

Role play - A day in the life of a Bacterium and Virus

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Background voice: Once upon a time in the body of Mr X, there lived a colony of bacteria, millions and millions of them that gave Mr X a strep throat. In the colony lived these 2 happy little bacterial friends. One day when Mr X sneezed, the 2 friends, who were out playing were thrown out of the body and landed on Mr X's hands.

Bacteria 1:

Oohhhh, oh my god! We are thrown out of her house, what do we do now?

Bacteria 2:

Well, not to worry, we shall find a new house soon enough. Just follow me wherever I go. Look, Mr X is touching that door knob, let's get on there. Someone else will touch that soon enough.

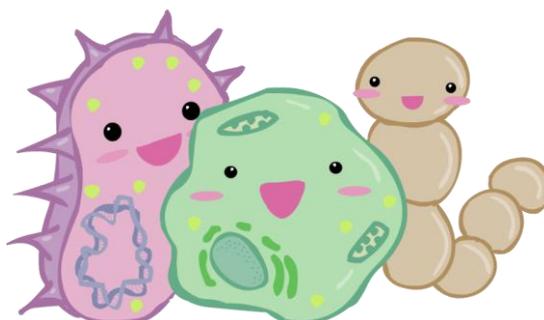
Bacteria 1:

Ok ok, I will follow your lead.

Bacteria 2: There there, that lady there is opening the door, quick get on her hands! Come on! Be quick!!

Bacteria 1: Oh god! I nearly missed her. Now what do we do next?

Bacteria 2: Now is easy peasy, we should just try and get inside her nose at the earliest possible opportunity. See, she is touching her face...jump off onto her face...there you go! Get inside her nose....and in to her throat...there..what do you think? Nice enough to be our new home?



Bacteria 1: Oh yeah! This is so cool!! A brand new home!! but I'm very hungry, How do we get food?

Bacteria 2: Well, let's just take the food from this lady with the nice nose. And start multiplying, her immune system will destroy us otherwise, we have to outnumber her immune cells.

Background voice: And so they multiplied, in 10s, hundreds, thousands, millions and billions, forming colonies. They started to take food from the nearby tissues, damaging them in the process and releasing toxins. And gave the lady with the nice nose a strep throat too...

And when the lady sneezed, some of them escaped through her sneeze and landed on a toy. They can survive there for a long time till they get lucky like the 2 little friends and find a new home. But one of them turned out to be not so lucky....

While the happy little bacteria was sitting out and waiting, there came a virus!!

The virus with its thick protein coat and genetic material is not a living thing and was waiting patiently for a host cell to help it divide.

Virus (with an evil laugh): Well well well...what do we have here? A happy little bacteria! Isn't this my lucky day! Watch me take over this cell's machinery. You think I'm small and incapable of causing havoc! You just wait till I use this bacteria's machinery to replicate my DNA many many times, you know the blueprint! I will use that blueprint and the nutrients from the bacteria to produce thousands of my clones....and take over the world!! (Evil laugh again)



Background voice: And so the virus infected the happy little bacteria, making it very very sad and very very sick! It grabbed onto the bacteria and slipped it's DNA into the cell. It then used it's DNA to make stuff that destroyed bacterial DNA. Now that the bacterial DNA is gone, the viral DNA takes over the bacterial cell and instructs the cell to make thousands of its clones, so many that the bacteria cell bursts open releasing all these viruses out to infect other cells.

Virus (evil laugh): Ain't I crafty? I can do the same to human cells too....causing many deadly diseases. These humans can't really kill me without causing harm to themselves as I sit inside their cells when I infect...ha ha ha....I rock and I rule the world!