nervous system and the
- peripheral nervous system.
- Explain how bone, cerebrospinal fluid, meninges, and the blood-brain barrier protect the central nervous system.

Nerve cells work together, transmitting electrical impulses throughout the body like a highly sophisticated circuit board. Each nerve cell, or neuron, has three functionally distinct regions: (1) branching projections called dendrites, (2) the cell

Assess understanding

A MicroAssessment at the end of each numbered section summarizes the concepts and includes review questions, usually featuring one that stimulates critical thinking (indicated by a light bulb icon).

MicroAssessment 3.2

Peptidoglycan is a molecule unique to bacteria that provides strength to the cell wall. The Gram-positive cell wall is composed of a relatively thick layer of peptidoglycan as well as teichoic acids. Gram-negative cell walls have a thin layer of peptidoglycan and a lipopolysaccharide-containing outer membrane Penicillin and lysozyme interfere with the structural integrity of peptidoglycan. Mycoplasma species lack a cell wall. Archaea have a variety of cell wall types

- **4.** What is the significance of lipid A?
- 5. How does the action of penicillin differ from that of
- 6. Explain why penicillin kills only actively multiplying cells, whereas lysozyme kills cells in any stage of growth.

Engage the reader

MicroBytes found throughout the chapter provide small "bytes" of information, capturing the reader's attention.

MicroByte

There are more bacteria in just one person's mouth than there are people in the world!



Highlight the relevance

Focus on a Case boxes describe realistic clinical, veterinary, or environmental situations, along with questions and discussions designed to highlight the relevance of the information.

Provide perspective

Focus Your Perspective boxes show how microorganisms and their products influence our lives in many different ways.

Introduce the concepts

Focus on a Disease boxes introduce a general category of disease (pneumonia, diarrheal disease, meningitis, sexually transmitted infections), giving students a framework for understanding specific diseases.

Inspire the learner

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Focus on the Future boxes describe pending challenges facing current and future microbiologists.

- Summary briefly reviews the key points.
- Short Answer questions review major chapter concepts.
- Multiple Choice questions allow self-testing; answers are provided in Appendix IV.
- Application questions provide an opportunity to use knowledge of microbiology to solve real-world problems.
- Critical Thinking questions encourage practice in analysis and problem solving that can be used by the student in any subject.

A 9-year-old boy with cystic fibrosis—
agenctic disease that causes a number of
problems, including the buildup of thick,
sticky mucus in the lungs—complained
of feeling tired, out of breath, and always
coughing. When his mother took him to
the doctor, she mentioned that his cough
was productive complained by the complained
of feeling tired, out of breath, and always
coughing. When his mother took him to
the doctor, she mentioned that his cough
was productive complained to the doctor, she produced that his cough
was productive complained to the doctor, she was
particularly concerned that the sputum was
a blue-green color. His doctor immedicallsupergreated a lung infection by Pseudomonas
aeringinous—a common complication of
cystic fibrosis. A sputum sample was collected and sent to the clinical laboratory.
In the clinical laboratory, the sample was
plated outon MacConley agar and blood agar
and incubated. Mucoid colonies surrounded
agar media. The colonies on MacGonkey had
no pink coloration, so the medical technologist concluded that the cells did not ferment
lactors. She noted the blue-green color on the

CUS YOUR PRESPECTIVE 9.1

e COVID-19 Response—The Power of Biotechnology

The COVID-19 Response—The Power of Biotechnology

The COVID-19 responses—The Power of Biotechnology
The COVID-19 response serves as an excellent illustration of the power of hiotechnology. Because of several of the technologies
described in this chapter, the pandemic's
global outcome—although devastating—
resulted in fewer deaths than many feared
or predicted.

SARS-CO-V.2, the virus that causes
COVID-19, has an RNA genome. If a
researcher needs a DNA copy of that
genome, the enzyme reverse transcriptase
is used to make dDNA. When the virus was
first discovered in Chain, a dDNA copy
that dependence was then shared with scicutists around the world, initiating what
became a global effort to control the disease.

A

EOCULS ON PREMICONIA

Pneumonia is a disease of the lower respiratory tract caused by bacterial, viral, or fungal infection of the lungs. An inflammatory response to the infection generally results in the abeoli (air sacs) of the lungs filling with fluids such as pus and blood. Pneumonia is the leading cause of death due to infectious disease in the United States.

United States.

Signs and Symptoms

The signs and symptoms of pneumonia generally include cough, chills, shortness of breath, fever, and chest pain. In severe cases, the patient may develop cyanosis (bluish skin color) due to poor blood oxygenation. Pneumonia ranges from mild to life-threatening, depending largely on the causative agent but also on any underlying health problems of the patient. It is often accompanied by a productive cough, meaning that a pus- and mucus-containing fluid called sputum comes up from the lungs.

Some pathogens cause what are referred to as atypical pneu-

destroy invading microbes cannot effectively eliminate the pathogen initially. Once opsonizing antibodies are produced during a B-cell response, however, phagocytes can remove the microbes. The damage from pneumonia is largely a result of the inflammatory response. As the capillaries become leady during inflammation, fluids collect in the alveoli and interfere with O₂ and CO₂ exchange. In addition, phagocytes and other leukocytes are recruited to the site of infection, and mucus production increases. Accumulating leukocytes and mucus create a thick substance that may clog the alveoli, a condition called consolidation. Consolidation is most common in severe bacterial pneumonia. The inflammatory response seen in severe pneumonia often affects nerve endings in the pleura, causing pain.

Epidemiology

Epidemiology

Pneumonias are often categorized as either community-acquired, meaning that they develop in members of the general public, or in hospital ystem. Some

throat secre-ias (HCAPs)

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE 20.1

The Race to Develop COVID-19 Treatme

investigational drugs for new therapeutic uses. Approved drugs are those that have undergone the testing required for the US. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to authorize marketing of the drug; investigational drugs are experimental drugs that the FDA has authorized for testing in humans. The repurposing options considered for COVID-19 treatments included not just antiviral drugs, but also medications to control the infection-induced cytokine storm and other damaging immume responses. An anotomous advantage of a repurposed drug is that it has already gone through clinical trials to

Almost immediately after the emergence of the disease now called COVID-19, scientists raced to identify the functions and 3-dimensional strong for the disease are of the related virus, SARS-COV). Armed with that information, other scientists then worked towards designing small molecules that spe-cifically block a given protein's function. The virus can potentially mutate to develop resistance to a single medication, however, so a variety of drugs, each interfering with a different target, will likely be required. The SARS-CoV-2-specific medications are still early in the development stages at the time of this writing, but their targets are in some of the same categories as those of other antiviral medications:

various inhibitors that target the viral replication machinery are being developed. Some are nucleoside and nucleotide analogs, but finding effective various of these is complicated by the nucleotide analogs, but finding effective versions of those is complicated by the fact that the replicase of SARS-GoV2 has proofreading ability, which is unusual among RNA viruses. Thus, if the SARS-GoV2 replicase incorporates an analog during RNA synthesis, the proofreading function might recognize and remove that analog, thereby avoiding production of a defective RNA molecule. Another potential SARS-GoV2 target is a protein complex that adds a 5' cap to viral RNA to make it

Review the information

End-of-chapter review encourages students to revisit the information.

Build the story

Logical chapter order helps students understand and connect the concepts.



The Pathogens Fight Back Pathogenesis (part of chapter 16) Adaptive immunity (chapter 15) FIGURE 17.1 The Host-Pathogen Trilogy How does immunization prevent disease

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FOCUS ON UNDERSTANDING . . .

Student-Friendly Descriptions

Include analogies

WHY? Analogies provide students a comfortable framework for making sense of difficult topics. Here's an example from chapter 14.

Innate Immunity The innate immune system has three general components: first-line defenses, sensor systems, and innate effector actions. As a useful analogy, think of the defense systems of a high-security building or compound: The first-line defenses are the security walls surrounding the property; the sensor systems are the security cameras scattered throughout the property, monitoring the environment for signs of invasion; and the effector actions are the security teams sent to remove any invaders that have been detected, thereby eliminating the threat (figure 14.1a).



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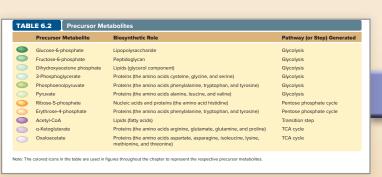
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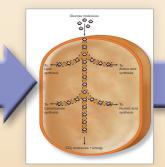


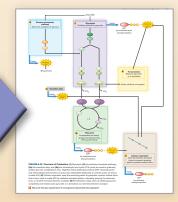
Moodboard/Brand X Pictures/Getty Images

Emphasize the logic

WHY? Descriptions that emphasize the logic of processes make it easier for students to understand and retain the information. Here's an example from chapter 6.







Introduce the players Certain intermediates of catabolic pathways can be used in anabolic pathways; therefore they link these two types of pathways. These intermediates—precursor metabolites—serve as carbon skeletons from which subunits of macromolecules can be made (table 6.2).

Reinforce the concept A cell's metabolic pathways make it easy for that cell to use glucose for multiple purposes. Think of the cells as extensive biological recycling centers that routinely process millions of glucose molecules (figure 6.9). Molecules that remain on the central deconstruction line are oxidized completely to CO₂, releasing the maximum amount of energy. Some breakdown intermediates, however, can exit that line to be used in biosynthesis.

Put the pieces together Three key metabolic pathways—the central metabolic pathways—gradually oxidize glucose to CO₂, as described by the following general reaction (figure 6.10):

 $C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6 O_2 \longrightarrow 6 CO_2 + 6 H_2O$ (glucose) (oxygen) (carbon dioxide) (water)

The pathways are catabolic, but the precursor metabolites and reducing power they generate can also be diverted for use in biosynthesis.



Student-Friendly Disease Presentations

Help students think like experts

Within each body system chapter, diseases are separated by major taxonomic category (bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa). This organization reflects a major consideration with respect to treatment options, an important consideration for students going into healthcare-related fields.



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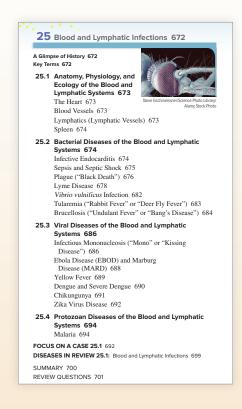
Summarize each disease's characteristics

Summary tables serve as brief reminders of the important features of each disease. Major diseases are represented with an enhanced summary table that includes an outline of the disease process keyed to a human figure, showing the entry and exit of the pathogen.

Review the diseases as a group

Each disease chapter ends with a table that summarizes the key features of the diseases discussed in that chapter.





Provide a consistent conceptual framework

Disease discussions are separated into consistent subsections, providing a conceptual framework and breaking the material into "bite-sized" pieces.

| Posniratory Syston | m Discosos | | |
|--|--|---|--------------|
| Respiratory System Diseases | | | |
| Disease | Causative Agent | Comment | Summary Tabl |
| BACTERIAL INFECTIONS OF 1 | THE UPPER RESPIRATORY TR. | ACT | |
| Conjunctivitis (pink eye), otitis media (earache), sinus infection | Usually Hoemophilus influenzae or Streptococcus pneumoniae | Often occur together; factors involved in the transmission are unknown. | |
| Streptococcal pharyngitis ("strep throat") | Streptococcus pyogenes (group A streptococcus) | Treated with antibiotics, partly to avoid sequelae; must be distinguished from viral pharyngitis, which cannot be treated with antibiotics. | Table 21.3 |
| Diphtheria | Corynebacterium diphtheriae | Toxin-mediated disease characterized by pseudomembrane in the upper respiratory tract. Preventable by vaccination. | Table 21.4 |
| VIRAL INFECTIONS OF THE U | PPER RESPIRATORY TRACT | | |
| Common cold | Rhinoviruses and other viruses | Runny nose, sore throat, and cough are due to the inflammatory response and cell destruction. | Table 21.5 |
| Adenovirus pharyngitis | Adenoviruses | Similar to the common cold but with fever; spread to the lower respiratory tract can result in severe disease. | Table 21.6 |
| BACTERIAL INFECTIONS OF 1 | THE LOWER RESPIRATORY TR | ACT | |
| Pneumococcal pneumonia | Streptococcus pneumoniae | Organism common in the throat of healthy people; causes disease when mucociliary escalator is impaired or with underlying conditions. Vaccine that protects against multiple strains is available. | Table 21.7 |
| Klebsiella pneumonia | Klebsiella species, commonly K. pneumoniae | Common hospital-acquired bacterium; characterized by thick, bloody, jelly-like sputum. Drug resistance is a major problem. | Table 21.7 |
| Mycoplasmal pneumonia ("walking pneumonia") | Mycoplasma pneumoniae | Relatively mild pneumonia; common among college students and military recruits. Cannot be treated with medications that inhibit cell wall synthesis. | Table 21.7 |
| Pertussis ("whooping cough") | Bordetella pertussis | Characterized by frequent violent coughing. Preventable by vaccination. | Table 21.8 |
| Tuberculosis ("TB") | Mycobacterium tuberculosis | Most infections result in latent suberculosis infection (LTBI), but these can reactivate to cause tuberculosis disease (TB disease). Treated using combination drug therapy, but drug resistance is an increasing problem. | Table 21.9 |
| Legionnaires' disease | Legionella pneumophila | Transmitted via aerosolized water drops; smokers and those with impaired defenses are most at risk of developing disease. | Table 21.10 |
| Inhalation anthrax | Bacillus anthracis | Rare zoonotic disease; may be associated with bioterrorism; high case-fatality rate. | Table 21.11 |
| VIRAL INFECTIONS OF THE L | OWER RESPIRATORY TRACT | | |
| Influenza ("flu") | Influenza viruses | New vaccine developed yearly; viruses change seasonally due to antigenic drift; antigenic shifts cause pandemics. | Table 21.12 |
| Respiratory syncytial virus infections | RSV | Serious disease in infants, young children, and the elderly. | Table 21.13 |
| COVID-19, SARS and MERS | Coronaviruses | Emerging infectious diseases characterized by severe lower respiratory symptoms; zoonotic | Table 21.14 |
| Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome | Hantaviruses | Acquired via inhaled dust contaminated with rodent saliva, urine, or feces. Frequently fatal. | Table 21.15 |
| FUNGAL INFECTIONS OF THE | RESPIRATORY TRACT | | |
| Coccidioidomycosis ("valley fever") | Coccidioides immitis and C. posadasii | Environmental reservoir (soil in semi-arid desert areas); most infections are asymptomatic. | Table 21.16 |
| Histoplasmosis ("spelunker's disease") | Histoplasma capsulatum | Environmental reservoir (bat droppings and soil enriched with bird droppings); most infections are asymptomatic. | Table 21.17 |
| Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP) | Pneumocystis jirovecii (formerly carinii) | Organism is an opportunistic fungus that causes serious lung disease in immunocompromised people, such as those with HIV/AIDS. | Table 21.18 |

