Name: _____

Germ-o-rama by Lydia Lukidis

Greetings! My name is Mr. Ash and I'm an itsy bitsy germ. At first I was living in Marcia's body. She didn't wash her hands after she went to the bathroom. Then she hugged her friend Sally. That's when I jumped into Sally's body.

Atchoo!! Now I made Marcia and Sally sick!

Everybody gets sick sometimes. It's because of me and all the other germs. But what are germs?



Bacteria are little creatures. They can live outside your body. They can also live inside you. Some bacteria are really nasty. They can cause infections. They can cause a sore throat, tonsillitis, ear infections or pneumonia.

Not all bacteria are bad though. Some kinds of bacteria are actually good for your bodies. They keep you balanced. For example, good bacteria lives in your intestines. They help your body digest food. Good bacteria are sometimes called "probiotics".

Viruses are a bit different. They can only live inside you to survive. They can also live in a plant or animal. Whatever they live in is called the "host."

They can spread and make you sick. They can cause yucky diseases like the flu, measles, and chicken pox. Good thing viruses don't live long.

So how do we germs get around? Easy! We surf around in the air through sneezes, coughs, or breaths. We also travel in sweat, saliva, and blood. Some of us, like me, can travel from one person to another if they touch each other. We can live on objects for a while, like a doorknob. When the next person touches that doorknob, poof! I jump into their body.





About the Author

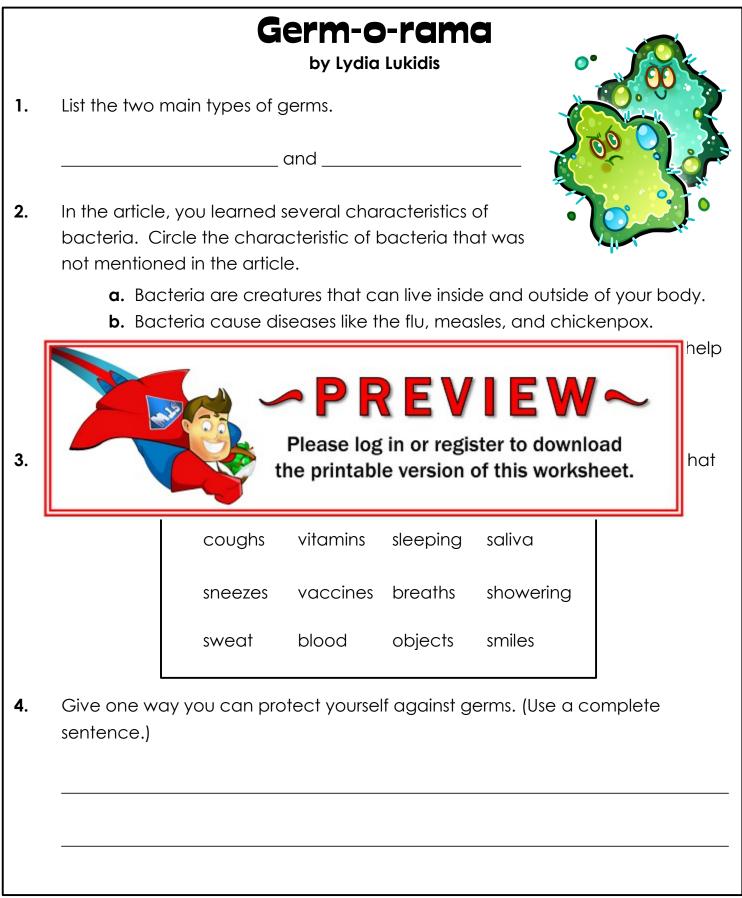


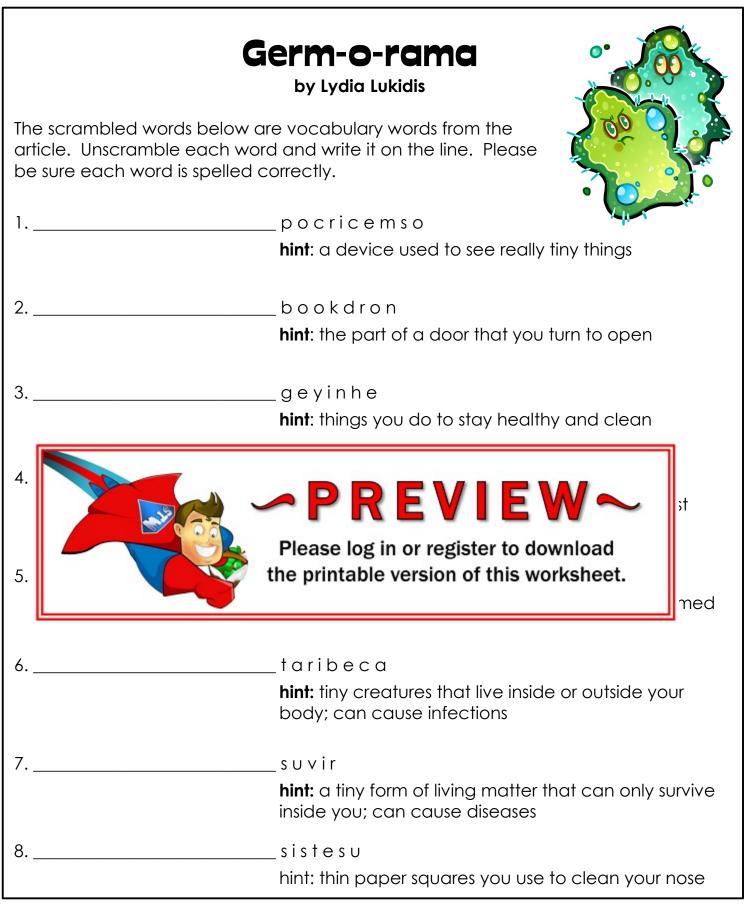
Lydia Lukidis is a published children's author with a multidisciplinary background that spans the fields of literature, theater and puppetry.

