

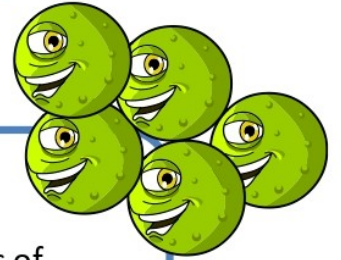


Microbe Mania Fact Sheet



What is a microbe?

Microbes are also called germs or bugs. There are three types of microbes: bacteria, viruses and fungi. Some microbes can make us ill, but most are very useful to us.



Where are microbes found and what do they look like?

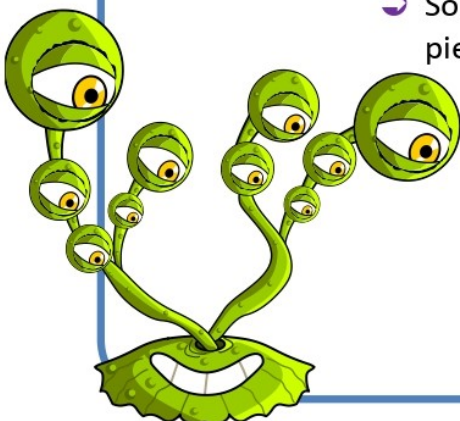
Microbes are found everywhere! They come in all shapes and sizes. See some pictures of microbes on our Microbe Mania poster.



Did you know?

Surprise your friends and family with these fun facts!

- There are more microbes on the planet than any other type of living thing
- Microbes are the oldest form of life on Earth. They've been here for 4 billion years.
- Microbes are found everywhere on Earth, even inside volcanoes!
- Some microbes can glow in the dark! People once used glowing pieces of fungus growing on wood to light their way.
- Humans would not be able to live without microbes. Some microbes produce oxygen which we need to breathe and others help plants to grow which we eat!



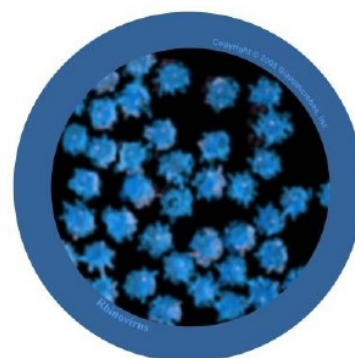


Microbe Mania Make your own Microbes

Use play dough to create your own microbes!

**Decide what type of microbe you have made:
fungi, bacteria or virus, and whether it is a good or bad
microbe**

For ideas, download pictures of microbes from www.e-bug.eu. Ask an adult to help you make your own play dough, using the recipe below.



Photos copyright 2008 Giantmicrobes, inc.





Microbe Mania

Home-made play dough recipe

For Parents and Teachers

Play dough is a soft, pliable material that can keep children occupied making microbes for hours! Play dough can be purchased but it may be more cost effective to make your own. Home-made play dough has the added advantage that you can choose your preferred palate of colours. The home-made play dough is non-toxic and easily sculpted making it an ideal material for this activity.

Ingredients

- 1 cup of plain flour
- 1 cup of water
- 1/2 cup of salt
- 2 teaspoons of cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
- Food colouring

