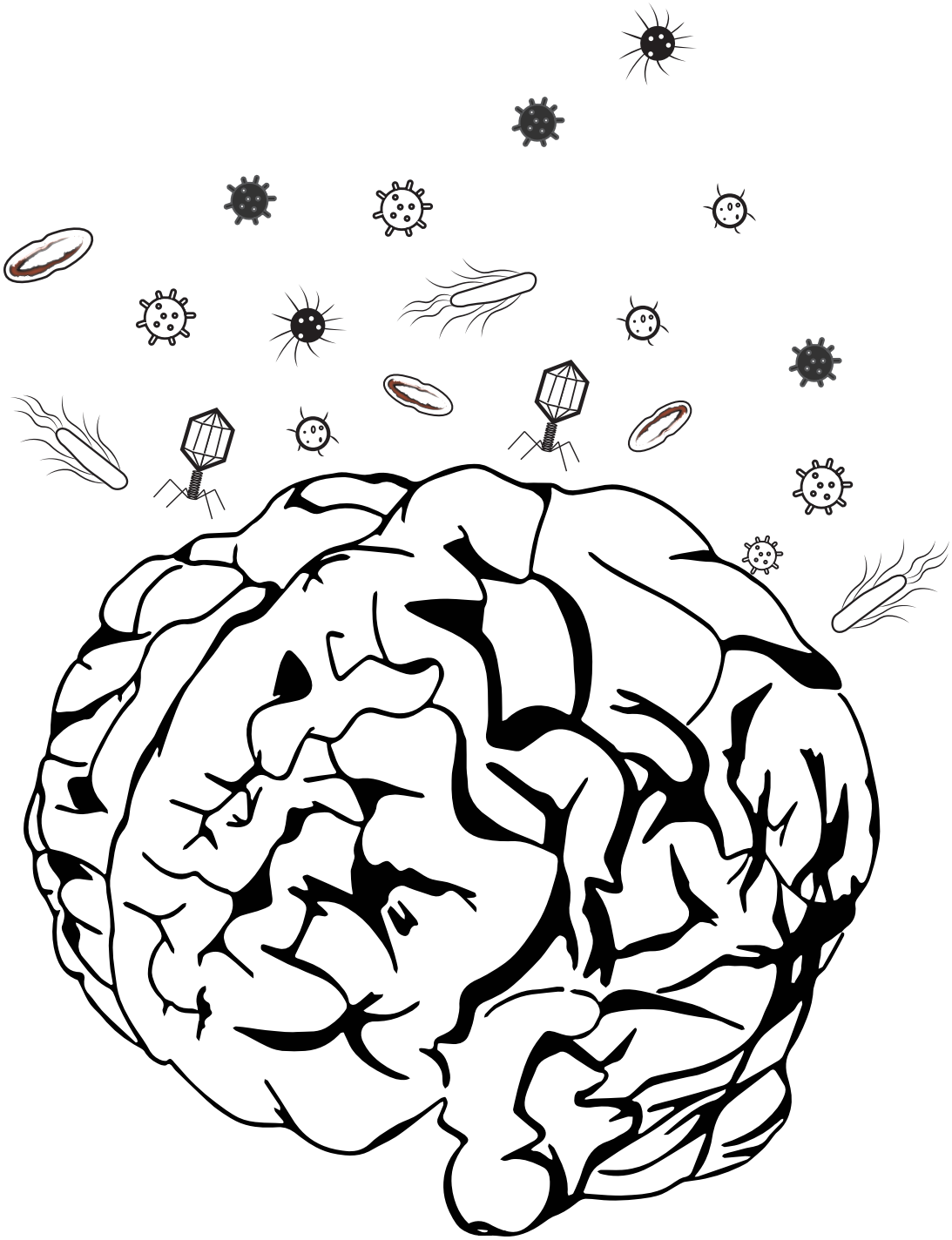
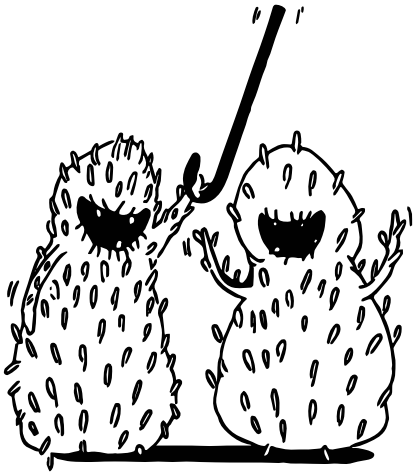
Microbes on My Mind Comic



