



# MICROBES

## THE TINY CREATURES AROUND US

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THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

There are tiny creatures all around us—



smaller than a  
**LADYBUG**

smaller than an  
**ANT**



smaller than an



**APHID**

smaller than a **GRAIN of SAND** you can hold in the palm of your hand.



Sometimes they are so small you cannot see them with your own two eyes.

They can be so small that more than 200,000 of them would fit on the period at the end of this sentence.

**200,000**

Two hundred thousand!



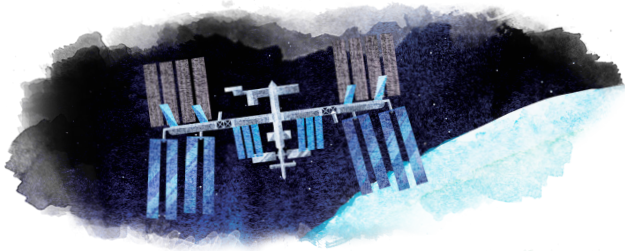
Microbes live everywhere.

They live where there are people, plants, and animals—

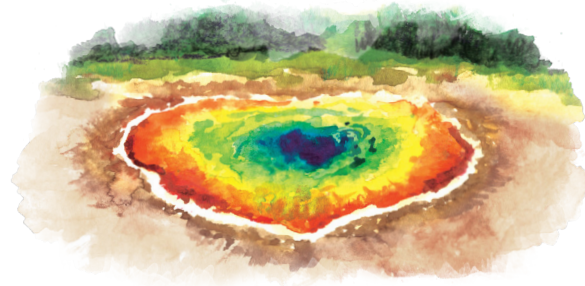
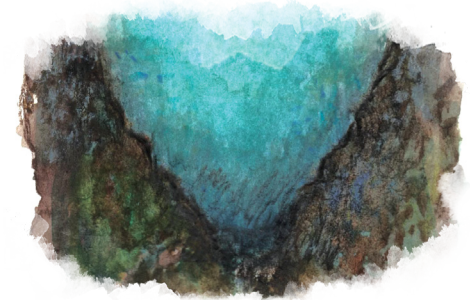


and they live where no people, plants, or animals can ever live.

You can find them up in space  
(at the International Space Station) . . .



and in the deepest  
part of the ocean  
(in the Mariana  
Trench).



You can find them at national parks  
(in the Morning Glory Rainbow Pool  
at Yellowstone National Park) . . .

When it is clear and dark, step outside. Look up at the velvet black sky.

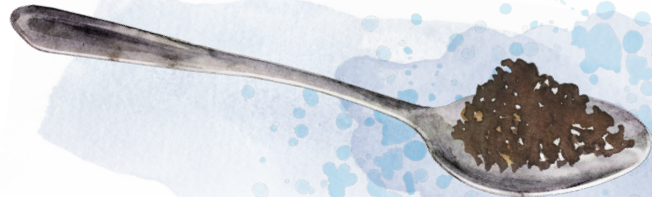
Stars shimmer and wink above your head, stretching on and on and on.

Some appear large and bright; others appear small and faint.

There are stars that are invisible to your own two eyes,  
even with a telescope.

Can you count all the stars?

Scientists believe that there are more microbes  
in our world than there are stars in the sky!

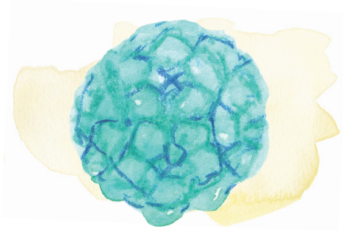


Not only that, but there are more microbes  
in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on  
the whole entire earth!

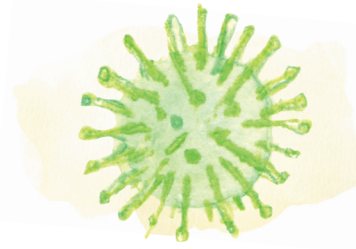




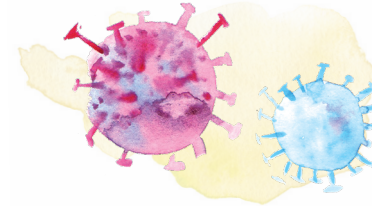
**VIRUSES** are the smallest of all microbes and cause illnesses, including these:



**COMMON COLD**



**INFLUENZA**




**CORONAVIRUS**

Viruses are unique among microbes because they are not considered true living creatures. Viruses cannot do anything on their own; they need a **HOST**




(a human, plant, or animal, for example) in order to do anything.



Now you can see why this microscopic world has more tiny living creatures than there are stars in the sky!

Microbes are the tiny creatures around us that help keep our world healthy.

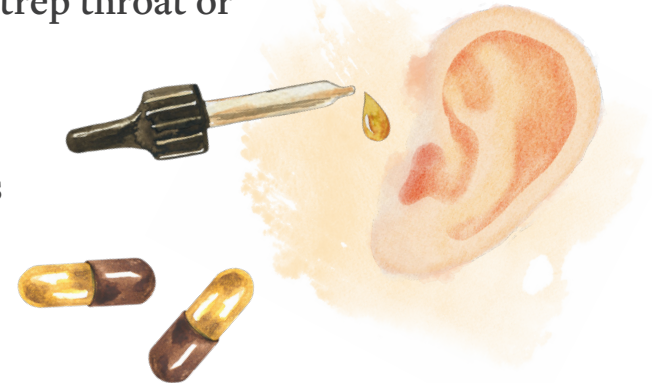
They are on the outside and the inside of you and me and help our bodies do wonderful things like digest food and fight disease.



Microbes help form delightful and healthful things like bread and cheese,

and they can cause illnesses like strep throat or an ear infection.

A microbe may have helped form the antibiotic that helps you get better from that strep throat or ear infection!





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## THE TINY CREATURES AROUND US

Did you know there is an invisible world just as varied as the world you can see with your own two eyes? This invisible world is the world of microbes: tiny living creatures doing amazing jobs from on your very own skin to in the deepest parts of the ocean. Enjoy beautiful watercolor illustrations as you journey through this book to uncover an unseen world full of wonder. Each page will help you learn more about these tiny creatures and the important roles they play in our world.



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