



What are Microbes

_____, more commonly known as germs, bugs or microbes, are tiny living things too small to be seen with the naked eye. They are found almost everywhere on earth.

Some microbes are useful, and others can be harmful to humans. There are _____ main groups of microbes:



_____ are the smallest of the three microbes described and can be harmful to humans. Viruses cannot survive by themselves. They need a 'host' cell in order to survive. Once inside the host cell, they rapidly multiply and destroy the cell in the process. One type of virus is SARS-CoV-2.

Fungi are the **largest** of the three microbes described and are multi-cellular organisms (made up of more than one cell). Some fungi are useful, and some can be harmful to humans. For example, *Saccharomyces* is a _____ that is used to help bread rise.

Bacteria are _____ organisms that are smaller than fungi but larger than viruses. They can be divided into three main groups by their shapes – *cocci* (balls), *bacilli* (rods) and *spirals*. *Cocci* can also be broken down into three groups by how the cocci are arranged: *staphylococci* (clusters), *streptococci* (chains) and *diplococci* (pairs). These shapes can be used to identify the type of infection a patient has. If a single bacterial cell was scaled up 5,000 times it would be the size of a garden _____.

Words to use: viruses, pea, micro-organisms, single-celled, three, yeast