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Global Changes

- Added information about COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2, including the following boxes:
 - Focus Your Perspective 9.1 (*The COVID-19 Response—The Power of Biotechnology*)
 - Focus on a Case 13.1
 - Focus on the Future 20.1 (*The Race to Develop COVID-19 Treatments*)
 - Focus Your Perspective 21.1 (A Global Lesson in Microbiology: The COVID-19 Pandemic)
- Updated disease statistics, vaccine recommendations, treatments, and terminology
- Rearranged some content to improve flow in the digital text (the information most relevant to a particular figure is now in the paragraph immediately preceding the figure, and summary tables have been moved to the end of the coverage)
- Converted many of the descriptions that support multistep figures to bullet lists that correspond to the steps
- Continued "wordsmithing" to improve the clarity and readability of the descriptions

Key Changes in Individual Chapters

Chapter 1 – Humans and the Microbial World

- Added SARS-CoV-2 and *Candida auris* to the section on emerging pathogens
- Added the African swine fever to the list of epidemics in non-human populations
- Expanded the coverage of the human microbiome
- Defined the term *strain*
- Moved the information about bacterial cell shape from chapter 3 to section 1.3
- Added a MicroByte about the Microbiome Conservancy collecting/storing fecal samples from populations around the world

Chapter 2 – The Molecules of Life

- Consolidated and expanded the information on water's characteristics
- Added a subsection on short-chain fatty acids, to allow a description of butyrate

- Added a description of waxes
- Described the distinction between a Lewis symbol and a Lewis structure
- Rearranged the three-part figure showing DNA
- Added a MicroByte on the use of artificial intelligence and a video game to determine protein folding

Chapter 3 – Cells and Methods to Observe Them

- Rearranged the chapter sections so that cell structure and function is discussed before microscopy and staining methods; revised the chapter title to reflect the change
- Revised the coverage of active transport systems to place more emphasis on the concept rather than the different types
- Updated the section on gas vesicles to include information about other protein-based compartments (bacterial microcompartments and encapsulin nanocompartments)
- Introduced the term *archaellum*
- Described periplasm in Gram-positive cells
- Moved the information about bacterial cell shape to chapter 1

Chapter 4 – Dynamics of Microbial Growth

■ Introduced the term *contact-dependent growth inhibition*

Chapter 5 – Control of Microbial Growth

- Combined the physical methods of microbial control into one section
- Expanded the discussion of biosafety levels
- Added the recent FDA rulings that limit the use of many previously allowed ingredients in antiseptic lotions until they are shown to be safe and effective

Chapter 6 – Microbial Metabolism: Fueling Cell Growth

- Rearranged the information about energy sources and terminal electron acceptors so that the more conceptually simple information comes first.
- Revised tables 6.2 (Precursor Metabolites) and 6.4 (Some Vitamins and Their Use in Coenzymes)
- Added new figure (6.11) to emphasize the difference in energy yield between aerobic respiration and fermentation

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- Simplified the detailed discussion of the central metabolic pathways
- Simplified the discussion of photosynthesis

Chapter 7 – The Blueprint of Life, from DNA to Protein

- Combined the subsections that describe DNA replication
- Added a MicroByte about the target of the new influenza medication (baloxavir marboxil)
- Added a MicroByte about the first approved RNAi-based medication
- Split the figure that illustrates the process of translation to emphasize its three phases (initiation, elongation, and termination; now figures 7.5–7.17)

Chapter 8 – Bacterial Genetics

- Changed the term *silent mutation* to *synonymous mutation*, and explained that this type of mutation is not always silent
- Changed the term *DNA-mediated transformation* to *bacterial transformation*
- Broadened the coverage of section 8.10 (now "Genome Variability") and added the term *pan-genome*
- Simplified the format of the end-of-chapter multiple choice questions

Chapter 9 - Biotechnology

- Added a new Focus Your Perspective Box: *The COVID-19 Response—The Power of Biotechnology*
- Emphasized the importance of CRISPR-Cas technologies by creating a numbered section (section 9.3); the expanded coverage includes a description of a rapid COVID-19 diagnostic test that relies on the technologies
- Expanded the chapter introduction to emphasize the applications of biotechnology
- Added a MicroByte about a bacterial enzyme engineered to efficiently break down a common type of plastic
- Changed the title of section 9.2 to "Molecular Cloning" (was "Genetic Engineering") to reflect a more narrow focus
- Added a simplified view of the cloning process (in a bullet list format) that matches figure 9.4
- Converted the description of vectors to a bullet list that matches figure 9.6 (was 9.8)
- Converted the description of how a PCR product is generated to a bullet list that matches figure 9.13 (was 9.17)
- Deleted the section on the dideoxy chain termination method of DNA sequencing
- Updated the Focus On the Future box by changing the name of the initiative described to *All of Us*

Chapter 10 – Identifying and Classifying Microorganisms

- Updated information about the new online *Bergey's Manual of Systematics of Archaea and Bacteria*
- Changed the example of nomenclature change to *Cuti-bacterium acnes*

Chapter 11 – The Diversity of Bacteria and Archaea

■ Added information about the release of *Wolbachia*-infected mosquitoes as a means to prevent mosquito-borne diseases

Chapter 12 – The Eukaryotic Members of the Microbial World

- Extensive revision, including new photographs throughout; moved the section on protozoa forward, and increased the medical emphasis throughout
- Expanded the discussion of the difficulties of classification
- Added a disease-based grouping of fungi
- Added information about the spread of a fungal disease that destroys banana plants
- Expanded the discussion of medically important protozoa
- Added a figure that illustrates the origin of chloroplasts through primary endosymbiosis
- Simplified the figure that illustrates phylogenetic groups of eukaryotes (now figure 12.18)

Chapter 13 – Viruses, Viroids, and Prions

- Changed the topic of the Focus on a Case box to COVID-19
- Updated viral taxonomy
- Added *Pneumoviridae* to table 13.1
- Bulleted the steps of the lytic bacteriophage life cycle to match figure 13.5
- Bulleted the steps of specialized transduction to match figure 13.9
- Split the figure showing replication strategies of animal viruses into three separate figures for clarity (now figures 13.12–13.14)
- Updated information on viruses and human tumors to include oncogenic and oncolytic viruses
- Added Focus on the Future 13.1: *The Potential of Phage Therapy*

Chapter 14 – The Innate Immune Response

■ Modified and updated the descriptions of granulocytes, particularly neutrophils



- Expanded the information on cell types to increase the emphasis on mast cells
- Updated the information on macrophages to indicate that tissue-resident macrophages can self-renew
- Separated the description of inflammation into vascular changes and cellular changes
- Expanded the discussion on damaging effects of inflammation
- Added necroptosis to the paragraph that describes pyroptosis

Chapter 15 – The Adaptive Immune Response

- Extensive revision; reorganized the chapter to create a more linear flow (T cells and their activation are now described before B cells)
- Expanded and rearranged the overview to reflect the new chapter organization
- Expanded the discussion of immune tolerance to distinguish between central tolerance and peripheral tolerance

Chapter 16 – Host-Microbe Interactions

- Increased the emphasis on the importance of butyrate on intestinal barrier functions
- Revised the discussion of Koch's postulates

Chapter 17 – Applications of Immune Responses

- Moved the chapter forward (was chapter 18) so that monoclonal antibodies could be described before the chapter that mentions their use in allergy therapies.
- Added a section on immunotherapies (section 17.3), particularly focusing on the new cancer therapies (checkpoint inhibitors and CAR T cells)
- Added the new the dengue disease vaccine to table 17.5
- Added information about the new combination vaccine that includes HepB

Chapter 18 – Immunological Disorders

- Bulleted the steps involved in type I hypersensitivities to match the accompanying figure
- Updated information on type II hypersensitivities
- Updated the information on immune disorder treatments, including adding information on immunotherapy
- Eliminated the section on treatment of autoimmune diseases, and instead describe the treatments in the context of the respective conditions
- Added a MicroByte on the Neurological Conditions Surveillance System (NNCSS)

Chapter 19 - Epidemiology

- Added COVID-19 as an example of the significance of asymptomatic infections in the spread of a disease
- Changed the MicroByte in section 19.1 to mention the secondary attack rate of measles
- Added measles to the factors that contribute to disease emergence
- Updated table of notifiable infectious diseases
- Updated the description of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*
- Added the URL for the CDC's National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)
- Added COVID-19 and *Candida auris* infection to the section on emerging diseases

Chapter 20 – Antimicrobial Medications

- Added a Focus on the Future Box: *The Race to Develop COVID-19 Treatments*
- Explained that oral administration of poorly absorbed medications is useful for treating intestinal infections
- Added information about the new rifamycin for treating some types of travelers' diarrhea
- Updated the section on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* resistance by adding information about the new combination treatment specifically for XDR-TB
- Updated the table that describes the microorganisms on the CDC's list of antibiotic resistance threats (table 20.2)
- Mentioned the resistance of *Candida auris* in the section on antifungal medications
- Updated the section on antiviral medications by adding a subsection on cap-snatching inhibitors
- Added moxidectin for treating river blindness and triclabendazole for treating liver flukes to table 20.5

Chapter 21 – Respiratory System Infections

- Added a Focus Your Perspective Box: A Global Lesson in Microbiology: The COVID-19 Pandemic
- Expanded the discussion of coronavirus lower respiratory tract infections to include not only SARS and MERS, but also COVID-19
- Updated the information on Group A *Streptococcus* virulence factors to include only those clearly associated with pathogenesis
- Updated the discussion of mycoplasmal pneumonia pathogenesis to include the CARDS toxin, which has been shown to be a key virulence factor
- Changed Legionellosis to Legionnaires' disease to more specifically refer to *Legionella* pneumonia



- Bulleted the discussion of TB pathogenesis to match figure 21.19
- Updated the discussion on the WHO's program to combat TB; also introduced the newly FDA-approved drug trial program for XDR-TB called Nix-TB
- Updated the pathogenesis discussion on several viral diseases, including the common cold, adenovirus respiratory infections, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome
- Updated the classification of influenza viruses to include influenza D; updated the influenza strain nomenclature to be more in line with the CDC and WHO; introduced the new anti-influenza medication baloxavir
- Updated the information on RSV classification, pathogenesis, and treatment

Chapter 22 – Skin Infections

- Added new bullet list of characteristic skin lesions and rashes, including descriptions and disease examples
- Expanded the section on acne
- Added disease summary tables for acne and hair follicle infections
- Expanded the information on impetigo
- Added information about hand-foot-and-mouth disease (HFMD)

Chapter 23 – Wound Infections

- Added a new part to figure 23.9 to illustrate the mechanism of tetanospasmin
- Reduced the coverage of streptobacillary rat bite fever, assigning it to a new section called *Other Bacterial Bite Wound Infections*

Chapter 24 – Digestive System Infections

- Added a MicroByte on the Global Microbiome Conservancy to section 24.1
- Updated the information on dental caries and modified the accompanying figure
- Updated Focus on a Case 24.1 to reflect diagnosis of *H. pylori* infections by the urea breath test
- Changed the heading *Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers* to *Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)*

Chapter 25 – Blood and Lymphatic Infections

■ Revised the section on sepsis and simplified the accompanying figure

- Updated the information on different forms of tularemia
- Updated and explained the evolving terminology of Ebola disease and Marburg disease
- Updated the terminology by changing *dengue fever* to *dengue* and *severe dengue*
- Added a description of how *Wolbachia*-infected mosquitoes can be used to control dengue and other mosquitoborne diseases

Chapter 26 – Nervous System Infections

- Changed the heading "Viral Encephalitis" to "West Nile and Other Types of Viral Encephalitis," and put the focus on West Nile encephalitis
- Changed the MicroByte topic in section 26.3 to acute flaccid myelitis (AFM)
- Updated the information on African trypanosomiasis (African sleeping sickness)

Chapter 27 – Genitourinary Tract Infections

- Updated the coverage of leptospirosis
- Updated Focus Your Perspective 27.1 and changed the title to "Conquering Syphilis"
- Added information about a new monoclonal antibody approved for use as a component of antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- Updated the information on HIV disease
- Removed tables 27.16 (People at Increased Risk for HIV Disease) and 27.18 (Behaviors that Help Control an AIDS Epidemic)

Chapter 28 – Microbial Ecology

- Added the definition of oligotroph
- Revised the section on mycorrhiza; added the terms *arbuscular mycorrhiza* and *Hartig net*, as well as information about fungal networks
- Add a MicroByte to section 28.6 about corn that produces syrup-coated aerial roots to nourish nitrogen-fixing bacteria

Chapter 29 – Environmental Microbiology: Treatment of Water, Wastes, and Polluted Habitats

■ Expanded the description of MUG/ONPG

Chapter 30 - Food Microbiology

■ Bulleted the descriptions that support figures 30.4 and 30.5



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Acknowledgments

First and foremost, special thanks goes to Gene Nester, the leader of the team that wrote the first version of what became Microbiology, A Human Perspective. His efforts helped pioneer a new type of introductory microbiology textbook, designed specifically for students entering healthcare-related fields. This edition proudly builds on that original vision.

We would also like to thank the reviewers and other instructors who guided us as we developed this edition, as well as those whose input has helped the text evolve over the years. Deciding what to eliminate, what to add, and what to rearrange is always difficult, so we appreciate your suggestions.