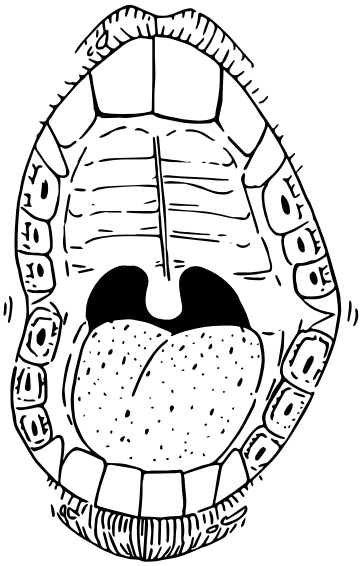
Microbiology is the study of microorganisms or microbes which are very small and cannot be seen with the human eye.

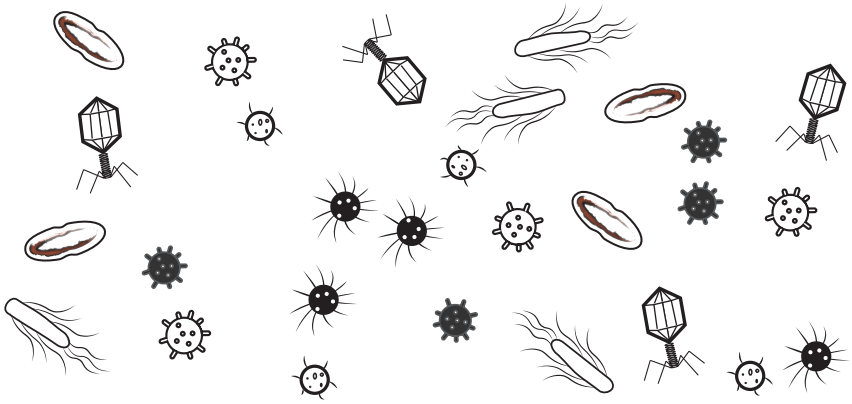


Microbes are the oldest single-celled living organisms on Earth! They are so small that they can fit on the tiny end of a needle.

These microorganisms are small, but tough. They can survive even the harshest conditions, such as extreme heat!

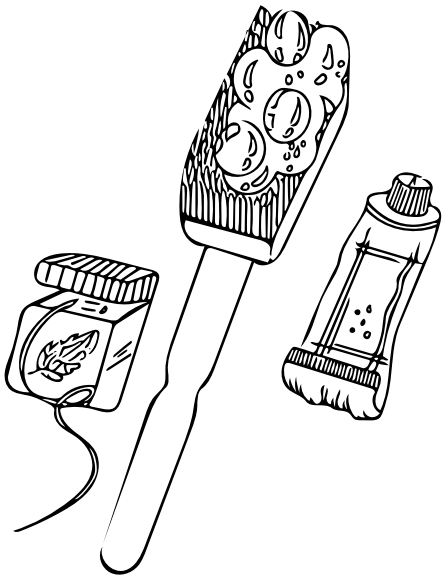
Microbes are literally everywhere! They are in the air, in our food, inside us, and all around us. (The human mouth contains more than 600 types of bacteria.)



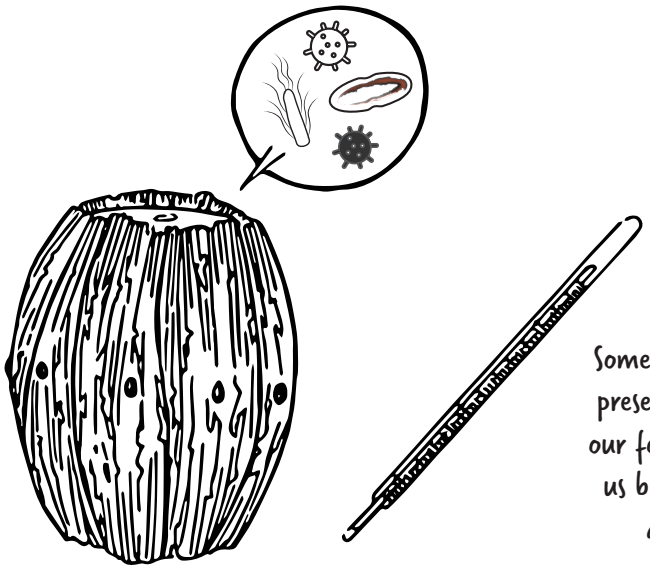


There are good and bad microbes. Not all bacteria are bad, but there are some we do not want in our mouths.

