

Chapter 01: Microbes Shape Our History

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following is NOT considered a benefit of microorganisms?
- a. nitrogen fixation
 - b. production of fermented foods
 - c. synthesis of vitamins
 - d. causative agents of disease

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: 1.1

OBJ: 1.1a Describe how we define a microbe, and explain why the definition is a challenge.

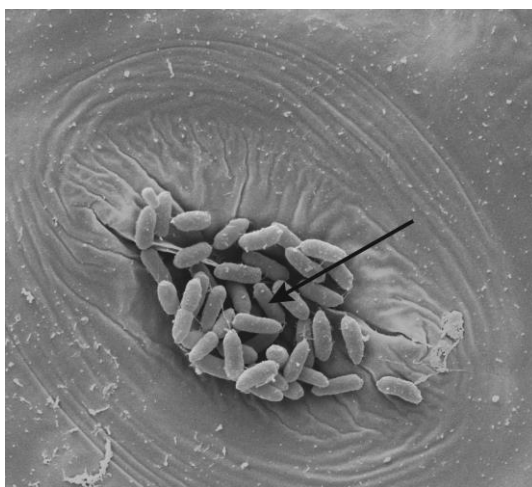
MSC: Remembering

2. A microbe that is 50 nm in size would most likely be
- a. fungi.
 - b. *E. coli*.
 - c. virus.
 - d. algae.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: 1.1

OBJ: 1.1b Describe the three major domains of life: Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. Explain what the three domains have in common and how they differ. MSC: Applying

3. Based on the figure shown, the type of organism indicated with an arrow could be a



- a. virus.
- b. bacteria.
- c. macroscopic fungi.
- d. large ameba.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: 1.1

OBJ: 1.1b Describe the three major domains of life: Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. Explain what the three domains have in common and how they differ. MSC: Applying

4. Based on the figure, the type of organism shown is a(n)

9. Which of the following has been used as a tool for gene therapy?
- a. viruses
 - b. archaea
 - c. protozoa
 - d. fungi

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: 1.1

OBJ: 1.1b Describe the three major domains of life: Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. Explain what the three domains have in common and how they differ. MSC: Understanding

10. Which of the following would you not expect to find in the human digestive tract?
- a. archaea
 - b. algae
 - c. bacteria
 - d. intestinal viruses

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 1.1

OBJ: 1.1b Describe the three major domains of life: Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. Explain what the three domains have in common and how they differ. MSC: Understanding

11. Antibiotics are chemotherapeutic drugs that function by inhibiting an important cellular structure or process of an organism that is causing an infection. Which of the following would not be affected by an antibiotic that targets cellular metabolic enzymes?
- a. *Streptococcus pyogenes* bacteria
 - b. Herpes virus
 - c. amoeba
 - d. bread mold

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 1.1

OBJ: 1.1c Define viruses, and explain how they relate to living cells.
MSC: Analyzing

12. Which scientist is credited with constructing the first microscope?
- a. Antonie van Leeuwenhoek
 - b. Catherine of Siena
 - c. Robert Hooke
 - d. Louis Pasteur

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 1.2

OBJ: 1.2a Explain how microbial diseases have changed human history.
MSC: Remembering

13. Which of the following was an unexpected benefit of the bubonic plague?
- a. There was no benefit to the bubonic plague.
 - b. The population of Europe experienced a baby boom.
 - c. It resulted in a better understanding of aseptic practices and how to prevent the spread of infection.
 - d. The population decline enabled the cultural advancement of the Renaissance.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: 1.2

OBJ: 1.2a Explain how microbial diseases have changed human history.
MSC: Understanding

14. Which of the following organisms would you NOT be able to see using Robert Hooke's microscope?
- a. vinegar eels
 - b. dust mites
 - c. mold filaments
 - d. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: 1.2

OBJ: 1.2a Explain how microbial diseases have changed human history.
MSC: Understanding

15. Which of the following is NOT an explanation for the centuries it took between Leeuwenhoek observing microorganisms with his microscope and the discovery that microbes are capable of causing disease?
- Microbes are found everywhere.
 - Bacteria appeared similar to sperm and blood cells under the microscope.
 - Microorganisms are capable of existing through spontaneous generation.
 - Diseases were not a problem in the world until long after the discovery of microorganisms.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: 1.2

OBJ: 1.2a Explain how microbial diseases have changed human history.