Method

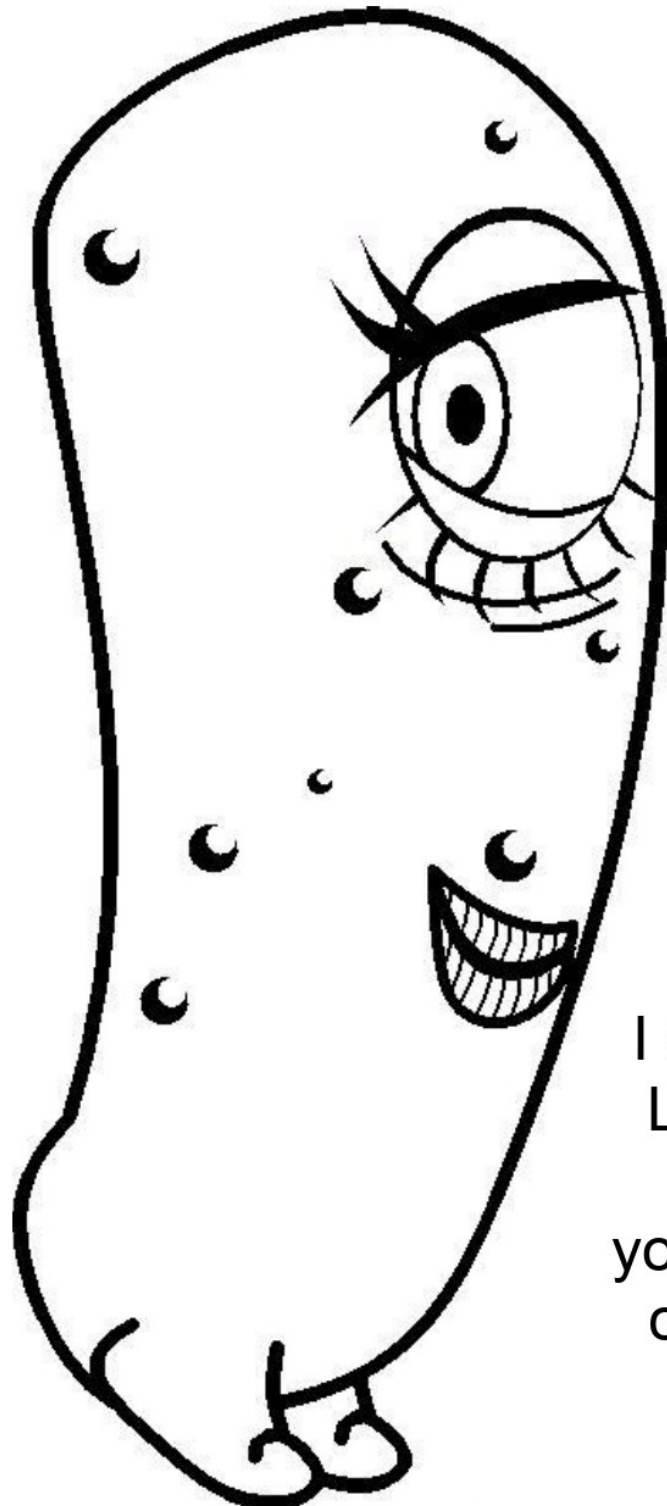
1. **Mix** together the dry ingredients
2. **Add** the water and **mix** until smooth
3. **Add** the food colouring followed by the vegetable oil
4. **Cook** on a medium heat, **stirring** constantly, until the dough leaves the side of the pan in a ball

Alternatively, **microwave** the mixture on a high setting for 4 minutes, **stirring** every 30 seconds

5. **Allow** to cool before use
6. **Store** in a plastic bag or wrapped in cling film to stop the play dough drying out