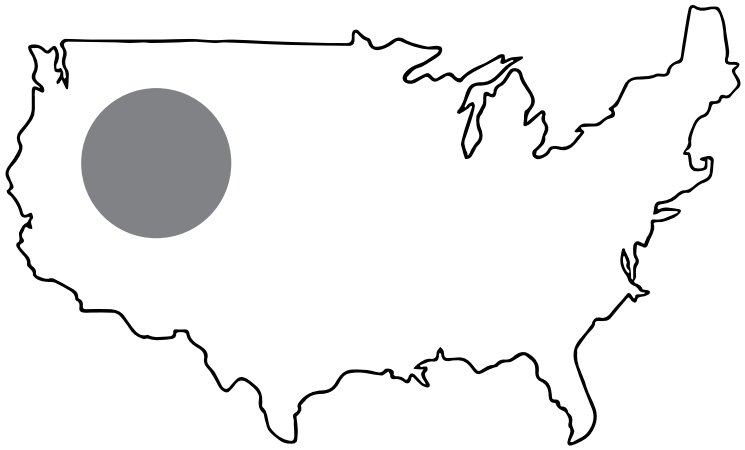
That is why it is recommended to brush your teeth twice a day, floss, and use antiseptic. This practice will help prevent cavities.



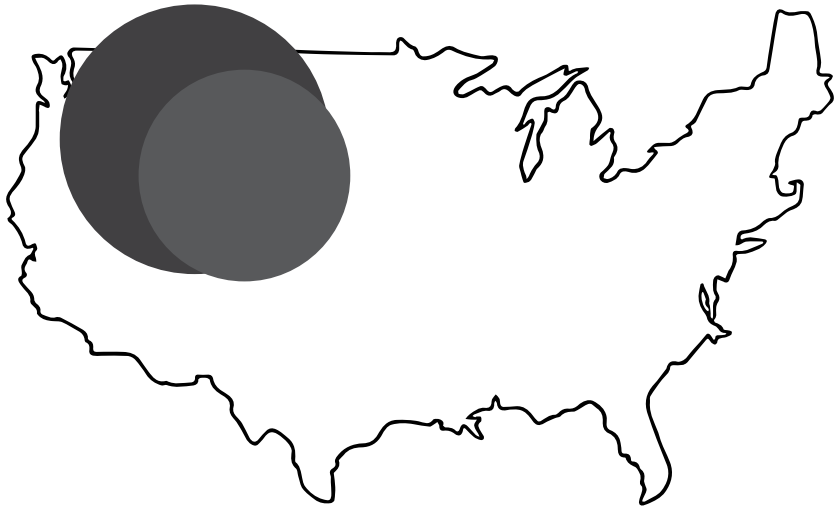
From the beginning of time, microbes have existed. When humans arrived, these microbes had an influence on humans.



Some microbes help us by preserving and culturing our food, and some harm us by causing epidemics and pandemics.

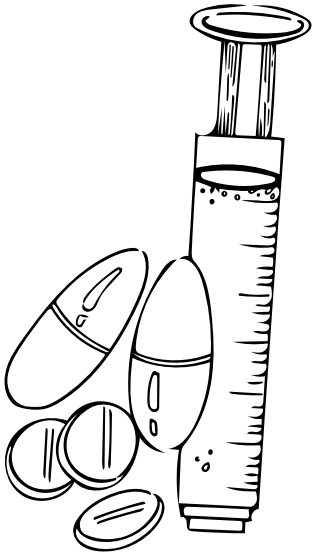


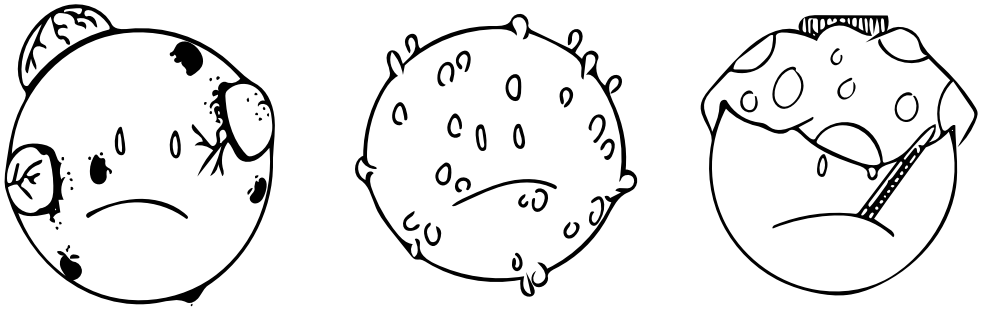
An epidemic is when a disease or illness infects way more people than what was expected within a country, or part of a country. It is widespread but relatively contained within the region.