Past students have been incredibly helpful as well. Every question helps us decide which parts of the textbook need more clarification, and every compliment lets us know when we're on the right track.

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We hope that this text will be interesting and educational for students and helpful to instructors. Our goal is excellence, so with that in mind we would appreciate any comments and suggestions from our readers.

> Denise Anderson Sarah Salm

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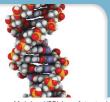
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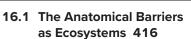
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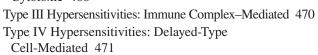
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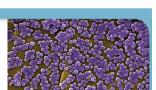
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Source: Janice Carr/CDC

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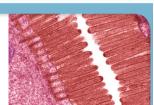
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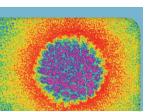
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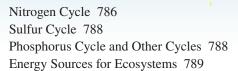
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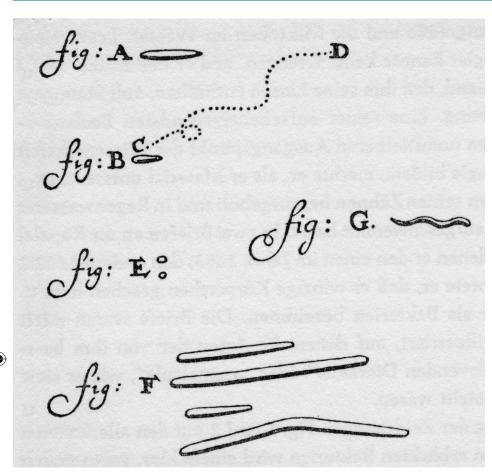




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Humans and the Microbial World



Drawings that van Leeuwenhoek made in 1683 of microorganisms he saw through his single-lens microscope. He also observed organism B moving from position C to D. (INTERFOTO/Alamv. Stock Photo)

A Glimpse of History

Microbiology as a science was born in 1674 when Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, an inquisitive Dutch fabric merchant, looked at a drop of lake water through a glass lens he had carefully made. Although many people before him had used curved glass to magnify objects, Leeuwenhoek's skilled hands made a lens that uncovered a startling and amazing sight—the world of microbes. As van Leeuwenhoek wrote in a letter to the Royal Society of London, he saw

Very many little animalcules, whereof some were roundish, while others a bit bigger consisted of an oval. On these last, I saw two little legs near the head, and two little fins at the hind most end of the body. Others were somewhat longer than an oval, and these were very slow a-moving, and few in number. These animalcules had diverse colours, some being whitish and transparent; others with green and very glittering little scales, others again were green in the middle, and before and behind white;

KEY TERMS

Domain The highest level in biological classification. There are three domains: Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukarya.

Eukaryote Organism composed of one or more eukaryotic cells; members of the domain Eukarya are eukaryotes.

Eukaryotic Cell Cell type characterized by a membrane-bound nucleus

Prion An acellular infectious agent consisting only of protein.

Prokaryote Single-celled organism consisting of a prokaryotic cell; members of the domains Bacteria and Archaea are prokaryotes.

Prokaryotic Cell Cell type characterized by the lack of a membrane-bound nucleus.

Viroid An acellular infectious agent consisting only of RNA.

Virus An acellular infectious agent consisting of nucleic acid surrounded by a protein coat.

others yet were ashed grey. And the motion of most of these animalcules in the water was so swift, and so various, upwards, downwards, and round about, that 'twas wonderful to see.

Before van Leeuwenhoek made these observations, Robert Hooke, an English microscopist, saw another kind of microorganism. In 1665, he described what he called a "microscopical mushroom." His drawing was so accurate that his specimen could later be identified as a common bread mold. Hooke also described how to make the kind of microscope that van Leeuwenhoek constructed almost 10 years later. Both men deserve equal credit for revealing the world of microbes—a world you are about to study.

icrobiology is the study of an amazing world made up of members too small to be seen without the aid of a microscope. Antonie van Leeuwenhoek described this world when he observed what he called "animalcules" through his simple microscope (**figure 1.1**). What he saw were **microorganisms** (organisms too small to see with the naked eye), including bacteria, protozoa, and some fungi and algae. The microbial world also includes viruses and other infectious agents that are not considered organisms because they are not composed of cells; they are acellular. When referring to general members of the microbial world, the term **microbe** is often used.

Microorganisms are the foundation for all life on Earth. They have existed on this planet for about 3.5 billion years, and over this time, plants, animals, and modern microorganisms have evolved from them. Even today, they continue to be a driving force in the evolution of all living things. Microorganisms may be small, but as you are about to learn, our life depends on their activities.





FIGURE 1.1 Model of van Leeuwenhoek's Microscope The original made in 1673 could magnify an object almost 300 times. The object is brought into focus with the adjusting screws. Tetra Images/Alamy Stock Photo

What kinds of organisms did van Leeuwenhoek observe through his microscope?

1.1 ■ The Dispute over Spontaneous Generation

Learning Outcomes

2

- 1. Describe the key experiments of scientists who disproved spontaneous generation.
- **2.** Explain how the successful challenge to the idea of spontaneous generation led to the Golden Age of Microbiology.
- **3.** Describe the scientific method, using Pasteur's swan-necked flask experiment as an example.

The discovery of microorganisms in various specimens raised an interesting question: "Where did these microscopic forms originate?" Some people believed that worms and other life-forms arise from non-living material in a process known as **spontaneous generation.** This was challenged by an Italian biologist and physician, Francesco Redi. In 1668, he used a simple experiment to show that worms found on rotting meat originated from fly eggs, not from the decaying meat as supporters of spontaneous generation believed. In his experiment, Redi covered the meat with fine gauze that prevented flies from depositing their eggs; when he did this, no worms appeared. Despite Redi's work, it took more than 200 years and many experiments to amass conclusive evidence that microorganisms did not arise by spontaneous generation.

Early Experiments

In 1749, John Needham, a scientist and Catholic priest, showed that flasks containing various broths (made by soaking a nutrient source such as hay or chicken in water) gave rise to microorganisms even when the flasks were boiled and sealed with a

cork. At that time, brief boiling was thought to kill all organisms, so this suggested that microorganisms did indeed arise spontaneously.

In 1776, the animal physiologist and priest Lazzaro Spallanzani obtained results that contradicted Needham's experiments; no bacteria appeared in Spallanzani's broths after boiling. His experiments differed from Needham's in two significant ways: Spallanzani boiled the broths for longer periods, and he sealed the flasks by melting their glass necks closed. Using these techniques, he repeatedly demonstrated that broths remained sterile (free of microorganisms). However, if the neck of the flask cracked, the broth rapidly became cloudy due to the growth of organisms. Spallanzani concluded that microorganisms had entered the broth with the air, and the corks used by Needham and other investigators did not keep them out.

Spallanzani's experiments did not stop the controversy. Some people argued that the heating process destroyed a "vital force" in the air that was necessary for spontaneous generation, and so the debate continued.

Experiments of Pasteur

One giant in science who helped disprove spontaneous generation was Louis Pasteur, the French chemist considered by many to be the father of modern microbiology. In 1861, he did a series of clever experiments. First, he demonstrated that air contains microorganisms. He did this by filtering air through a cotton plug, trapping microorganisms. He then examined the trapped microorganisms with a microscope and found that many looked identical to those described by others who had been studying broths. When Pasteur dropped the cotton plug into a sterilized broth, the broth became cloudy from the growth of these microorganisms.

Most important, Pasteur demonstrated that sterile broths in specially constructed swan-necked flasks remained sterile even when left open to air (**figure 1.2**). Microorganisms from the air settled in the bends of the flask necks, never reaching the broth. Only when the flasks were tipped would microorganisms enter the broth and grow. Pasteur's simple and elegant experiments ended the arguments that unheated air or the broths themselves contained a "vital force" necessary for spontaneous generation. They led to the theory of **biogenesis**, the production of living things from other living things (*bio* means "life"; *genesis* means "to create").

Experiments of Tyndall

Although most scientists were convinced by Pasteur's experiments, some remained skeptical because they could not reproduce his results. An English physicist, John Tyndall, finally explained the conflicting data and, in turn,



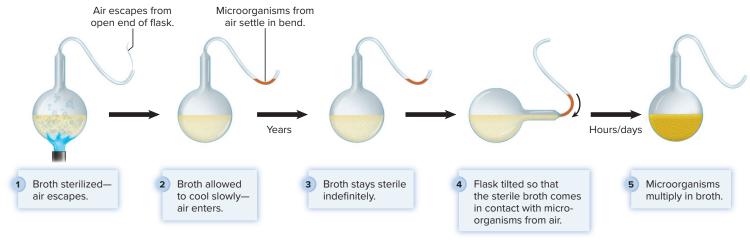


FIGURE 1.2 Pasteur's Experiment with the Swan-Necked Flask

How did this experiment end arguments that a "vital force" in the air was necessary for spontaneous generation?

showed that Pasteur was correct. Tyndall found that various types of broths required different boiling times to be sterilized. Some were sterilized by boiling for 5 minutes, whereas others, most notably broths made from hay, still contained living microorganisms even after boiling for 5 hours! Even when hay was merely present in the laboratory, broths that had previously been sterilized by boiling for 5 minutes could not be sterilized by boiling for several hours. What was going on? Tyndall finally realized that the hay contained heat-resistant forms of microorganisms. When hay was brought into the laboratory, dust particles must have transferred these heat-resistant forms to the broths. Tyndall concluded that some microorganisms exist in two forms: a cell easily killed by boiling, and one that is heat resistant. In the same year (1876), a German botanist, Ferdinand Cohn, discovered endospores, the heat-resistant forms of some bacteria.

The extreme heat resistance of endospores explains the differences between Pasteur's results and those of other investigators. Organisms that produce endospores are commonly found in the soil and were likely present in broths made from hay. Pasteur used only broths made with sugar or yeast extract, so his experiments probably did not have endospores. Scientists at the time did not appreciate the importance of the source of the broth, but in hindsight, the source was critical. This points out an important lesson for all scientists: When repeating an experiment, all conditions must be reproduced as closely as possible. What may seem like a trivial difference might be extremely important.

The Golden Age of Microbiology

The work of Pasteur and others in disproving spontaneous generation started an era called the Golden Age of Microbiology, during which time the field of microbiology blossomed. Many important advances were made during this period, including discoveries that led to the acceptance of the suggestion that microorganisms cause certain diseases, a principle now called the Germ Theory of Disease.

Figure 1.3 lists some of the important advances in microbiology made over the years in the context of other historical events. Rather than cover more history now, we will return to many of these milestones in brief stories called "A Glimpse of History" that open each chapter.

The Scientific Method

The dispute over spontaneous generation offers an excellent example of the process of science. This process, called the **scientific method**, separates science from intuition and beliefs. The scientific method involves a series of steps, including:

- Making an observation and asking a question about that situation. An example from this chapter was the observation that microorganisms were present in various examined specimens. This observation led to the question, "Where did the microorganisms originate?"
- Developing an explanation and then devising an experiment that tests the explanation. A testable explanation of an observation is called a hypothesis, and experiments are done to test the hypothesis. The dispute over spontaneous generation led to two opposing hypotheses: biogenesis and spontaneous generation. Various people designed different experiments to test the hypotheses.
- Doing the experiment, collecting the data, and drawing a conclusion. Experiments such as the one illustrated in figure 1.2 provided data about the growth of







4 Chapter 1 Humans and the Microbial World

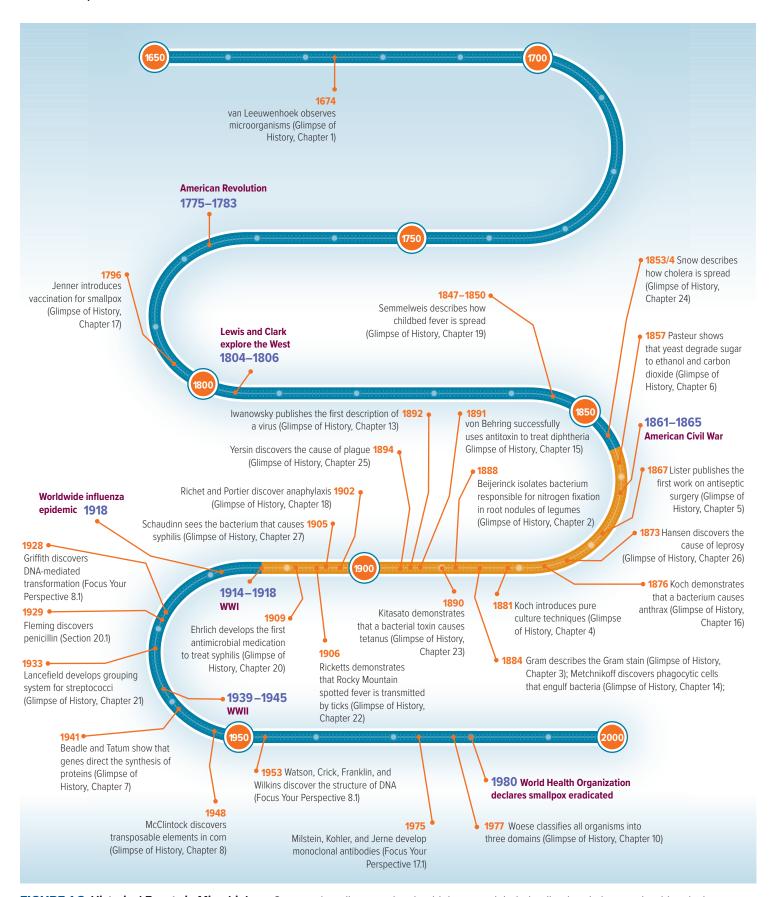


FIGURE 1.3 Historical Events in Microbiology Some major milestones in microbiology—and their timeline in relation to other historical events. The gold band indicates the Golden Age of Microbiology.

? What is the Golden Age of Microbiology?





microorganisms in previously sterile broths. In doing a scientific experiment, a critical component is a **control**. A control helps rule out alternative explanations of the results by showing that the only feature that varied in the experiment was the characteristic being tested. Pasteur's swan-necked flask experiment was brilliantly designed because it provided the following control: After showing that the fluid in the swan-necked flasks remained sterile even when opened to air, he tipped the flasks so that bacteria could enter the fluid. By doing this, he showed that nothing in his original set-up would have prevented bacteria from growing in the broth.