Lucy Lactobacillus

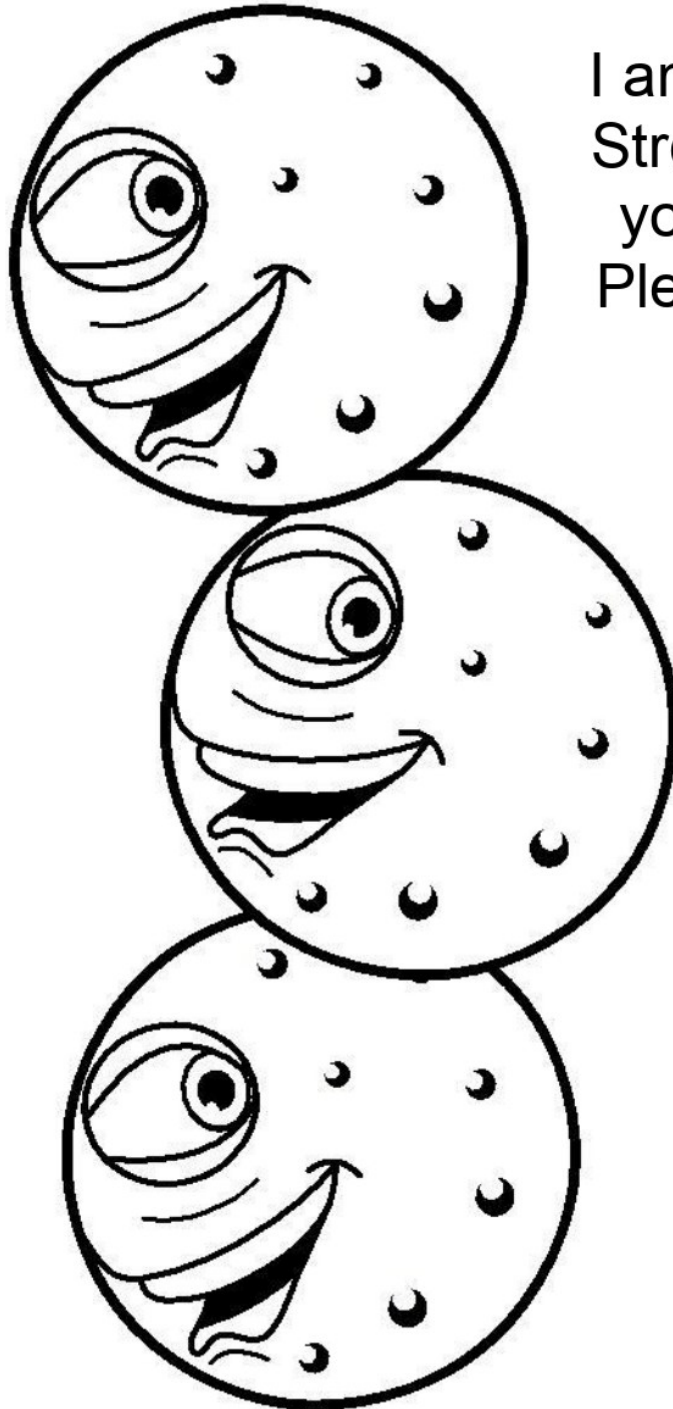


I am a friendly
Lactobacillus
found in
yoghurt. Please
colour me in!



Sally Strep

(Streptococcus)

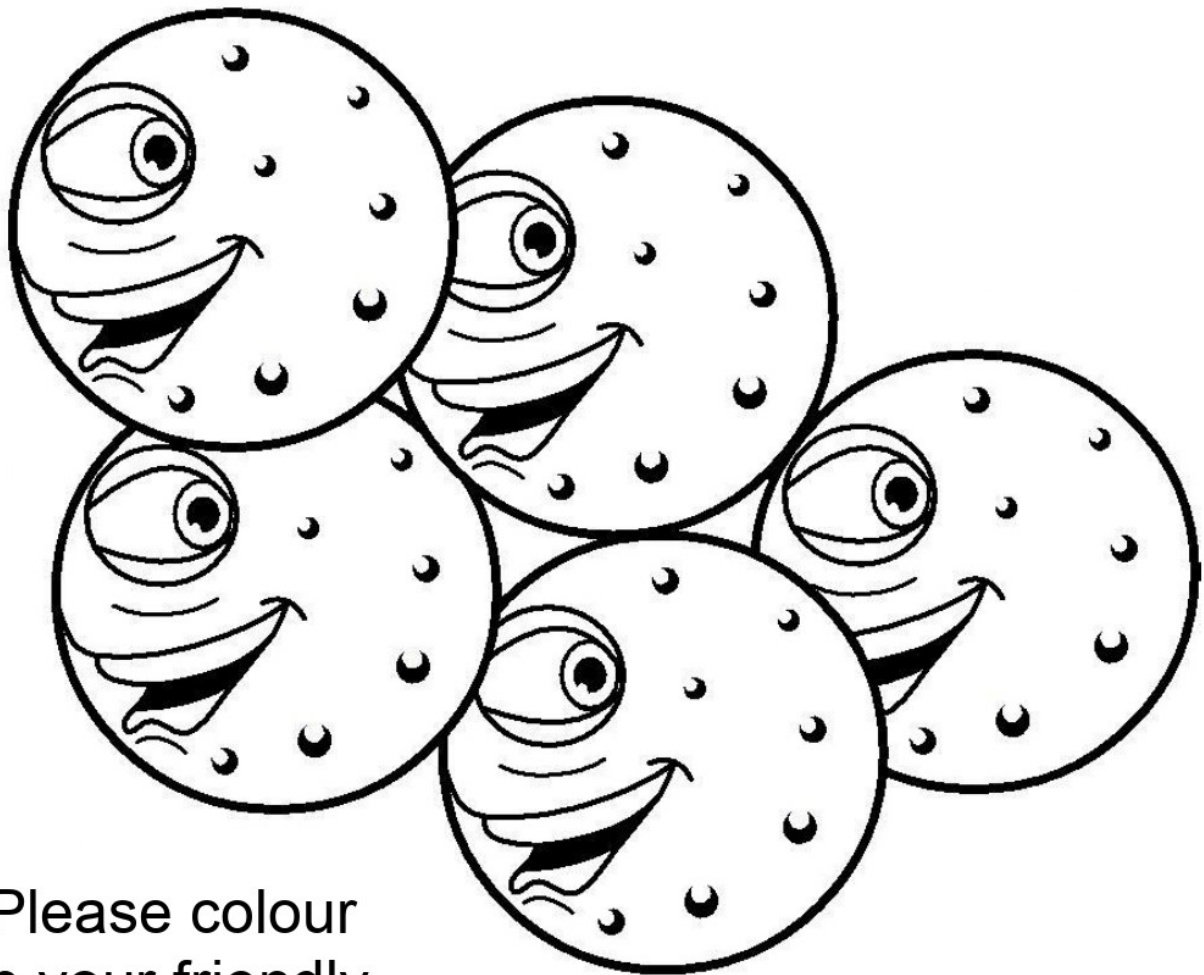


I am a friendly
Strep found in
your mouth.
Please colour
me in!