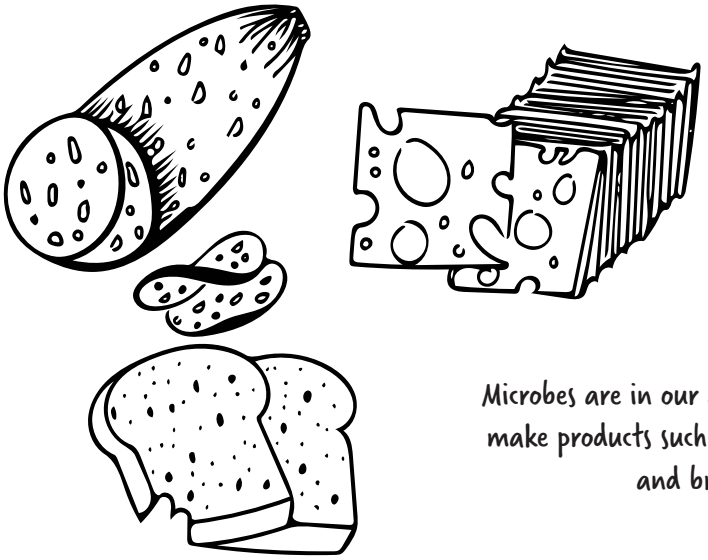
A pandemic is more spread out and geographically severe than an epidemic.

It is usually caused by a new strain of virus or bacteria for which humans have developed little immunity and no cure or medicine.





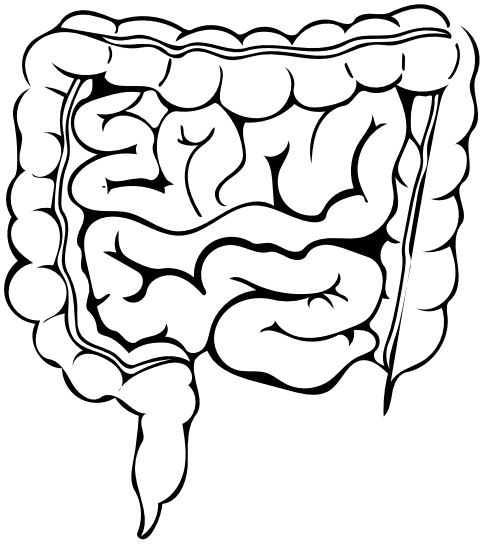
Examples of epidemics and pandemics are: bubonic plague, smallpox, and influenza.

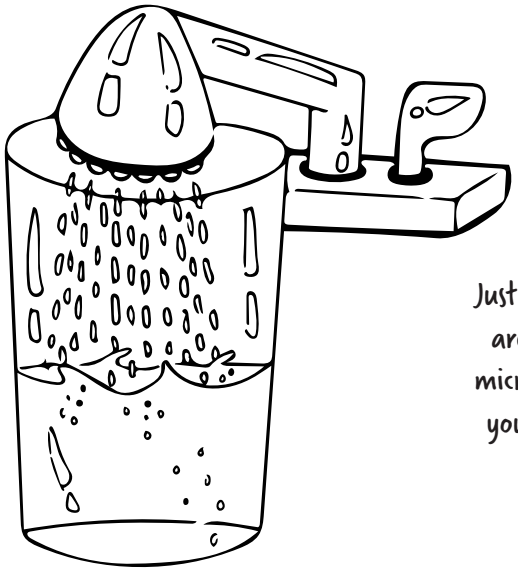


Microbes are in our food. They help us make products such as salami, cheese, and bread.

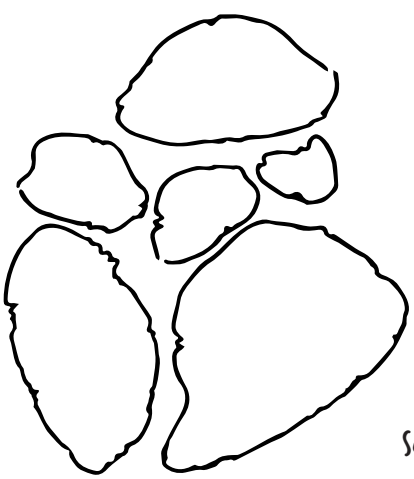
Did you know, people have been eating yogurt since it was first cultured around 500 BC?

