

# Microorganisms Partner Practice

1. What are microorganisms?

1. Microorganisms are organisms (living things) too small to be seen without magnification.
2. How do producers, consumers, and decomposers differ?

2. A producer makes its own food. A consumer can't make its own food. A decomposer returns nutrients to soil and water by breaking down materials (decay).
3. What is a virus?

3. A virus is a small, nonliving particle that invades and then reproduces inside a living cell, killing the cell.
4. What are bacteria and what are the 3 forms or shapes in which they are found?

4. Bacteria are one-celled organisms that have no nucleus and live around you and inside you. Cocci are round-shaped bacteria. Bacilli are rod-shaped bacteria. Spirilla are spiral-shaped bacteria.
5. What is a protozoan and describe the 3 methods of movement used by them.

5. Protozoans (protists) are microscopic organisms that usually live in the water and move by (1) forming a false foot called a pseudopod, (2) using a whip like structure called flagella, or (3) moving short hair like structures called cilia.
6. What are fungi and why are they important?

6. Fungi are organisms that are neither plants nor animals, but are like both and absorb food from whatever they are growing on. They decompose and recycle valuable nutrients.
7. What does it mean to culture?

7. To culture means to grow microbes in a prepared nutrient medium.
8. What are algae?

8. Algae are protists that usually live in water and produce their own food.