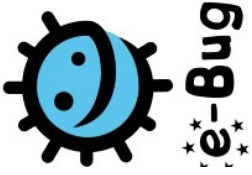


Simon Staph

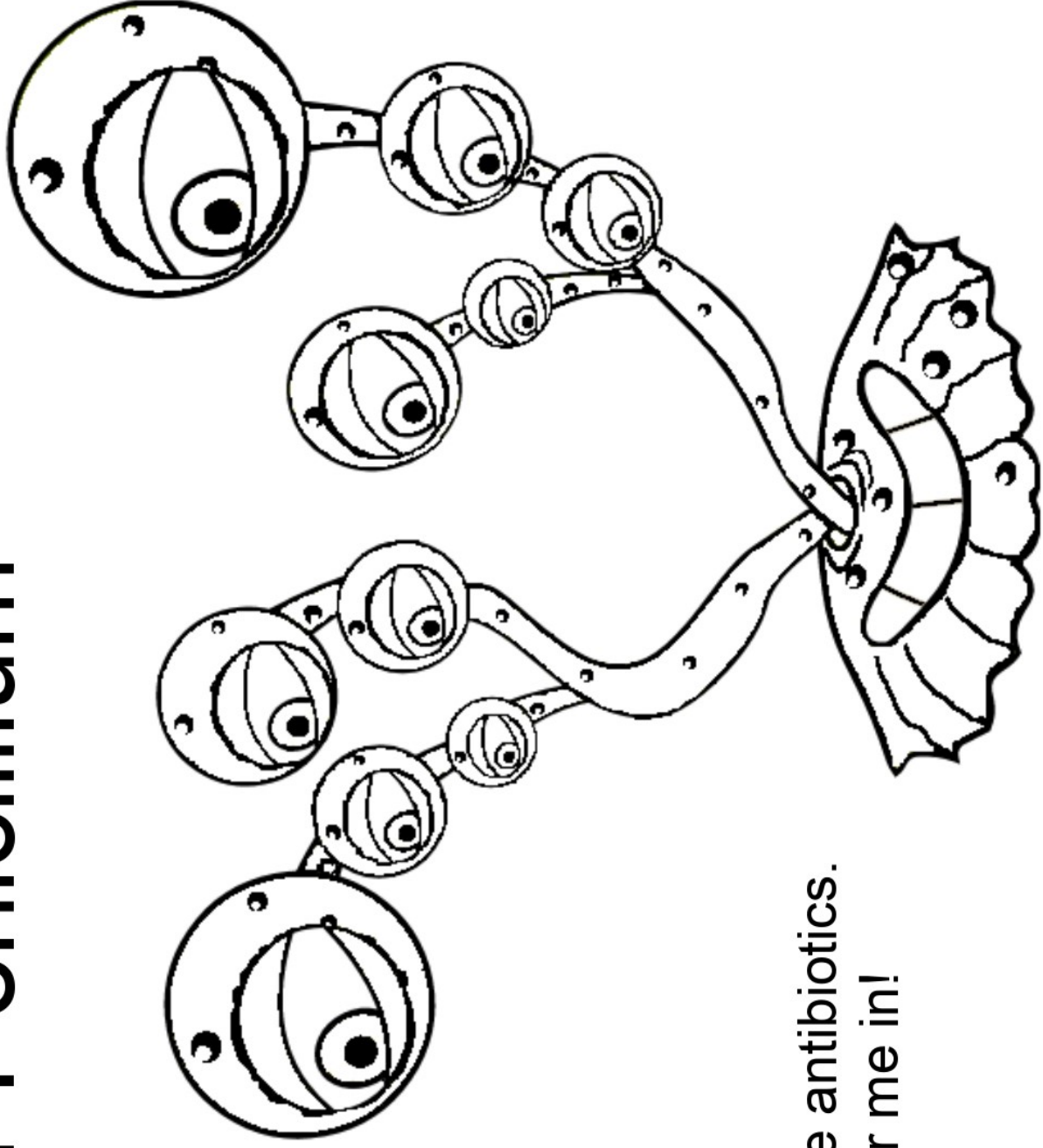
(Staphylococcus)



Please colour
in your friendly
Staphs. We are
found on your
skin!



Peter Penicillium



I am used to make antibiotics.
Please colour me in!