■ Communicating the methods, results, and conclusions. Scientists share their work by publishing it in scientific journals. This step is particularly important because it allows other scientists to repeat the experiment to ensure the validity of the findings. Today, the respected scientific journals use a review process in which other experts in the field read communications before they are published. If deficiencies or flaws are noticed, the reviewers give suggestions for improving the experiments.

When an extensive amount of experimental evidence supports a hypothesis, that explanation may become a scientific **theory**, such as the Germ Theory of Disease. Note that the scientific meaning of the word *theory* is far different from the meaning of the word in common language, which is "a speculation or guess."

As you read the information in this textbook, continually challenge yourself by asking questions about what you have learned. If you find yourself asking a question such as "How does that happen?" try to develop a hypothesis and then devise an experiment. As you do this, consider the controls you could use. Start learning to think like a scientist!

MicroAssessment 1.1

Experiments of Pasteur and Tyndall helped disprove spontaneous generation by showing that life arises from life. Many important discoveries were made during the Golden Age of Microbiology, including ones that led to the acceptance of the Germ Theory of Disease. The scientific method uses experimental evidence, including proper controls, to support or refute hypotheses.

- **1.** Describe Pasteur's experiment that disproved the idea that a "vital force" in air was responsible for spontaneous generation.
- **2.** How is the meaning of the word "theory" in science different from its meaning in everyday conversation?

1.2 Microbiology: A Human Perspective

Learning Outcomes

- **4.** Explain the importance of microorganisms in the health of humans and the surrounding environment.
- **5.** List three commercial benefits of microorganisms.
- **6.** Describe why microorganisms are useful research tools.
- **7.** Describe the role of microbes in disease, including examples of past triumphs and remaining challenges.

Microorganisms have a tremendous impact on all living things. We could not survive without them, and they also make our lives much more comfortable. At the same time, microbes can be harmful, and they have killed far more people than have ever been killed in war.

The Human Microbiome

Your body carries an enormous population of microorganisms tens of trillions of bacterial cells alone. Many sources claim that the body carries 10 times as many microbial cells as human cells, but recent and probably more accurate estimates indicate that the ratio is likely closer to 1:1. Regardless, scientists have known for years that these microorganisms, collectively referred to as the **normal microbiota** or normal flora, play an essential role in human health. For example, they prevent disease by competing with disease-causing microbes, help to degrade foods that the body otherwise could not digest, and promote the development of the immune system. In fact, studies indicate that early exposure to certain common microorganisms lessens the likelihood that an individual will develop allergies, asthma, and some other diseases. According to what is sometimes referred to as the "Old Friends" hypothesis, this early exposure helps the immune system learn to distinguish "friendly" microbes from those that can cause severe disease. In addition, animal studies suggest that the composition of the normal microbiota can affect brain chemistry and behavior, as well as the tendency to gain or lose weight.

The important role of the normal microbiota became even more obvious in recent years, thanks in part to the **Human Microbiome Project.** This coordinated set of studies, started in 2007, used DNA sequencing technologies to characterize the microbial communities that inhabit the human body. The term **microbiome** has two overlapping meanings: (1) the total genetic content of a microbial community and (2) the microbial community itself. While the different meanings might seem confusing, they are actually quite similar because at this point the communities must be examined by studying their genetic material. The reason for this is that less than 1% of microorganisms can currently be grown in the laboratory, so for every microbe that had been studied in the laboratory, more than 99 others can only be characterized using DNA sequencing technologies.





The Human Microbiome Project changed the way scientists view the human body and also revealed how much more there is to discover about our microbial partners. To understand their significance, think of Earth's ecosystems (the environments and their interacting inhabitants). Over time, an interacting assortment of organisms has evolved to live in a given environment, resulting in a relatively stable community. Sudden changes can alter individual populations, often with negative consequences to the community as a whole. In turn, a disturbance in one ecosystem can affect the overall health of the planet. The human body, like a planet, is composed of various ecosystems—for example, the desert-like dry areas of the skin, and the nutrient-rich environment of the intestinal tract. An important part of these ecosystems is a population of interacting microbes. Disturbances in a microbial population can create an imbalance that may have negative consequences to that community, which, in turn, can harm a person's health. Observations such as these have led some scientists to suggest that the human body be considered a superorganism, meaning that our own cells interact with the body's normal microbiota to form a single cooperative unit.

The human microbiome's effect on health and disease is an exciting area of active research, but it is more difficult to understand than it might seem. For example, researchers have found that the intestinal microbiome of people diagnosed with depression differs from those who report a good quality of life, but this correlation could be an effect of mood—perhaps even dietary changes associated with certain moods—rather than a cause. Likewise, bacterial species associated with gum disease have been found in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease, but again, this could be effect rather than cause. Continuing studies aim to clarify the situation.

MicroByte

The Global Microbiome Conservancy is collecting fecal samples from people around the world in an effort to study and preserve the diversity of intestinal bacteria.

Microorganisms in the Environment

Microorganisms are the masters of recycling, and without them we would run out of certain nutrients. For instance, humans and other animals all require nitrogen, an essential part of nucleic acids and proteins. A plentiful source of nitrogen is N_2 —the most common gas in the atmosphere—yet neither plants nor animals can use it. Instead, we depend on certain microbes that convert N_2 into a form of nitrogen that other organisms can use, a process called nitrogen fixation. Without nitrogen-fixing microbes, life as we know it would not exist.

Microorganisms are also important because they can degrade certain materials that other organisms cannot. Cellulose (an important component of plants) is an excellent example. Although humans and other animals cannot digest cellulose, certain microorganisms can, which is why leaves and fallen trees do not pile up in the environment.

Cellulose-degrading microorganisms in the specialized stomach of ruminants (a group of plant-eating animals that includes cattle, sheep, and deer) help those animals digest plant material. Without the assistance of microbes, the ruminants would starve.

In recognition of the important role that microorganisms play in all aspects of life, additional programs promise to expand the scope of existing DNA-based studies. In 2016, the National Microbiome Initiative (NMI) was started to support research on the microbiomes of humans as well as the surrounding environment. Perhaps the most ambitious DNA sequencing program so far is the Earth BioGenome Project, an international effort launched in 2018 to sequence all the known animal, plant, protozoan, and fungal species.

Commercial Benefits of Microorganisms

In addition to the crucial roles microorganisms play in our very existence, they also have made life more comfortable for humans over the centuries.

Food Production

Microorganisms have been used in food production since ancient times. In fact, Egyptians used yeast to make bread and beer. Virtually every population that raised milk-producing animals such as cows and goats also developed procedures to ferment milk. This allowed them to make foods such as yogurt, cheeses, and buttermilk. Today, the bacteria added to some fermented milk products are advertised as probiotics (live microorganisms that provide a health benefit), protecting against digestive disruptions.

Biodegradation

Microorganisms play essential roles in degrading various environmental pollutants. These include materials in wastewater, as well as toxic chemicals in contaminated soil and water. Bacteria also lessen the damage from oil spills. In some cases, microorganisms are added to pollutants to hasten their decay, a process called **bioremediation.**

Commercially Valuable Products from Microorganisms

Microorganisms synthesize a wide variety of commercially valuable products. Examples include: antibiotics used to treat infectious diseases, ethanol used as a biofuel, hydrogen gas and certain oils potentially used as biofuels, amino acids used as dietary supplements, insect toxins used in insecticides, cellulose used in headphones, and polyhydroxybutyrate used in the manufacture of disposable diapers and plastics.

Biotechnology

Biotechnology—the use of microbiological and biochemical techniques to solve practical problems—depends on members of the microbial world. Information learned by studying microorganisms led to easier production of many medications, including the insulin used to treat diabetes. In the past, insulin was isolated from the pancreatic glands of cattle and pigs,



but now certain microorganisms have been genetically engineered to make human insulin. The microbe-produced insulin is easier to obtain, and patients who use it have fewer allergic reactions than occurred with the animal-derived product. Biotechnology also allows scientists to genetically engineer plants to give them desirable qualities.

Microbes as Research Tools

Microorganisms are wonderful model organisms to study because they have the same fundamental metabolic and genetic properties as higher life-forms. All cells are composed of the same chemical elements, and they synthesize their cell structures by similar mechanisms. They all duplicate their DNA, and when they degrade foods to harvest energy, they do so via the same metabolic pathways. To paraphrase a Nobel Prizewinning microbiologist, Dr. Jacques Monod: What is true of elephants is also true of bacteria, and bacteria are much easier to study! In addition, bacteria can be used to obtain results very quickly because they grow rapidly and form billions of cells per milliliter on simple, inexpensive growth media. In fact, most major advances made in the last century toward understanding life have come through the study of microbes.

Microbes and Disease

Although most microbes are beneficial or not harmful, some are **pathogens**, meaning they can cause disease (a noticeable impairment in body function). The disease symptoms can result from damage caused by the pathogen's growth and products or by the body's defense mechanisms inadvertently damaging host tissues during the attempt to control the infection.

To appreciate the effect an infectious disease can have on a population, consider that more Americans died of influenza in 1918–1919 than were killed in World Wars I and II and the Korean, Vietnam, and Iraq wars combined. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the death of more than 1,000,000 people worldwide, including over 200,000 Americans.

Epidemics are not limited to human populations. The great famine in Ireland in the 1800s was due, in part, to a microbial disease of potatoes. A bacterial disease that kills olive trees was found in southern Italy in 2013, and it has since spread to Spain and France, contributing to a recent worldwide drop in olive oil production. A fungal disease called "wheat blast" that devastated wheat crops in South America spread to Bangladesh in 2016, resulting in the loss of over 35,000 acres of crops that year. In 2001, a catastrophic outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease of livestock occurred in parts of England. To contain this viral disease, one of the most contagious known, almost 4 million pigs, sheep, and cattle were destroyed. More recently, over a million pigs in China either died from African swine fever or were killed to contain the disease, and officials in other countries are trying to limit its spread. Meanwhile, frog populations around the world have been decimated by chytridiomycosis, a fungal disease.

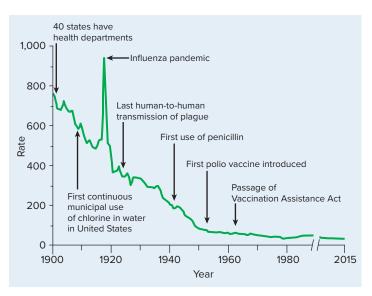


FIGURE 1.4 Trend in Death Rates Due to Infectious Diseases Crude death rate for infectious disease, United States, per 100,000 population per year.

Why would the creation of health departments lower the disease rate?

Past Triumphs

The Golden Age of Microbiology included an important period when scientists learned a great deal about pathogens. Between 1876 and 1918, most pathogenic bacteria were identified, and early work on viruses had begun. Once people realized that microbes could cause disease, they tried to prevent their spread. As illustrated in **figure 1.4**, the death rate due to infectious diseases has decreased dramatically over the last 100 years or so, due largely to preventing the spread of pathogens, developing vaccines to provide immunity, and using antibiotics to treat bacterial diseases when they do occur. To maintain this success, we must continue to develop new medications, vaccines, and disease-prevention strategies.

Perhaps the most significant triumph with respect to disease control was the eradication (elimination) of smallpox. This viral disease was one of the most devastating the world has ever known, killing about one-third of those infected. Survivors were sometimes blinded and often left with disfiguring scars. When Europeans carried the disease to the Americas, the effect on the populations of native inhabitants who had not been exposed before was catastrophic. A worldwide vaccination program eliminated the disease in nature, with no cases being reported since 1977. Laboratory stocks of the smallpox virus remain, however, raising the possibility that the virus could be used in bioterrorist attacks.

Polio, a disease that can cause paralysis and sometimes death, was once relatively common, but it has been nearly eliminated because of vaccination. In fact, the disease now occurs in only a few countries, and the goal is to eradicate it globally.

Plague is another major killer that has largely been brought under control. In the fourteenth century, one-third of the population of Europe, or approximately 25 million people, died of this bacterial disease in only 4 years (1347–1351).





Chapter 1 Humans and the Microbial World

We now know that rodents can carry the bacterium, and their fleas can transmit the disease, so we take measures to control the rodent populations. We have also learned that the pneumonic form of the disease (meaning that it is in the lungs) can spread from human to human through respiratory secretions, so special precautions are taken when a patient has pneumonic plague. In addition, the discovery of antibiotics in the twentieth century made treatment possible. As a result, fewer than 100 people worldwide die from plague in a typical year.

Remaining Challenges

Although progress has been impressive against infectious diseases, much more still needs to be done. On a worldwide basis, infectious diseases remain too common, particularly in developing countries. Even in developed countries with sophisticated healthcare systems, infectious diseases remain a serious threat, costing lives and money.

Emerging Infectious Diseases An **emerging infectious disease** (**EID**) is an infectious disease that has become more common in the last several decades. The EID that everyone is now likely familiar with is COVID-19 (for coronavirus disease 2019), the disease that emerged in late 2019 and then spread rapidly around

the globe. COVID-19 is caused by a virus officially called SARS-CoV-2 (for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) but commonly referred to as the COVID-19 virus. Like COVID-19, many EIDs are new or newly recognized; examples include Ebola disease (EBOD), congenital Zika syndrome, *Candida auris* infection, hepatitis C, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), certain types of influenza, Lyme disease, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), mad cow disease (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (**figure 1.5**). Others such as malaria and tuberculosis have been present for years but have spread or become more common recently.