MSC: Applying

16. If Spallanzani had unknowingly poked a hole in the top of his flask of meat broth, what would this have implied about the theory of spontaneous generation?
- No growth would have occurred in the flask, refuting the theory of spontaneous generation.
 - No growth would have occurred in the flask, supporting the theory of spontaneous generation.
 - Growth would have occurred in the flask, refuting the theory of spontaneous generation.
 - Growth would have occurred in the flask, supporting the theory of spontaneous generation.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: 1.2

OBJ: 1.2b Describe how microbes participate in human cultural practices such as production of food and drink. MSC: Applying

17. What would John Tyndall have needed to use to disprove the theory of spontaneous generation with his experiments?
- a swan-neck flask
 - a microscope
 - an autoclave
 - organic media

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: 1.2

OBJ: 1.2b Describe how microbes participate in human cultural practices such as production of food and drink. MSC: Applying

18. Which of the following theories was the Miller experiment designed to test?
- the endosymbiotic origin of life
 - the idea that all the chemicals found in early Earth could have come together to form the basic components of cellular life
 - spontaneous generation
 - the RNA world hypothesis

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 1.2

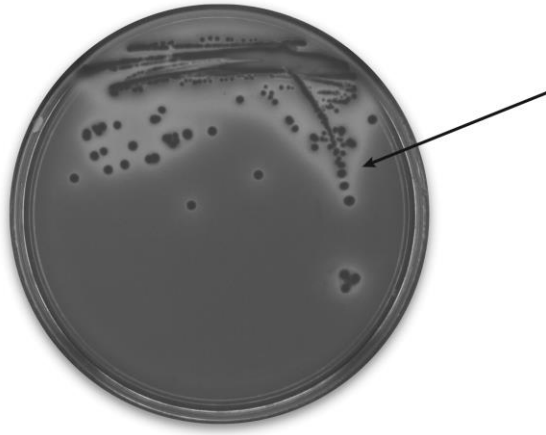
OBJ: 1.2a Explain how microbial diseases have changed human history.

MSC: Understanding

19. Why did fewer soldiers die from infectious disease during the Crimean War in the winter months?
- Pathogens do not multiply as quickly in colder temperatures.
 - Pathogens do not multiply as quickly in wet environments.
 - Soldiers have fewer close interactions with other individuals during the winter months.
 - Chemical agents used to treat and prevent infections do not function effectively in warmer temperatures.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3b Explain how Florence Nightingale first drew a statistical correlation between



- a. gelatin suspension.
- b. endospore.
- c. colony.
- d. cell.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3c Explain how Koch's postulates can show that a specific kind of microbe causes a disease.

MSC: Understanding

24. The first vaccination was done to prevent
- a. AIDS.
 - b. smallpox.
 - c. tuberculosis.
 - d. anthrax.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3c Explain how Koch's postulates can show that a specific kind of microbe causes a disease.

MSC: Remembering

25. Which of the following techniques is effective in creating an attenuated version of a pathogen useful for vaccinations?
- a. putting a liquid culture of the pathogen in the freezer
 - b. heating an aged culture of the pathogen
 - c. homogenizing a culture of the pathogen
 - d. exposing a culture of the pathogen to nuclear radiation

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3c Explain how Koch's postulates can show that a specific kind of microbe causes a disease.

