Bacteria Beads and Balls

Make science and bacteria studies fun by using beads and Styrofoam balls to teach shape and arrangement of bacteria.

6

GRADE LEVEL

ARTS

LANGUAGE

MATH

MISCELLANEOUS

SCIENCE

HISTORY

SOCIAL STUDIES

Objectives

Student will be able to identify the shapes and arrangements of 5 different bacteria.

Materials

- Multiple sizes of Styrofoam balls
- Toothpicks or glue
- Rick rack trim
- Popsicle sticks
- Glitter
- Multiple assortment of beads
- String
- Rubber bands

Presentations

Bacteria 1. Students decorate one Styrofoam ball and learn 'coccus formation' which is round in shape.

Bacteria 2. Hook two Styrofoam balls together with toothpicks or glue and learn 'diplococcus formation' which is two round objects found together.

Bacteria 3. Create a string of beads representing 'streptococcus' and glue or toothpick together clusters of small Styrofoam balls for 'staphylococcus.'

Bacteria 4. Decorate popsicle sticks representing rod shaped 'bacillus formation.'

Bacteria 5. Twist together three 3" pieces of rick rack and rubber band at one end allowing the pieces to spiral down creating the spiral 'spirilla formation.'

Additional Applications

- Describe germs and have students design and build actual germ models.
- Use the models and knowledge of bacteria formation to discuss factors that decrease the spread of infections.

SHOPA Foundation for Educational Excellence

Kids In Need

COURTESY OF HOBBY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Julianne Henry
Southwest Tech Vocational Center
Gouverneur, NY