Some diseases arise as infectious agents evolve to infect new hosts, cause different types of damage, or become more difficult to treat because of antibiotic resistance. Genetic analysis indicates that the virus that causes COVID-19 arose from a strain that infects bats. HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus type 1), the most common type of HIV to cause AIDS, arose from a virus that infects chimpanzees. A bacterium called *E. coli* O104:H4, which caused a severe foodborne diarrheal outbreak in Europe, appears to have gained the ability to make a specific toxin by acquiring genes from a related organism. Tuberculosis and malaria have increased in

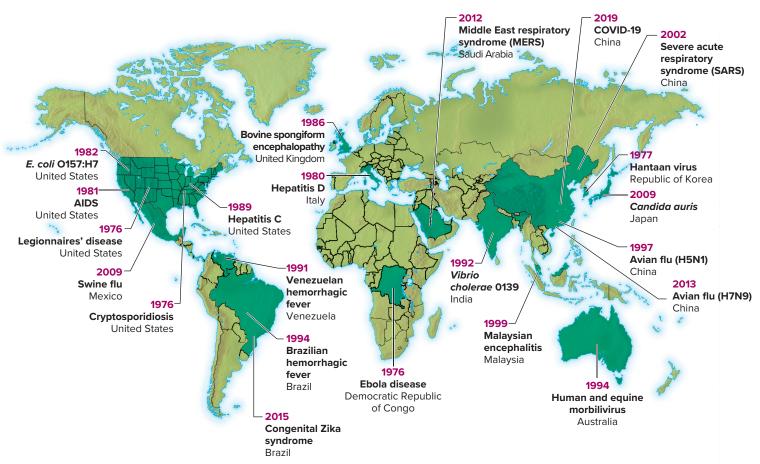


FIGURE 1.5 New and Newly Recognized Infectious Diseases or Disease Agents in Humans and Animals Since 1976 Countries where cases first appeared or were identified appear in a darker shade.





Why might so many of the diseases first appear or be identified in the United States and Western European countries?



FOCUS ON A CASE 1.1

A 24-year-old woman had suffered from recurrent severe episodes of an intestinal disorder called Clostridioides (formerly Clostridium) difficile infection (CDI) for the past 13 months. She routinely experienced profuse watery diarrhea, abdominal pain, and fever. In addition, she was feeling tired and hopeless because she did not seem to be getting well, despite long attempts at multiple different treatments.

As with most patients who develop CDI, the woman had been taking an oral antibiotic shortly before her symptoms began-in this case, to treat a tooth infection. The antibiotic had successfully killed the bacteria that caused her tooth infection. but it also killed some members of her normal intestinal microbiota. As a result, the bacterium C. difficile—often referred to simply as "C. diff"—thrived in her intestinal tract, growing to much higher numbers than it could before. The strain that caused her infection was able to make a toxin that damaged the lining of her intestinal tract.

When the patient first started experiencing CDI, her doctor told her to stop taking the antibiotic prescribed for her tooth infection, hoping that her CDI would resolve on its own. When that did not help, the doctor prescribed a different antibiotic that is often effective in treating CDI. The patient started feeling better, but the symptoms quickly

returned when she stopped taking the medication. She also tried oral supplements containing Lactobacillus GG, a bacterium that sometimes appears to be effective in preventing antibiotic-associated diarrhea.

Because the patient's health was declining, doctors suggested a fecal transplant, an experimental procedure that involves inserting feces from a healthy person into the patient's intestinal tract in order to repopulate that environment with appropriate microbes. They chose to use her sister as a fecal donor, screening both the donor and the patient to ensure that neither was infected with certain microbes, including various intestinal pathogens and HIV. Approximately 1/4 cup of fresh feces was mixed with 1 quart of water and delivered to her intestinal tract via a colonoscope. Within days after the transplant, the patient began feeling better, and she soon recovered completely.

- 1. Why would certain oral antibiotics allow C. difficile to thrive in the intestinal tract?
- 2. Why would the doctors screen both the patient and the fecal donor for certain infectious agents?
- 3. Why would the doctors transplant feces rather than introducing isolated bacteria from feces to repopulate the colon?

Discussion

- 1. Antibiotics kill or inhibit not just pathogens, but also beneficial members of the normal microbiota, a group that protects against infection in at least two general ways. First, the normal microbiota quickly uses nutrients that would otherwise be available to C. difficile and other pathogens. Also, some members of the normal microbiota make compounds that are toxic or inhibitory to other organisms. The environment of the intestinal tract is quite complex, however, so other factors might also be playing a role.
- 2. Physicians screen the fecal donor to decrease the likelihood that diseasecausing microbes could be transferred to the patient by the procedure. The doctors screen the patients to ensure that they are not already infected with the pathogens. For example, if this patient developed symptoms of a Salmonella infection after the procedure, how would the physicians know that she acquired the infection as a result of the procedure if they had not checked beforehand?
- 3. Feces contain many types of bacteria that cannot yet be grown in the laboratory. In addition, scientists do not yet know which types of fecal bacteria protect against CDI.

incidence in recent years, in part because the causative organisms became resistant to many of the available medications.

As the rapid spread of COVID-19 around the globe certainly demonstrated, mobile populations can contribute to disease emergence as people may inadvertently carry pathogens to different regions. Even diseases such as malaria, cholera, plague, and yellow fever that have largely been eliminated from developed countries can be carried to other places if travelers to regions where they still exist become infected and then move on before recovering. Meanwhile, as city suburbs expand into rural areas, human populations come into closer contact with animals as well as the mosquitoes and other arthropods that normally feed on those animals. Consequently, people are exposed to pathogens they might not have encountered previously.

The preventive measures used to control certain infectious diseases can become victims of their own success, a situation that can also lead to disease emergence. Decades of vaccination have nearly eliminated measles, mumps, and whooping cough in developed countries, so most people no longer have firsthand knowledge of the dangers of these diseases. Couple this

with misinformation about vaccines, and some people develop irrational fears, falsely believing that vaccines are more harmful than the diseases they prevent. When this happens, parents often refuse to vaccinate their children appropriately, leading to situations where the diseases become more common again. Measles had been declared eliminated in the United States in 2000, but outbreaks in 2019 resulted in the highest number of cases in 25 years. Outbreaks generally start with unvaccinated travelers who bring the disease into the country, where it then spreads among others who are not vaccinated.

Chronic Diseases Some chronic illnesses once attributed to other causes may be due to microorganisms. Perhaps the bestknown example is stomach ulcers, once thought to be due to stress. We now know that stomach ulcers are often caused by a bacterium (Helicobacter pylori) and are treatable with antibiotics. Chronic indigestion may be caused by the same bacterium. Another example is cervical cancer, which we now know is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infection; a vaccine against HPV prevents that cancer. Infectious microbes may play important roles in other chronic diseases as well.







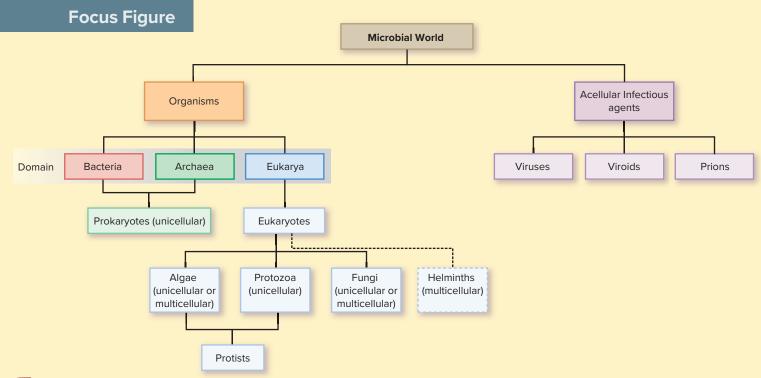


FIGURE 1.6 The Microbial World Although adult helminths (worms) can often be seen with the naked eye, some stages in the life cycle of helminths are microscopic.

Members of which two domains are prokaryotes?

MicroAssessment 1.2

Microbial activities are essential to human life as well as being commercially valuable. Microbes are important research tools. Although most microbes are beneficial or not harmful, some cause disease. Enormous progress has been made in preventing and curing infectious diseases, but some diseases are becoming more common.

- **4.** Describe two microbial activities essential to life and three that make our lives more comfortable.
- **5.** Describe three factors that cause certain infectious diseases to become more common.
- **6.** Why would it seem logical, even inevitable, that at least some bacteria would attack the human body and cause disease?

 ✓

1.3 Members of the Microbial World

Learning Outcomes

- **8.** Compare and contrast characteristics of members of the Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukarya.
- 9. Explain the features of an organism's scientific name.
- 10. Compare and contrast the algae, fungi, and protozoa.
- 11. Compare and contrast viruses, viroids, and prions.

Considering that small size is the only shared feature of all microbes, the group is tremendously diverse. If you look at the macroscopic world around you—the plants and animals—you

should be impressed by the assortment of what you see. That range of types, however, is dwarfed by the huge variety of microbes! The extent of that diversity makes sense considering that microbes have inhabited this planet for billions of years and have evolved to thrive in every conceivable environment—from the hydrothermal vents at the bottom of the ocean to the icy tops of the highest mountains. Many people associate microbes with disease, but their contributions to our world go far beyond that. In fact, as section 1.2 described, we could not survive without them.

Living organisms are all composed of cells with one of two basic structures—prokaryotic (*pro* means "prior to" and *karyote* means "nucleus") and eukaryotic (*eu* means "true"). **Prokaryotic cells** do not have a membrane-bound nucleus. Instead, the genetic material is located in a region called the nucleoid. In contrast, the genetic material in eukaryotic cells is contained within a membrane-bound nucleus. **Eukaryotic cells** often have a variety of other membrane-bound organelles as well, and they are typically much larger and more complex than prokaryotic cells. Organisms that consist of one or more eukaryotic cells are called **eukaryotes**, whereas those composed of a prokaryotic cell are called **prokaryotes**. Prokaryotes fall into two very different groups—bacteria and archaea—as different from each other as they are from eukaryotes.

Because of the fundamental differences between bacteria, archaea, and eukaryotes, all living organisms are now classified into three different **domains:** Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukarya (sometimes spelled Eucarya) (**figure 1.6**).



| TABLE 1.1 Characteristics of Members of the Three Domains | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| Characteristic | Bacteria | Archaea | Eukarya | |
| Cell type | Prokaryotic | Prokaryotic | Eukaryotic | |
| Number of cells | Unicellular | Unicellular | Unicellular or multicellular | |
| Membrane-bound organelles | No | No | Yes | |
| Ribosomal RNA sequences unique to the group | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Peptidoglycan in cell wall | Yes | No | No | |
| Typical size range | 0.3–2 μm | 0.3–2 μm | 5–50 μm | |

Members of the Bacteria and Archaea are prokaryotes, whereas members of the Eukarya are eukaryotes. The names of the domains have the first letter capitalized and the members of the domains are referred to as bacteria, archaea, and eukarya, respectively. **Table 1.1** compares some features of members of the three domains, but you will learn other important differences in later chapters.

The small size of microbes requires measurements not commonly used in everyday life (**figure 1.7**). Logarithms are extremely helpful in this regard, so you will find a brief discussion of them in Appendix I.

Scientific Names

When referring to microbes, we use their scientific names, which are written and pronounced in a Latin style. A pronunciation guide for these names is in Appendix II, and an audio version is available on your Connect class site. The scientific names are assigned according to the binomial (two-part name) system of nomenclature developed by Carl Linnaeus in the 1700s. The first part of the name indicates the **genus**, with the first letter always capitalized; the second part indicates the specific epithet, or **species**, and is not capitalized. Both are usually italicized or underlined—for example, *Escherichia coli*. The

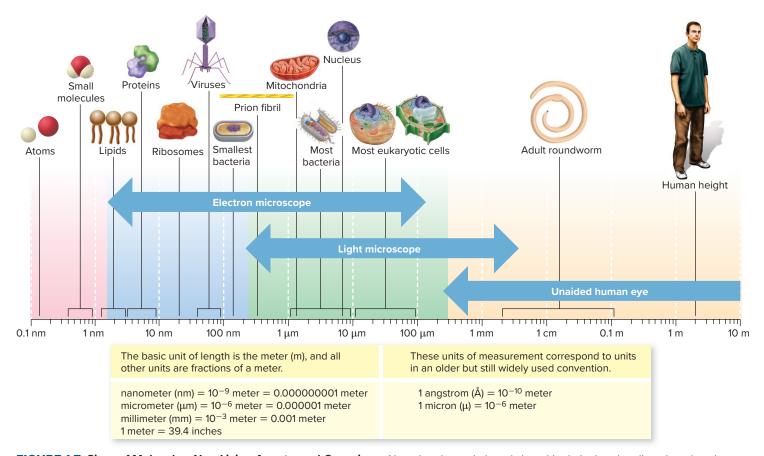


FIGURE 1.7 Sizes of Molecules, Non-Living Agents, and Organisms Note that the scale here is logarithmic (rather than linear), and each labeled increment increases by a factor of 10.

Why is a logarithmic scale useful when comparing sizes of members of the microbial world?



FOCUS YOUR PERSPECTIVE 1.1

Every Rule Has an Exception

We might assume that because microorganisms have been so intensively studied over the past hundred years, no major surprises are left to be discovered. This, however, is far from the truth. In the mid-1990s, a large, peculiar-looking organism was found in the intestinal tract of certain fish from both the Red Sea in the Middle East and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. This organism, named Epulopiscium fishelsoni, cannot be cultured in the laboratory. Its large size (600 µm long and 80 µm wide) make it clearly visible without any magnification and suggested that this organism was a eukaryote. However, it does not have a membrane-bound nucleus. A chemical analysis of the cell confirmed that it is a prokaryote and a member of the domain Bacteria.

In 1999, an even larger prokaryote was isolated from the muck of the ocean floor off the coast of Namibia in Africa. It is a spherical organism 70 times greater in volume than *E. fishelsoni*. Since it grows on sulfur compounds and contains glistening globules of sulfur, it was named *Thiomargarita namibiensis*, meaning "sulfur pearl of Namibia."

In contrast to the examples of large bacteria, a unicellular alga found in the Mediterranean Sea is 1 μ m in width. It is a eukaryote even though it is about the size of a typical bacterium.