MSC: Understanding

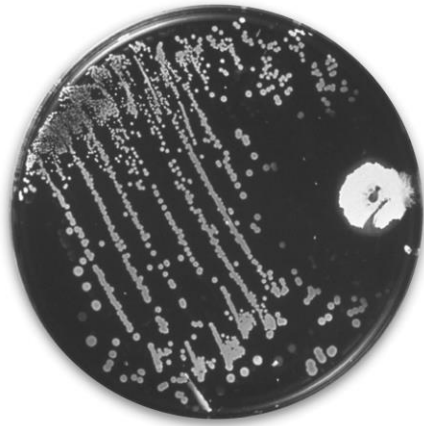
26. Regarding the natural source for the production of antibiotics, the best weapon we have against pathogenic microorganisms is
- a. medical doctors.
 - b. acclaimed scientific researchers.
 - c. other microorganisms that can exist with the pathogenic microorganisms.
 - d. the CDC.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3c Explain how Koch's postulates can show that a specific kind of microbe causes a disease.

MSC: Understanding

27. What is happening in the figure shown?



- The mold on the left is producing a compound that inhibits the growth of the bacterial colonies on the right.
- The mold on the left is outcompeting the bacterial cells for nutrients and therefore is growing faster.
- The bacterial cells on the right are inhibiting the growth of the mold on the left.
- The mold and bacterial cells are growing in a symbiotic relationship.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3c Explain how Koch's postulates can show that a specific kind of microbe causes a disease.

MSC: Applying

28. Warts are a common skin condition caused by an organism that cannot be grown in pure culture on an agar petri dish and is small enough to pass through a tiny-pored filter. What is the causative agent of warts?

- a bacterium
- a virus
- an archaea
- a fungus

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3c Explain how Koch's postulates can show that a specific kind of microbe causes a disease.

MSC: Applying

29. *Thiobacillus ferrooxidans* is a microorganism that gains its energy from the oxidation of ferrous iron (Fe^{2+}) to ferric iron (Fe^{3+}) and hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) to sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4). Based on this information, *T. ferrooxidans* is an example of a

- nitrogen fixer.
- lithotroph.
- endosymbiont.
- biofilm participant.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4a Describe examples of how microbes contribute to natural ecosystems.

MSC: Applying

30. A microbial growth medium for *Staphylococcus aureus* is prepared with a high salt concentration to minimize the growth of many organisms that are not capable of growth in these conditions. This is an example of

- animal culture.
- endosymbiosis.
- pure culture.
- enrichment culture.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4a Describe examples of how microbes contribute to natural ecosystems.

MSC: Applying

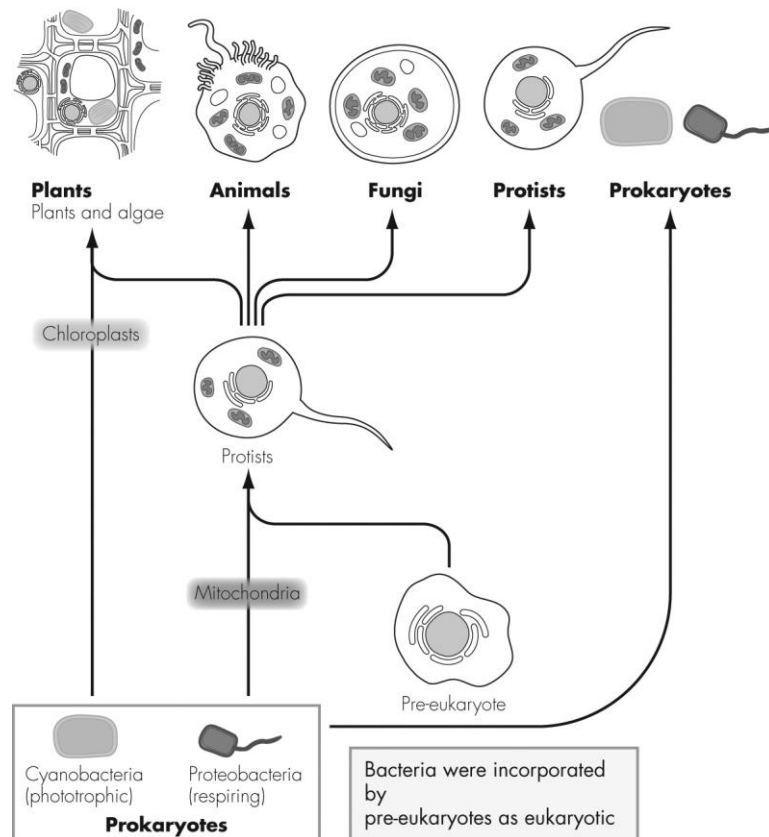
31. Which of the following is NOT an example of an endosymbiont?
- Bacillus anthracis* spores present in the soil of cattle farms
 - rhizobial bacteria growing in the root nodules of certain plants
 - microorganisms in the digestive system of the cow degrading cellulose
 - bacteria in termite intestines digesting plant polymers