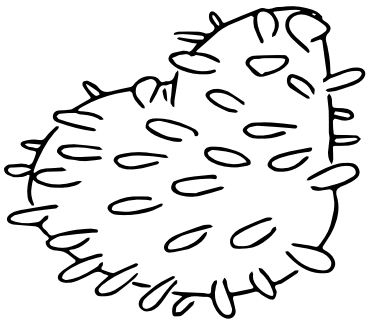
Yogurt is good for a person's diet. It is beneficial for digestion and replacing healthy bacteria destroyed in the intestines after the use of antibiotics.





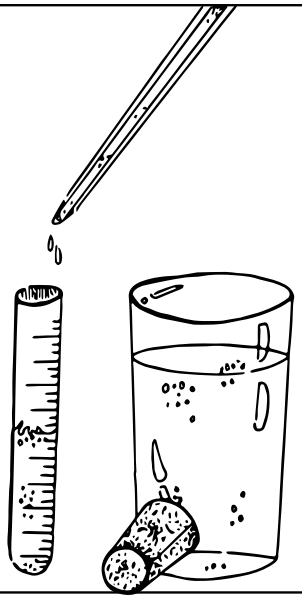
Just as microbes are in our food, they are also in our water. The types of microorganisms in a water sample tell you a lot about the quality of that water system.



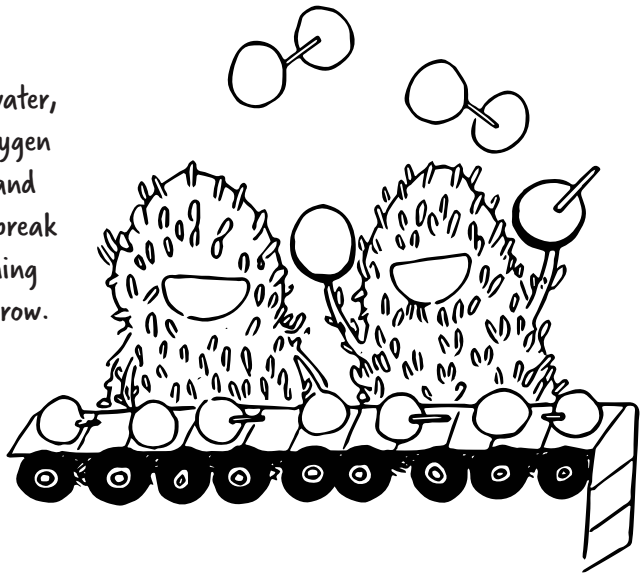


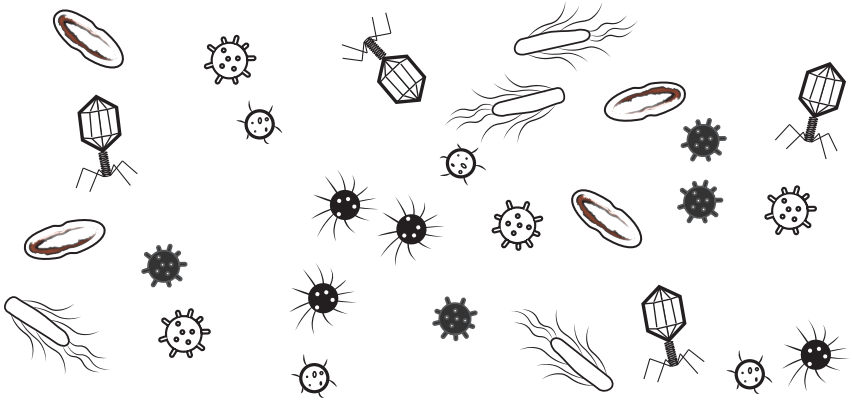
Some examples of these microorganisms are bacteria, algae, and diatoms.

To determine the quantity of microorganisms present in a water system, scientists perform various tests on a water sample. If too many microbes are present, the water is unsafe for consumption.



Microbes are in our food, water, and air. They generate oxygen as a part of the carbon and nitrogen cycles. They also break down matter into nourishing materials for new life to grow.





In summary, microbes are all around us. They benefit us by making food, monitoring our digestion, and acting as decomposers. On the other hand, they can be quite harmful by causing diseases and illnesses.

So, remember that microbes are necessary components of life. Humans and other living organisms depend on these microorganisms for basic survival needs even though they cannot be seen.