How small can an organism be? A microbe discovered off the coast of Iceland is only about 400 nm (nanometers) in diameter and has one-tenth the amount of genetic information (DNA) compared to the common

intestinal bacterium *Escherichia coli*. The tiny organism was found attached to a much larger microbe, a member of the Archaea growing in an ocean vent where the temperature was close to the boiling point of water. The larger organism is an *Ignicoccus* species (*igni* means "fire" and *coccus* means "sphere"). The tiny one, also a member of the Archaea, has been named *Nanoarchaeum equitans* (meaning "tiny archaea" and "rider"). *N. equitans* cannot be grown in the laboratory by itself, but *Ignicoccus* grows well without its *Nanoarchaeum* "rider."

These exceptions to long-standing rules point out the need to keep an open mind and not jump to conclusions! They also serve as excellent reminders that in a subject as complex as microbiology, there will almost always be exceptions!

part indicating the genus is commonly abbreviated, with the first letter capitalized—as in *E. coli*.

The origin of one or both parts of the name often reflects a characteristic of the organism or honors a particular scientist (table 1.2). In the case of *Escherichia coli*, the name of the genus honors Theodor Escherich, who discovered the bacterium; the species designation indicates the site where *E. coli* typically lives: the colon (large intestine). Within a given genus, there may be a number of different species. For example, the genus *Escherichia* includes species other than *E. coli*, such as *E. vulneris*, which was first isolated from human wounds (*vulneris* means "of a wound"). *E. vulneris* is genetically related to *E. coli*, but not closely enough to consider it in the same species.

Members of the same species may vary from one another in minor ways, but not enough to separate the organisms into different species. A genetic variant within a species is called a **strain**. In situations where genetic differences are important, such as in research, a particular microbe and its progeny may be indicated with a strain designation—for example, *E. coli* B or *E. coli* K12.

Groups of microbes are often referred to informally by names that resemble genus names but are not italicized. For instance, members of the genus *Staphylococcus* are often called staphylococci.

MicroByte

Bacterial species outnumber mammalian species by more than 10,000-fold!

| TABLE 1.2 Origin of Various Scientific Names | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Name | Genus Derivation | Species Derivation | | | |
| Escherichia coli (bacterium) | Honors Theodor Escherich, the scientist who discovered the bacterium. | Derived from the word "colon," the body site inhabited by the bacterium. | | | |
| Haemophilus influenzae (bacterium) | Derived from <i>haemo</i> (blood) and <i>phil</i> (loving), reflecting that the bacterium requires certain components of blood for growth. | Derived from the word "influenza," the disease mistakenly thought to be caused by the bacterium; we now know that influenza is caused by a virus. | | | |
| Saccharomyces cereviseae (fungus) | Derived from saccharo (sugar) and myces (fungus). | Derived from <i>cerevisia</i> (beer), reflecting that the fungus (a yeast) is used to make beer. | | | |
| Shigella dysenteriae (bacterium) | Honors Kiyoshi Shiga, the scientist who discovered the bacterium. | Derived from the word "dysentery," the disease caused by the bacterium. | | | |
| Staphylococcus aureus (bacterium) | Derived from <i>staphylo</i> (bunch of grapes) and <i>kokkus</i> (berry), reflecting the grouping and shape of the cells. | The term <i>aureus</i> (golden) indicates the common color of visible masses of the cells. | | | |



Bacteria

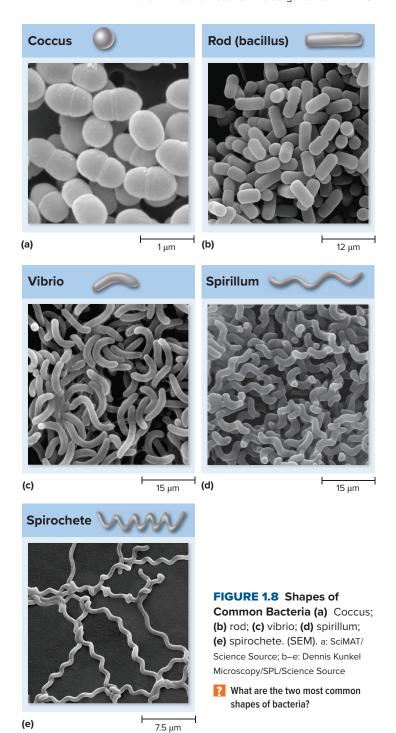
Bacteria (singular: bacterium) are single-celled prokaryotes. They typically have rigid cell walls that contain peptidogly-can, a compound unique to bacteria. Many of the bacteria can move using flagella (singular: flagellum), filamentous appendages that extend from the cell.

Bacteria as a whole come in a variety of shapes, but cells of a given species are usually only one shape. Bacterial shapes include (**figure 1.8**):

- Coccus (plural: cocci). A spherical cell that may be flattened on one end or slightly oval.
- Rod or bacillus (plural bacilli). A cylindrical cell. One short enough to be confused with a coccus is called a coccobacillus. Note that the descriptive term "bacillus" should not be confused with *Bacillus*, the name of a genus. Although members of the genus *Bacillus* are rod-shaped, so are many other bacteria, including *Escherichia coli*.
- **Vibrio** (plural: vibrios). A short, curved rod.
- **Spirillum (plural: spirilla).** A curved rod long enough to form spirals.
- Spirochete (plural: spirochetes). A long, spiral-shaped cell with a flexible cell wall and a unique mechanism of motility.
- Pleomorphic. This is not an actual shape, but refers to bacteria that characteristically vary in their shape (pleo meaning "many" and morphic referring to shape).

Bacteria typically multiply by binary fission, a process in which one cell enlarges and then divides. This forms two cells, each equivalent to the original. The dividing cells often stick to each other, forming characteristic arrangements such as pairs, chains, or clusters, depending on the planes of division (figure 1.9). Cocci that typically remain as pairs are called diplococci; an important clue in the identification of Neisseria gonorrhoeae is its characteristic diplococcus arrangement. Division in one plane can also form long chains, a characteristic typical of some members of the genus Streptococcus (strepto means "twisted chain"). Cocci that divide in perpendicular planes form cubical packets; members of the genus Sarcina form such packets. Cocci that divide in several planes at random may form clusters; Staphylococcus species, which typically form grapelike clusters, are an example (staphylo means "bunch of grapes").

Some prokaryotes characteristically live as multicellular associations. Members of a group of bacteria called myxobacteria form swarms of cells that move as a pack, gliding over moist surfaces. The cells release enzymes, and, as a pack, they degrade organic material, including other bacterial cells. When water or nutrients become limiting, the cells come together to form a structure called a fruiting body, which is visible to the naked eye (see figure 11.14).



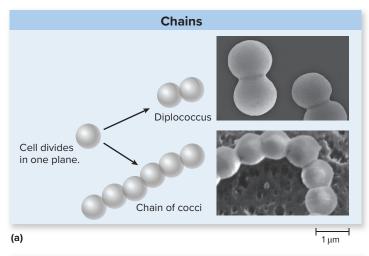
Many bacteria obtain energy from foods similar to those humans eat, but others can gain energy from seemingly unlikely sources such as hydrogen sulfide (a gas that smells like rotten eggs). Still others are photosynthetic, meaning they make cellular material using the radiant energy of sunlight.

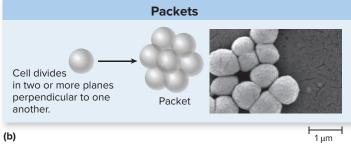
Although most bacteria are beneficial, some cause serious diseases, and these will be a focus in the "disease chapters" of this textbook. Many of the early chapters will focus on bacteria in general, often with the aim of providing the necessary background for understanding infectious diseases.











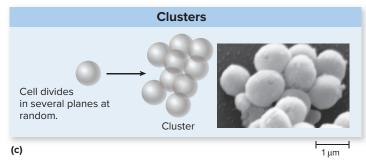


FIGURE 1.9 Common Cell Arrangements (a) Chains; (b) packets; (c) clusters. (SEM). a (top): Dennis Kunkel Microscopy/SPL/Science Source; a (bottom): BSIP SA/Alamy; b: Source: Betsy Crane/CDC; c: Eye of Science/Science Source

How does bacterial cell division determine the characteristic cell arrangements?

Archaea

Like bacteria, archaea (singular: archaeon) are single-celled prokaryotes. They have similar shapes, sizes, and appearances to bacteria. In addition, they also multiply by binary fission, move primarily by means of filamentous appendages, and have rigid cell walls. Like bacteria, different groups of archaea use different energy sources; some are photosynthetic, harvesting the energy of sunlight to make cellular material. Considering how much archaea look like bacteria, scientists initially believed they were closely related. We now know, however, that there are major differences between the two groups, and the groups are only distantly related to each other. In fact, you are more closely related to plants than archaea are to bacteria!

Archaea differ from bacteria in several of their structural and functional components. For example, the archaeal cell wall does not contain peptidoglycan, whereas the bacterial wall does. In addition, the composition and structural organization of the appendages the archaeal cells use for motility are different from bacterial flagella. Archaea also have characteristic nucleotide sequences in their ribosomal RNA (a molecule involved in protein synthesis) that differ significantly from those of bacteria. The discovery of the differences in ribosomal RNA sequences helped provide the basis for separating the two groups of prokaryotes into different domains.

An interesting feature of many archaea is their ability to grow in extreme environments in which most other organisms cannot survive. Some, for example, can grow in salt concentrations 10 times higher than that of seawater. These organisms grow in such habitats as the Great Salt Lake and the Dead Sea. Others grow best at extremely high temperatures. One archaeon can grow at a temperature of 122°C! (100°C is the temperature at which water boils at sea level.)

Although the archaea that grow in extreme environments are the most intensively studied, many others are common in moderate environments. They are widely distributed in soils, the oceans, and marshes, as well as in the intestinal tracts of animals. Some archaea are part of microbial communities associated with severe periodontitis, a destructive inflammation of the gums.

Eukarya

Eukarya are eukaryotes; those studied by microbiologists include fungi, algae, protozoa, and helminths (worms). Algae and protozoa are also referred to as **protists.**

Fungi

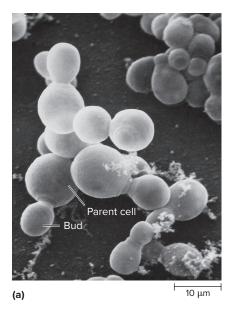
Fungi (singular: fungus) are a diverse group of eukaryotes, ranging from single-celled yeasts that reproduce by budding to multicellular filamentous molds (figure 1.10). The microscopic filaments of molds, called hyphae (singular: hypha), can branch as well as twist and turn to form a visible mat called a mycelium. When you see moldy foods, you are looking at the mycelium, sometimes along with structures that give rise to a reproductive form called conidia (also referred to as spores). The conidia easily become airborne, allowing the fungus to spread. Some fungi make macroscopic reproductive structures that we call mushrooms.

Fungi harvest energy from organic materials. To do this, they secrete enzymes that degrade the organic material and then take in the nutrients that are released. Fungi are found in most places where organic materials, including dead plants and animals, are present.









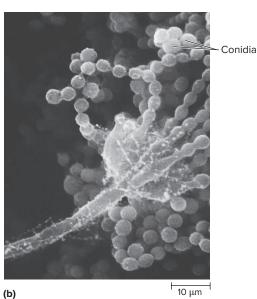


FIGURE 1.10 Fungi (a) Yeast, *Malassezia furfur.* **(b)** *Aspergillus*, a typical mold form whose reproductive structures rise above the mat of hyphae. a: Centers for Disease Control/Janice Haney Carr; b: Source: Janice Haney Carr/CDC

Molds and yeasts are made up of what type of cells?



FIGURE 1.11 Alga *Ulothrix*, a filamentous green alga. Lisa Burgess/McGraw-Hill Education

What general features of algae distinguish them from other eukaryotic microorganisms?

Algae

Algae (singular: alga) are a diverse group of photosynthetic eukaryotes. Some are single-celled, whereas others are multicellular, such as seaweed (figure 1.11). Photosynthesis in algae occurs in chloroplasts, which have chlorophyll, a green pigment. Some algae also have other pigments as well, giving them characteristic colors. The pigments absorb the energy of light, which is used in photosynthesis.

Algae are usually found near the surface of either salt or fresh water or in moist terrestrial habitats. Their cell walls are rigid, but the chemical composition of the wall is quite distinct from that of bacteria and archaea. Many algae move by means of flagella, which are structurally far more complex and unrelated to flagella of prokaryotes.

Protozoa

Protozoa (singular: protozoan) are a diverse group of microscopic, single-celled eukaryotes that live in both aquatic and terrestrial environments. Although microscopic, they are very complex organisms and generally much larger than prokaryotes (**figure 1.12**). Unlike algae and fungi, protozoa do not have a rigid cell wall. Most protozoa are motile and ingest organic material as food sources.

Helminths

Parasitic **helminths** are worms that live at the expense of a host. They are an important cause of disease, particularly in developing countries. The adult worms are generally macroscopic, meaning they can be seen with the naked eye, and some are quite large, so technically they are not microorganisms. Microbiologists study them, how-

ever, because diagnosis of the diseases they cause often involves identifying their eggs and larval forms, which are microscopic. Helminths include roundworms, tapeworms, and flukes.

Table 1.3 summarizes the characteristics of eukaryotic organisms studied by microbiologists.

Acellular Infectious Agents

Viruses, viroids, and prions are acellular infectious agents, meaning that they are not composed of cells. They cannot reproduce independently and are considered

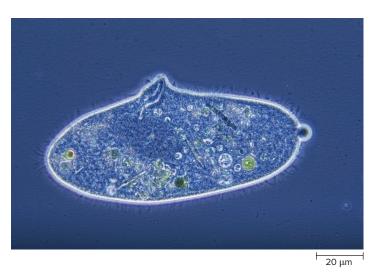


FIGURE 1.12 Protozoan A paramecium moves with the aid of hair-like appendages (called cilia) on the cell surface. Melba Photo Agency/Alamy

How do protozoa differ from both fungi and algae?







| TABLE 1.3 | Eukaryotic Organisms Studied by Microbiologists | |
|-----------|--|--|
| Organism | Characteristics | |
| Fungi | Use organic material for energy. Size range from microscopic (yeasts) to macroscopic (molds); mushrooms are the reproductive structures of some fungi. | |
| Algae | Use sunlight for energy. Size range from microscopic (single-celled algae) to macroscopic (multicellular algae). | |
| Protozoa | Use organic material for energy. Single-celled microscopic organisms. | |
| Helminths | Use organic material for energy. Adult worms are typically macroscopic and often quite large, but their eggs and larval forms are microscopic. | |

non-living. By definition, an organism must be composed of one or more cells, so these acellular infectious agents are not microorganisms.

