

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Marvelous Microbe Mystery for Pre-K Protists

Cross-contamination, ecosystem balance, and scale analysis. Use this during circle time to evaluate how tiny invisible life interacts with our giant world.

1. Imagine a tiny microbe wants to travel across a giant kitchen sponge. If the microbe is as small as a speck of dust, what would a drop of water feel like to them?

Answer: B) A giant, deep ocean

Because microbes are microscopic, a single drop of water is massive compared to them, acting like a huge body of water for them to swim in.

2. If we could shrink down and talk to microbes, we would find that many of them are actually helping the plants in our garden grow big and strong.

Answer: A) True

Many soil microbes help turn old leaves into food for plants, showing that microscopic life is essential for a healthy ecosystem.

3. Suppose you have a magic 'Zoom Lens.' To see a tiny microbe hiding on your hand, you would need to zoom in ____.

Answer: B) A million times

Microbes are invisible to the naked eye; extreme magnification is required to analyze their structure and movement.

4. If a microbe lived in a dark, wet puddle, what would happen if the sun came out and dried the puddle up completely?

Answer: B) The microbe might stop moving or disappear

Microbes need specific environments to survive; removing water (desiccation) changes their ability to stay active.

5. When we wash our hands with soap, we are trying to ____ the tiny microbes that shouldn't be traveling with us.

Answer: C) Remove

Handwashing is a primary method for disrupting the transfer of microbes from surfaces to our bodies.

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6. Every single microbe on Earth is a 'bad guy' that makes people feel sick.

Answer: B) False

This is false; many microbes are 'good guys' that live in our tummies to help us digest food or help produce oxygen in the ocean.

7. If you leave a slice of bread in a damp, dark bag for a long time, and fuzzy green spots grow, what does this tell us about the microbes there?

Answer: B) The microbes are eating and growing

Visible mold is a sign of millions of fungi (microbes) thriving and reproducing because they have food and water.

8. Microbes are so small that if you put ten thousand of them in a line, they would still be ___ than the tip of your pencil.

Answer: C) Smaller

This illustrates the concept of scale; even in large groups, individuals remain incredibly small compared to everyday objects.

9. Can microbes travel from one person to another if they share a toy without wiping it clean?

Answer: A) True

This is true; sharing objects creates a bridge for microbes to move from one host to another.

10. What is the best way for a 'Microbe Detective' to see a single bacterium?

Answer: B) Using a powerful microscope

A microscope is the standard tool for observing life that is too small for our eyes to detect on their own.