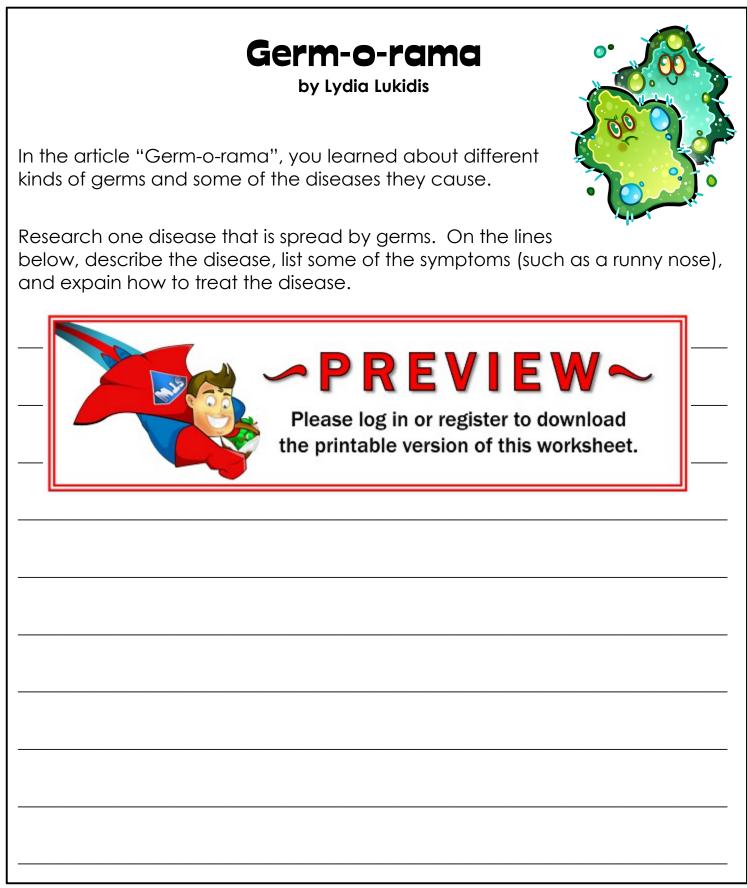
Lydia's picture book, Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine, is now available. Find out if Mocha will ever get his silly son to sleep!

Lukidis, Lydia. Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine ISBN: 978-0-9917402-7-7







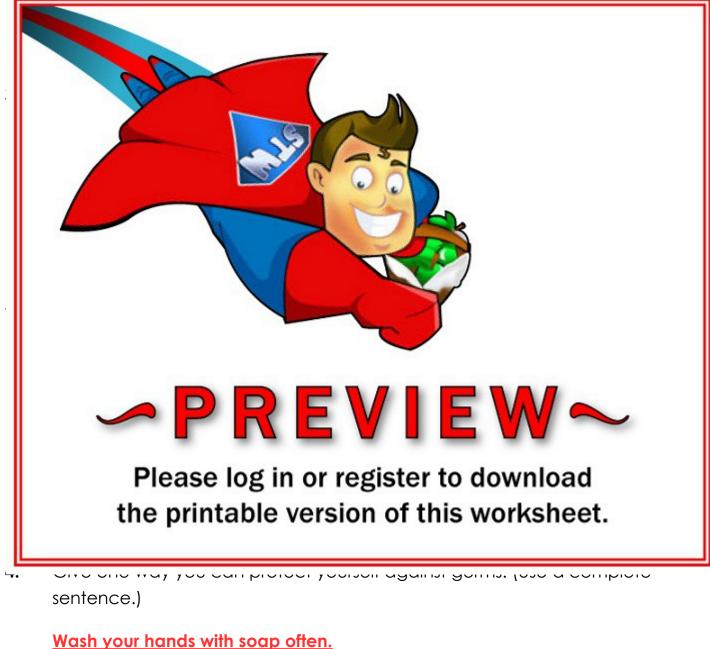








1. List the two main types of germs.



ANSWER KEY

Germ-o-rama

by Lydia Lukidis

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. microscope

pocricemso

hint: a device used to see really tiny things

