

Inside Invaders

Compare four agents that can cause infection.

SC.6.L.14.6 "Compare and contrast types of infectious agents that may infect the human body, including viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the first mention of each of the four infectious agents. Then underline one phrase near each agent that tells how it differs from another type.

Four Ways to Infect

- ① People can become sick when infectious agents enter the body. Four common types are viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites. They differ in what they are and how they use a human host. A virus is not made of cells. It must enter a living cell and use that cell to make more viruses. Bacteria are single-celled organisms. Some bacteria cause disease, while many others live harmlessly in or on people. Doctors may use antibiotics for certain bacterial infections, but antibiotics do not work on viruses.
- ② Fungi are organisms that may be one-celled, such as yeast, or made of many cells. Some fungi grow on the skin or in other moist body areas and can cause infections. Parasites are organisms that live on or inside a host and take resources from it. A parasite may be a tiny protozoan or a larger worm. Unlike viruses, fungi and parasites do not have to enter a person's cells to reproduce, although they can still harm body tissues.
- ③ Each type can spread in more than one way, so a person's actions matter. Viruses and bacteria may pass through droplets, touch, food, or water, depending on the kind. Fungi can spread by contact with infected skin or damp surfaces. Parasites may enter through contaminated food or water, insect bites, or contact with infected people or animals. Handwashing, safe food and water, cleaning wounds, and following medical advice can lower the chance of many infections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How is a virus different from a bacterium in its cells and reproduction?

2 Contrast bacteria and fungi using their number of cells and one fact about where they may live or grow.

3 Compare one way viruses or bacteria may spread with one way parasites may enter a person.

4 How does the passage describe a fungal infection differently from a parasite infection?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a two-sentence comparison for a clinic poster. Compare a virus and a parasite by explaining how each relates to a host and naming one possible way each can reach a person.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the first mention of each of the four infectious agents. Then underline one phrase near each agent that tells how it differs from another type. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is a virus different from a bacterium in its cells and reproduction?	A virus is not made of cells and must enter a living cell to make more viruses. A bacterium is a single-celled organism.
2	Contrast bacteria and fungi using their number of cells and one fact about where they may live or grow.	Bacteria are single-celled, and many live harmlessly in or on people. Fungi may be one-celled or many-celled, and some grow on skin or in moist body areas.
3	Compare one way viruses or bacteria may spread with one way parasites may enter a person.	Viruses or bacteria may pass through droplets, touch, food, or water. Parasites may enter through contaminated food or water, insect bites, or contact with infected people or animals.
4	How does the passage describe a fungal infection differently from a parasite infection?	Some fungi grow on the skin or in moist body areas. Parasites live on or inside a host and take resources from it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A virus must enter a living cell to make more viruses, and it may pass through droplets. A parasite lives on or inside a host and takes resources from it, and it may enter through contaminated water.

Accept equivalent comparisons that match the passage. For the open response, require two sentences that accurately describe both a virus and a parasite, including one possible transmission route for each.