Viruses

16

Viruses consist of nucleic acid packaged within a protein coat (**figure 1.13**). To multiply, viruses infect living cells—referred to as **hosts**—and then use the machinery and nutrients of those cells to replicate. Outside the hosts, however, viruses are inactive. Thus, viruses are obligate intracellular agents, meaning that they cannot replicate outside a host.

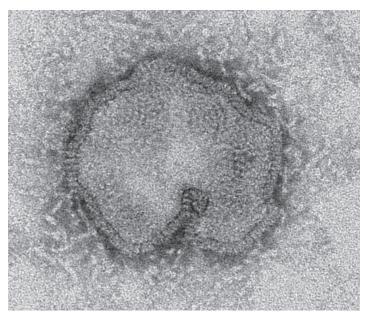


FIGURE 1.13 Virus Influenza virus, the cause of flu. Source: Cynthia S. Goldsmith and Thomas Rowe/CDC

Why can viruses be so much smaller than cells and still replicate?

All forms of life, including bacteria, archaea, and eukarya, can be infected by viruses but of different types. Although viruses frequently kill the cells in which they replicate, some types can also remain within the host cell without causing obvious ill effects. As the host cells multiply, they copy the viral genetic information, passing it along to their progeny.

Viroids

Viroids are simpler than viruses, consisting of only a single, short piece of ribonucleic acid (RNA). Like viruses, they are obligate intracellular agents. Viroids cause a number of plant diseases.

Prions

Prions are infectious proteins that cause diseases called spongiform encephalopathies, a name that reflects the sponge-like appearance of the affected brain tissue (encephalo means "brain" and patho means "disease"). Perhaps the most widely recognized example is bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), commonly called mad cow disease. Prions are simply misfolded versions of normal cellular proteins found in the brain. When the misfolded version comes into contact with the normal cellular protein, it causes the normal protein to also misfold. These misfolded versions bind together within the cell to form thread-like structures called fibrils (figure 1.14). The fibril-filled cells are not able to function and eventually die, forming spaces in the brain that lead to the characteristic sponge-like appearance. Prions are more resistant to degradation by cellular enzymes than are their normal counterparts. They are also resistant to the usual sterilization procedures that destroy viruses and bacteria.

Characteristics of acellular infectious agents are listed in **table 1.4.**

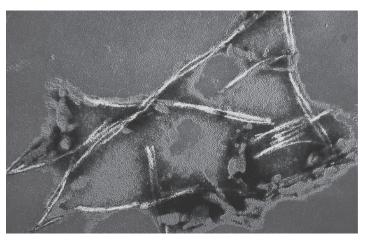


FIGURE 1.14 Prion Prion fibrils isolated from the brain of an infected cow. EM Unit. VLA/Science Source

? How are prions different from the normal versions of the related proteins made by cells?



MicroAssessment 1.3

Microbes are given a two-part name that indicates the genus and species. Three domains of life exist: Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukarya. Members of the Bacteria and Archaea are prokaryotes, but the two groups have significant differences. Members of the Eukarya are eukaryotes; within this group, microbiologists study algae, fungi, protozoa, and parasitic helminths. Viruses, viroids, and prions are acellular infectious agents.

- 7. List two features that distinguish prokaryotes from eukaryotes.
- **8.** Describe the chemical composition of viruses, viroids, and prions.

| TABLE 1.4 | Acellular Infectious Agents |
|-----------|--|
| Agent | Characteristic |
| Viruses | Consist of either DNA or RNA, surrounded by a protein coat. Obligate intracellular agents that use the machinery and nutrients of host cells to replicate. |
| Viroids | Consist only of RNA; no protein coat. Obligate intracellular agents that use the machinery and nutrients of host cells to replicate. |
| Prions | Consist only of protein; no DNA or RNA. Misfolded versions of normal cellular proteins that cause misfolding of the normal versions. |

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Meet the Microbiomes!

As you study this textbook, you will probably be amazed by how much we know about the microbial world. You have already read, for example, that the human microbiome affects our well-being, and that life on this planet could not exist without microbes. But the more you learn, the more you will realize how little we actually know! Although scientists have studied microorganisms for hundreds of years, most of the advances occurred after the start of the Golden Age of Microbiology. Studies focused primarily on microorganisms that

could be grown in the laboratory, and we now know that those examples represent less than 1% of all microbes. Complicating the matter even more is the fact that a microorganism's behavior in the laboratory can be quite different from that in a natural situation. So, yes, we know a great deal, but it really represents only the tip of the iceberg.

The depth of our understanding about microbial communities is rapidly increasing due to what could be considered the Golden Age of Microbiomes. As was

already discussed, the Human Microbiome Project led to greater insight into the role of microorganisms in health and disease. It also opened up many new areas for research. For example, how many disease states are due to imbalances in our normal microbiota? Can we treat any of those by packaging certain microbes into a pill that can be taken orally? Can we track a person's microbial profiles to predict changes in health? Ongoing studies now promise to provide additional insights but will also lead to many new questions.

Summary

1.1 The Dispute over Spontaneous Generation

The belief in **spontaneous generation** was challenged by Francesco Redi in the seventeenth century.

Early Experiments

The experiments of John Needham supported the idea of spontaneous generation, while those of Lazzaro Spallanzani did not.

Experiments of Pasteur

The experiments of Louis Pasteur disproved spontaneous generation and supported what is now known as the theory of **biogenesis** (figure 1.2).

Experiments of Tyndall

John Tyndall showed that some microbial forms are not killed by boiling. He and Ferdinand Cohn discovered **endospores**, the heat-resistant forms of some bacteria.

The Golden Age of Microbiology

The field of microbiology blossomed after Pasteur and others disproved spontaneous generation, leading to the Golden Age of Microbiology. Discoveries during this time led to the acceptance of the Germ Theory of Disease.

The Scientific Method

The **scientific method** includes (1) observing an occurrence and asking a question about that situation; (2) developing a **hypothesis** that explains the occurrence and devising an experiment that tests the hypothesis; (3) doing the experiment, collecting the data, and drawing conclusions; and (4) communicating the results, methods, and conclusions. A scientific **theory** is an explanation supported by a vast body of experimental evidence.

1.2 Microbiology: A Human Perspective

The Human Microbiome

The **normal microbiota** is essential to human health. The **microbiome** is an interacting community of microorganisms as well as their genetic information.

Microorganisms in the Environment

Microorganisms replenish the O_2 that humans and other animals require to breathe, and they convert the nitrogen gas in the air into a form that other organisms can use.







Commercial Benefits of Microorganisms

Microorganisms are used in the production of bread, wine, beer, and cheeses. They are also used to degrade toxic pollutants and to synthesize a variety of different useful products. **Biotechnology** depends on members of the microbial world.

Microbes as Research Tools

Microorganisms are wonderful model organisms to study because they have the same fundamental metabolic and genetic properties as higher life-forms, and they grow rapidly on simple, inexpensive growth media.

Microbes and Disease

Pathogens cause disease, but the death rate from infectious diseases has declined over the past 100 years or so as a result of disease-prevention efforts, including vaccination (figure 1.4). More needs to be done to prevent **emerging infectious diseases**, some of which are new or newly recognized (figure 1.5). Some chronic diseases are caused by microorganisms.

1.3 Members of the Microbial World

Considering that small size is the only shared feature of all microbes, the group is tremendously diverse (figure 1.6). All living organisms are classified into three **domains:** Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukarya (table 1.1). The small size of microbes requires measurements not commonly used in everyday life (figure 1.7).

Scientific Names

The first part of a scientific name indicates the **genus**, and the second part the **species**; these are written in italics or underlined

(table 1.2). Members of the same species can vary, so strain designations are sometimes used.

Bacteria

Bacteria are single-celled **prokaryotes** that have peptidoglycan in their cell walls. Most bacteria are **cocci** or **rods**; other common shapes are **vibrios**, **spirilla**, and **spirochetes** (figure 1.8). Cells adhering to one another following division form characteristic arrangements such as chains, packets, and clusters (figure 1.9).

Archaea

Archaea are single-celled prokaryotes. Although they look like bacteria, there are significant differences. They do not contain peptidoglycan. Many archaea grow in extreme environments.

Eukarya

Eukarya are **eukaryotes** (table 1.3). **Fungi** include single-celled yeasts and multicellular molds and mushrooms; they use organic compounds as food (figure 1.10). **Algae** can be single-celled or multicellular, and they use sunlight as an energy source (figure 1.11). **Protozoa** are typically motile single-celled organisms that use organic compounds as food (figure 1.12). Parasitic **helminths** are worms that live at the expense of a host.

Acellular Infectious Agents

The non-living members of the microbial world are not composed of cells (table 1.4). **Viruses** consist of nucleic acid within a protein coat (figure 1.13). **Viroids** consist of a single, short RNA molecule. **Prions** consist only of protein; they are misfolded versions of normal cellular protein (figure 1.14).

Y



Short Answer

- 1. How did Louis Pasteur help disprove spontaneous generation?
- 2. Describe the scientific method.
- Explain why life could not exist without the activities of microorganisms.
- 4. How is the normal microbiota important to human health?
- 5. List four commercially important benefits of microorganisms.
- 6. What characteristics of microorganisms make them important research tools?
- 7. List three factors that contribute to the emergence of infectious diseases.
- 8. In the designation *Escherichia coli* B, which part of the name indicates the genus? Which part indicates the species? Which part indicates the strain?
- 9. Why are viruses not microorganisms?
- 10. Name three non-living groups in the microbial world, and describe their major properties.

Multiple Choice

- 1. The property of endospores that led to confusion in the experiments on spontaneous generation is their
 - a) small size.
 - b) ability to pass through cork stoppers.

- c) heat resistance.
- d) presence in all infusions.
- e) presence on cotton plugs.
- 2. The Golden Age of Microbiology was the time when
 - a) microorganisms were first used to make bread.
 - b) microorganisms were first used to make cheese.
 - c) most pathogenic bacteria were identified.
 - d) a vaccine against influenza was developed.
 - e) antibiotics became available.
- 3. If all prokaryotes were eliminated from the planet,
 - a) animals would thrive because there would be no disease.
 - b) archaea would thrive because there would be no competition for nutrients.
 - c) all animals would die.
 - d) animals and archaea would thrive.
- 4. All of the following are emerging infectious diseases except
 - a) smallpox.
 - b) hepatitis C.
 - c) Lyme disease.
 - d) COVID-19.
 - e) mad cow disease.
- 5. All of the following are biological domains except
 - a) Bacteria.
 - b) Archaea.







- c) Prokaryota.
- d) Eukarya.
- 6. Which name is written correctly?
 - a) staphylococcus aureus
 - b) escherichia Coli
 - c) Staphylococcus epidermidis
 - d) bacillus Anthracis
 - e) Clostridium Botulinum
- 7. Members of which pairing are most similar in appearance to each other?
 - a) fungi and algae
 - b) algae and archaea
 - c) archaea and bacteria
 - d) bacteria and viruses
 - e) viruses and algae
- 8. If you wanted to increase your chances of obtaining a member of the Archaea (rather than a member of another domain), which would be the best site to obtain a sample?
 - a) intestine of an elephant
 - b) skin of an elephant
 - c) a 95°C hot spring in Yellowstone
 - d) a 45°C hot spring in Hawaii
 - e) a raw hamburger patty
- 9. Viruses
 - a) contain both protein and nucleic acid.
 - b) infect only eukaryotic cells.

- c) can grow in the absence of living cells.
- d) are generally the same size as prokaryotes.
- e) always kill the cells they infect.
- 10. Antonie van Leeuwenhoek could not have observed
 - a) roundworms.
 - b) Escherichia coli.
 - c) yeasts.
 - d) viruses.

Applications

- 1. The American Society for Microbiology is preparing a "Microbe-Free" banquet to emphasize the importance of microorganisms in food production. What foods could not be on the menu?
- 2. If you were asked to nominate one of the individuals mentioned in this chapter for the Nobel Prize, who would it be? Make a statement supporting your choice.

Critical Thinking

- 1. A microbiologist obtained two pure biological samples: one of a virus, and the other of a viroid. Unfortunately, the labels had been lost. The microbiologist felt she could distinguish the two by analyzing for the presence or absence of a single molecule. What molecule would she search for and why?
- 2. Why would archaea that grow in extreme environments be more intensively studied than those that do not?





Enhance your study of this chapter with study tools and practice tests. Also ask your instructor about the resources available through Connect, including the media-rich eBook, interactive learning tools, and animations.





The Molecules of Life



Space-filling models of water molecules. (Lisa Burgess/McGraw-Hill Education)

Buffer A chemical that stabilizes the

Atom The basic unit of matter.

KEY TERMS

pH of a solution.

Carbohydrate An organic compound composed of one or more simple sugars.

Covalent Bond A chemical bond formed when two atoms share electrons.

Hydrogen Bond The attraction between a hydrogen atom in a polar molecule and an electronegative atom in the same or another polar molecule.

Ion An atom or molecule that has gained or lost one or more electrons.

lonic Bond A chemical bond resulting from the attraction between positively and negatively charged

Lipid An organic molecule that is not soluble in water.

Molecule Two or more atoms held together by covalent bonds.

Nucleic Acid A macromolecule consisting of one or two nucleotide chains: DNA or RNA.

Organic Compound A compound that has a carbon atom covalently bonded to a hydrogen atom.

pH A measure of the hydrogen ion concentration or acidity of a solution on a scale of 0 to 14.

Protein A macromolecule consisting of one or more chains of amino acids.

A Glimpse of History

Farmers have understood for centuries that growing the same crop on the same piece of land year after year reduces the crop yield. Allowing a field to remain unplanted for one or more seasons lets wild plants grow, and these appear to improve the soil. During the late 1880s, Martinus Beijerinck, a microbiologist from the Netherlands, helped to explain the science behind what the farmers already knew.

