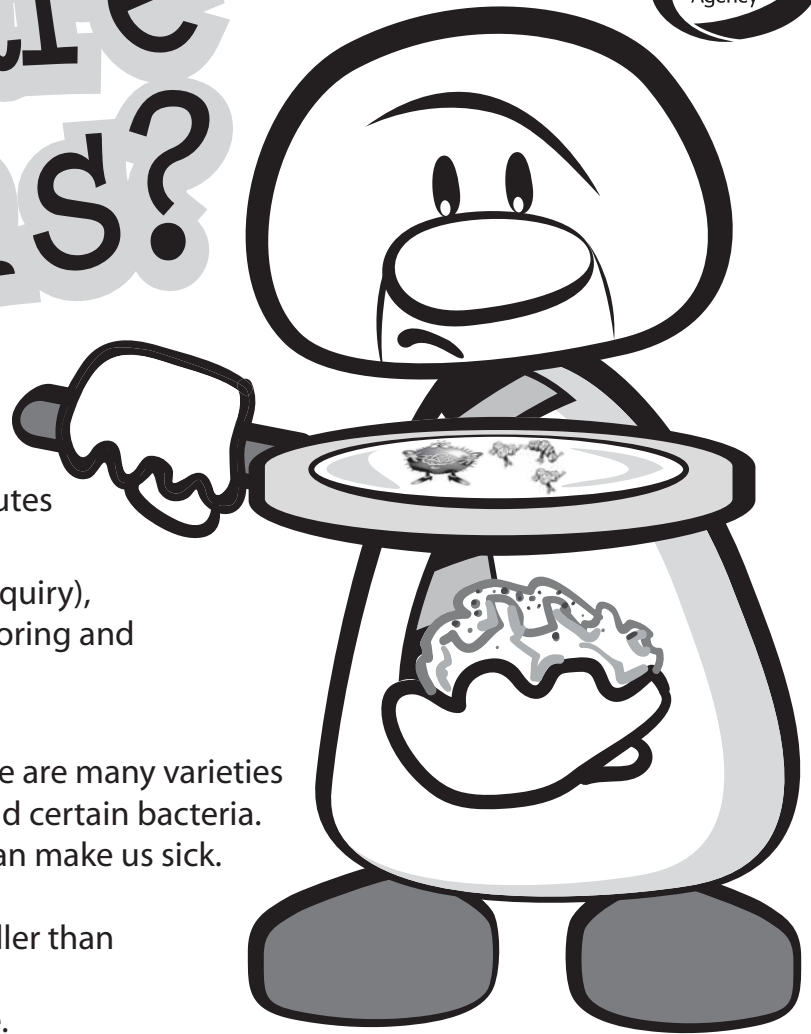


What are germs?



Key Stage 1

Estimated teaching time 30 minutes

Curricular areas Science (scientific enquiry),
Art and Design (exploring and developing ideas).

Objectives Children will learn that there are many varieties of germs, such as viruses and certain bacteria. Some are good but some can make us sick.

To create an understanding that germs are smaller than the eye can see.
To create an understanding of where germs live.

Suggested Sequence

1. Ask if anyone knows what germs are?
2. Ask how big they are?
3. Inform children that germs are tiny bugs, also called micro-organisms and microbes. (Explain that we can't see them with our eyes, we need the help of a microscope, which acts like a giant magnifying glass. If possible show the children a microscope or a magnifying glass.)
4. Explain that there are many types of germs and that different germs can make us sick in different ways, but some are good for us.
5. Ask the children where do they think germs live. Write their answers on a board or flipchart.
6. Go on to explain that germs are nearly everywhere
7. Show children the images of germ types, discuss the shapes (balls, spirals, etc) and explain the illnesses they can cause.
8. Give the printed germ character sheets to the children to colour in, or ask the children to design their own germ characters, making it as imaginative as possible (this can be done in class or as homework) children can describe how their germ can make us sick.

You could link this with the art competition.