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4a Describe examples of how microbes contribute to natural ecosystems.

MSC: Applying

32. Consider the figure below. What does the arrow pointing from cyanobacteria to plants and algae indicate according to the endosymbiotic origin of eukaryotic cells?



- Cyanobacteria are the early evolutionary ancestors of plants and algae.
- Cyanobacteria merged together to form plants and algae.
- Cyanobacteria serve as a common source of energy for plants and algae.
- Cyanobacteria were internalized by early cells to form the chloroplast present in plants and algae.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4b Explain how mitochondria and chloroplasts evolved by endosymbiosis.

MSC: Analyzing

33. According to the endosymbiotic origin of eukaryotic cells, respiring bacteria similar to *E. coli* were engulfed by cells and evolved into the
- nucleotides.
 - energy-generating organelles.

- b. protein-producing organelles. d. waste-degrading organelles.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4b Explain how mitochondria and chloroplasts evolved by endosymbiosis.

MSC: Remembering

34. The endosymbiotic origin of eukaryotic cells explains how
- prokaryotic cells transformed into eukaryotic cells.
 - eukaryotic cells evolved from viruses.
 - prokaryotic cells were incorporated by pre-eukaryotes as eukaryotic organelles.
 - eukaryotic cells eliminated prokaryotic cells.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4b Explain how mitochondria and chloroplasts evolved by endosymbiosis.

MSC: Remembering

35. Which of the following statements does NOT provide evidence in support of the endosymbiotic origin of eukaryotic cells?
- The DNA sequence of mitochondria is similar to the DNA sequence of respiring bacteria.
 - The DNA of chloroplasts is circular like the DNA of phototrophic bacteria.
 - Mitochondria are capable of free-living outside of a eukaryotic cell.
 - There is a lot of sequence homology between the DNA sequences of chloroplasts and phototrophic bacteria.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4b Explain how mitochondria and chloroplasts evolved by endosymbiosis.

MSC: Understanding

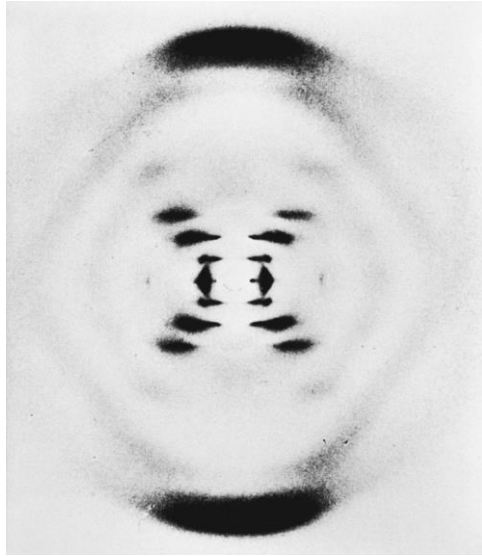
36. Which of the following negative situations could be caused by the similarity between mitochondria and bacteria?
- Vincent's *Staphylococcus* skin infection cannot be treated because the only effective antibiotic has too many toxic side effects.
 - Alexander suffers from myoclonic epilepsy with ragged red fibers, a mitochondrial disease.
 - Lauren inherited complex I deficiency, a mitochondrial disease that inhibits her mitochondria from producing enough energy in certain organs of her body.
 - Sally was born with a pyruvate decarboxylase deficiency that prevents her mitochondria from functioning properly, resulting in severe mental retardation.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4b Explain how mitochondria and chloroplasts evolved by endosymbiosis.