Beijerinck was described as a "keen observer" who was able "to fuse results of remarkable observations with a profound and extensive knowledge of biology and the underlying sciences." Fortunately for farmers, he disliked medical microbiology, preferring to study the agricultural applications of microbiology instead. Based on the work of other scientists, Beijerinck knew that certain plants improve the soil because microorganisms help them accumulate nitrogen from the air. All forms of life require nitrogen because it is an essential component of cellular material, but soils have only limited amounts. Almost 80% of Earth's atmosphere is nitrogen gas (N₂), so using that atmospheric nitrogen source might seem like an easy task, but it is far from it. N₂ is very stable, with strong chemical bonds holding the two nitrogen atoms together. Plants, animals, and most other organisms lack the ability to break those bonds, so it was unclear how microorganisms were helping plants use atmospheric nitrogen.

Beijerinck and other scientists studied nitrogen accumulation in a group of plants called legumes. Members of this group bear seeds in pods and include peas, beans, and clover. Legume roots often have nodules (small growths that look like tumors). It had been reported

that the root nodules contained microorganisms, and that these allowed the plant to accumulate nitrogen. Beijerinck made a significant breakthrough by isolating a bacterium from inside a root nodule and then showing that it could convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form that could be incorporated into cellular material. This process is called nitrogen fixation, and the nitrogen is said to be "fixed." Then he showed that root nodules form when the nitrogen-fixing bacterium—a member of a group now called rhizobia—is incubated with seedlings of legumes. As those plants, or even parts of the plants, die and decay, the cellular material is released, enriching the soil with nitrogencontaining nutrients.

When farmers plant crops like soybeans or allow wild clover to grow in a field, rhizobia in the nodules fix nitrogen, which can then be used by the host plant. We now know that there are many types of rhizobia, and they are specific with respect to the type of host plant with which they form a relationship. To honor Beijerinck for his achievements, a genus of nitrogen-fixing bacteria (Beijerinckia) is named for him.

imply stated, chemistry is the study of matter, or the "stuff" of which the universe is composed. As you learn about microbiology, you will find that cells are masters at converting one set of chemicals to another and, in doing so, producing materials required to make new cells. This amazing ability to transform material is just one reason that microorganisms are crucial to life and that the principles described in this chapter are fundamental to information throughout the text.





2.1 Elements and Atoms

Learning Outcomes

- 1. Describe the general structure of an atom and its isotopes.
- 2. Describe the importance of valence electrons.

Matter is categorized into **elements**, substances that have unique chemical properties and cannot be broken down by ordinary chemical means. An **atom** is the basic unit of all matter, and each element is composed of only one type of atom. Each element is indicated by a one- or two-letter symbol, with the first letter capitalized; for example, C represents carbon and Ca represents calcium. Not all chemical symbols are derived from English, as seen with the symbol Na, which stands for *natrium* in Latin, but which we know as sodium.

Of the 92 or so naturally occurring elements, biological systems are primarily composed of only six. As a way to remember these, think of the acronym CHONPS: carbon (C), hydrogen (H), oxygen (O), nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and sulfur (S). Other elements are also important in biological systems, including some referred to as trace elements, reflecting the fact that they are found in very small quantities.

Atomic Structure

Atoms consist of three major components:

- **Protons:** positively charged particles
- **Neutrons:** uncharged particles
- **Electrons:** negatively charged particles

Protons and neutrons together form the atomic nucleus (dense, central region of the atom), around which electrons move in a "cloud" (**figure 2.1**). Overall, the atom has no charge because the number of positive protons in the atomic nucleus is the same as the number of negative electrons in the cloud.

Each type of atom is distinguished by the number of protons in its nucleus, referred to as its **atomic number** (**table 2.1**). For example, a hydrogen atom has 1 proton, so its atomic number is 1; a carbon atom has 6 protons, so its atomic number is 6. Each atom also has a **mass number**, the sum of the number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus of that atom. A hydrogen atom with 1 proton and no neutrons has an atomic number of 1 as well as a mass number of 1. A carbon atom with 6 protons and 6 neutrons has an atomic number of 6 and a mass number of 12. Note that electrons are too light to contribute to the mass of an atom.

Atoms can be depicted in various ways to emphasize certain characteristics (**figure 2.2**). Some diagrams indicate the number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus as well as the number of electrons in the surrounding cloud. Frequently, however, the element symbol is used, with the atomic number

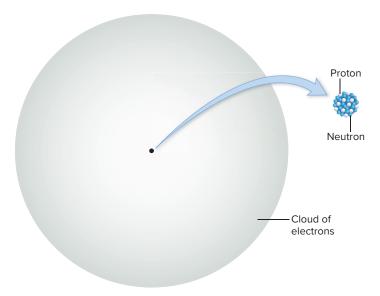


FIGURE 2.1 Atomic Structure A proton has a positive charge, a neutron has a neutral charge, and an electron has a negative charge. The electrons move around the nucleus in a cloud.

How does the number of electrons in an atom compare with the number of protons?

| TABLE 2.1 | | Characteristics of Atoms Common in Living Organisms | | |
|------------|--------|---|-------------|--|
| Atom | Symbol | Atomic Number | Mass Number | |
| Hydrogen | Н | 1 | 1 | |
| Carbon | С | 6 | 12 | |
| Nitrogen | N | 7 | 14 | |
| Oxygen | 0 | 8 | 16 | |
| Phosphorus | Р | 15 | 31 | |
| Sulfur | S | 16 | 32 | |

in subscript to the left, and the mass number in superscript to the left. A depiction called a Lewis symbol uses the element symbol and indicates the number of valence electrons using dots (valence electrons are described next).

MicroByte

If the nucleus of an atom were a marble in the center of a football field, the electrons would occupy the entire space of the stadium.

The Role of Electrons

Electrons move in a cloud around an atom's nucleus, but at any point in time their precise location is impossible to determine (see figure 2.1). They are most likely to be in specific regions called shells, each of which is associated with a different energy level. The number of electrons a shell can hold is limited. Electrons are attracted to the protons in the nucleus, so shells closer to the nucleus are generally filled before





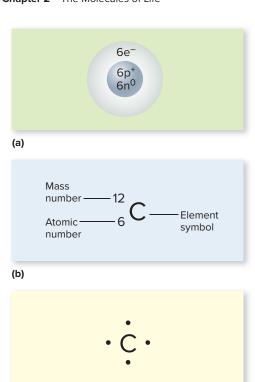


FIGURE 2.2 Depictions of a Carbon Atom (a) The number of protons (p*) and neutrons (n°) in the nucleus are indicated, along with the number of electrons (e⁻) in the surrounding cloud. (b) The mass number and atomic number are indicated on the left of the element symbol. (c) The Lewis symbol uses dots to indicate the number of valence electrons.

Why are electrons not considered when determining the mass of an atom?

(c)

electrons occupy other shells. The shell closest to the nucleus holds no more than 2 electrons; these electrons are most highly attracted to the nucleus and have the lowest energy level in that particular atom. Once that shell is filled, additional electrons occupy the next shell, which holds 8 electrons. Larger atoms have additional shells that hold even more electrons, but most atoms of biological significance follow the "octet rule," meaning they are most stable when their outer shell contains 8 electrons. An important exception is hydrogen, with a single shell; recall that the first shell has a limit of 2 electrons.

Electrons largely determine the chemical reactivity of an atom. An atom's **valence electrons**, meaning the electrons in the outermost shell (called the valence shell), are the most important in that regard. Atoms with the maximum number of electrons in the outer shell are very stable. Atoms with an unfilled outer shell tend to react with other atoms that have an unfilled outer shell by sharing or transferring electrons. Lewis symbols provide a simple visual representation of an atom's outer shell, with each dot representing one valence electron (figure 2.2c); Lewis structures are similar, but they show the interaction of two or more atoms, with dots indicating shared and unshared valence electrons (see figure 2.6a).

Isotopes

All atoms of a given element have the same number of protons, but they can have different numbers of neutrons. That is, atoms of an element all have the same atomic number, but they can have different mass numbers. The various forms of atoms of an element are **isotopes** (*iso* means "same" and *tope* means "place"). For example, nearly 99% of naturally occurring carbon atoms have 6 neutrons, but some have 7 or 8. The fact that the atoms of an element can have different mass numbers is reflected in the term **atomic mass**. This is the average of the mass numbers of the atoms of the element, weighted according to the relative abundance of the naturally occurring isotopes. The atomic mass of carbon is 12.01.

Although the chemical behavior of different isotopes is similar to their more common counterparts, the structural differences can often be detected. Because of this, researchers and clinicians use isotopes to monitor the fate of specific atoms within a population of cells. Some isotopes are unstable and emit radiation that can be detected; others are tracked using special instruments that measure differences in mass. The energy emitted from radioactive isotopes (radioisotopes) is sometimes useful in medical diagnosis. For example, to evaluate proper functioning of the human thyroid gland (which produces the iodine-containing hormone thyroxine) doctors often administer radioactive iodine. The gland can then be scanned to determine if the amount and distribution of iodine is normal (**figure 2.3**).

MicroAssessment 2.1

The six most common elements in biology are carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulfur. The basic unit of all matter, the atom, is composed of protons, electrons, and neutrons. The reactivity of an atom is largely determined by the number of valence electrons. Isotopes are atoms of a given element that have a different number of neutrons.

- **1.** What do the dots on a Lewis symbol represent?
- 2. What is the "octet rule" and its biologically important exception?
- 3. What do atoms of ¹⁴C and ¹⁴N have in common? How do they differ? ✓

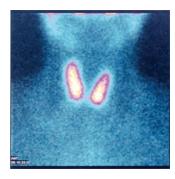


FIGURE 2.3 Radioisotopes A scan of the thyroid gland 24 hours after the patient received radioactive iodine. Stefania Arca/Shutterstock

Why is radioactive iodine concentrated in the thyroid gland?





2.2 ■ Chemical Bonds and Reactions

Learning Outcomes

- Compare and contrast ionic bonds, covalent bonds, and hydrogen bonds.
- **4.** Explain the role of an enzyme in a chemical reaction.

Atoms with an unfilled outer shell react with each other to lose, gain, or share their valence electrons. This allows them to achieve a more stable state and is the basis for chemical bond formation.

Ions and Ionic Bonds

An atom that gains or loses an electron is no longer neutral—it is an **ion** (**figure 2.4**). Atoms that gain an electron become negatively charged and are called **anions**; those that lose an electron become positively charged and are called **cations**. The type and amount of charge are indicated by a superscript to the right of the chemical symbol. For example, Na⁺ indicates a sodium atom that has lost one electron and therefore carries a +1 (positive) charge; Mg²⁺ indicates a magnesium atom that has lost two electrons and therefore has a +2 charge. Note that a positive ion is formed by the loss of one or more valence electrons. The nucleus still contains the same number of protons, resulting in a positive charge. Na⁺ cannot be formed by gaining a proton because gaining a proton would change the atomic number, and therefore the atom would no longer be sodium.

Ionic bonds form between cations and anions because of the attraction between positive and negative charges (see figure 2.4). The resulting product is called a salt. A common

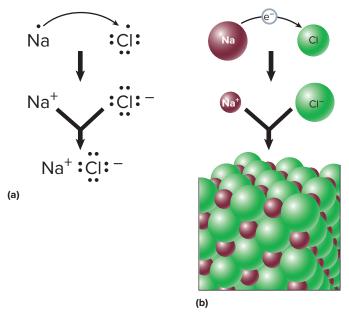


FIGURE 2.4 Ions and Ionic Bonds (a) Lewis symbols of sodium and chloride ions being formed, and an ionic bond between them. **(b)** Space-filling model of a salt crystal being formed by ionic bonding. Note that a cation is smaller than its neutral atom while an anion is larger.

Which of the ions in this figure is an anion, and which is a cation?

type of salt, sodium chloride (table salt), is composed of Na⁺ (sodium cations) and Cl⁻ (chloride anions) and forms a solid crystal. The structure is highly ordered because the electrical attraction between positive and negative charges brings the ions together, but the like charges repel one another and are positioned as far apart as possible. Crystals continue to grow as new ions are added. Salts such as sodium chloride dissolve in water and are called **electrolytes**, meaning that they conduct electricity.

MicroByte

Electrical charges from the heart are conducted by electrolytes and can be detected on the body surface as an electrocardiogram (ECG).

Covalent Bonds

Atoms do not always fill their valence shells by gaining or losing electrons. They may instead share pairs of valence electrons, forming covalent bonds. A hydrogen atom (H) has 1 electron, so 1 additional electron is required to fill its valence shell (outer shell); if two H atoms share their single electron so that they have two between them, both atoms gain stability. The covalent bond between the two atoms is indicated by a dash, as H—H. Some atoms share more than one pair of electrons with each other, forming a double or triple covalent bond, indicated by a corresponding number of lines between the atoms. An oxygen atom needs 2 electrons to fill its valence shell; if each of two oxygen atoms shares 2 of its electrons with the other, then a double covalent bond is formed, represented as O=O. Double bonds are stronger than single bonds, meaning that more energy is required to break them, and triple bonds are stronger still.

Two or more atoms joined together by covalent bonds form a **molecule**. A molecule is represented by a molecular formula that indicates how many atoms of each type are present. Thus, a hydrogen molecule is represented by the formula H_2 . If atoms that make up a molecule are different elements, the term **compound** may be used. (Salts such as NaCl are called ionic compounds.) Water is a compound that contains two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom; it is represented by the formula H_2O . The molecular mass of a molecule is based on the mass numbers of the component atoms. The molecular mass of most water molecules is 1 + 1 + 16, or 18.

Carbon (C) is a particularly important element in biological systems because its bonding properties provide the basis for many diverse structures. A carbon atom has four valence electrons, so it needs four more to fill its valence shell. Because of this, the atom forms four covalent bonds, typically with the main elements that make up cells: CHONPS (carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphate, and sulfur). One C atom sharing electrons with four H atoms is methane (CH₄) (**figure 2.5**). Molecules that contain at least carbon and hydrogen are **organic compounds**; those that do not are inorganic compounds.