MSC: Evaluating

37. The X-ray diffraction pattern in the image seen here helped determine the structure of



- a. alanine.
- b. penicillin.
- c. vitamin B₁₂.
- d. deoxyribonucleic acid.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: 1.5

OBJ: 1.5a Describe how the structure of DNA was discovered, and explain the significance of DNA for determining the traits of life. MSC: Understanding

38. Which of the following is NOT one of Rosalind Franklin's accomplishments?
- a. generating the X-ray diffraction pattern of the structure of DNA
 - b. researching the structure of RNA
 - c. determining the form of tobacco mosaic virus's RNA chromosome
 - d. receiving a Nobel Prize

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: 1.5

OBJ: 1.5a Describe how the structure of DNA was discovered, and explain the significance of DNA for determining the traits of life. MSC: Remembering

39. The first cellular genome sequenced was a(n)
- a. animal.
 - b. virus.
 - c. archaea.
 - d. bacteria.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: 1.5

OBJ: 1.5b Describe how the manipulation of DNA information has transformed the practice of medicine. MSC: Remembering

40. The discovery of _____ first stimulated the funding of millions of dollars into medical research.
- a. penicillin
 - b. the structure of DNA
 - c. DNA sequencing
 - d. vaccines

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: 1.5

OBJ: 1.5b Describe how the manipulation of DNA information has transformed the practice of medicine. MSC: Understanding

41. **CASE HISTORY**

In 2000, on a farm in North Dakota, 67-year-old Caleb helped bury five cows that had died of anthrax. Wearing heavy leather gloves, Caleb placed chains around the heads and hooves of the carcasses and moved them to the burial site. Four days later, he noticed a small lump on his left cheek. Over two days, the lump enlarged and a lesion opened. Caleb then sought medical attention. The physician reported a firm, superficial nodule surrounded by a purple ring, with an overlying black eschar (piece of dead tissue sloughed from the skin). The physician prescribed ciprofloxacin, the standard antibiotic for cutaneous (affecting skin) anthrax. Testing the patient's serum with a bacterial antigen revealed the presence of antibodies, confirming the diagnosis of anthrax. The ciprofloxacin was continued, and the patient slowly improved over several weeks.

If this scenario were an application of Koch's postulates rather than a natural infection, which of these case notes would NOT be relevant?

- a. *Bacillus anthracis* can be isolated from lesions on all dead cows.
- b. Antibiotics successfully treated the lesion.
- c. Caleb developed a lesion similar to those affecting the dead cows.
- d. *Bacillus anthracis* can be isolated from Caleb's lesion.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Case History 1.1

OBJ: 1.3c Explain how Koch's postulates can show that a specific kind of microbe causes a disease.

MSC: Applying

COMPLETION

1. Bacteria and archaea are classified as _____.

ANS: prokaryotes

DIF: Easy REF: 1.1

OBJ: 1.1b Describe the three major domains of life: Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. Explain what the three domains have in common and how they differ. MSC: Remembering

2. In 1884, the Gram stain was devised to distinguish bacteria from _____ cells.

ANS: human

DIF: Easy REF: 1.2

OBJ: 1.2a Explain how microbial diseases have changed human history.

MSC: Remembering

3. Florence Nightingale used a polar area chart to track the _____ of soldiers during the Crimean War.

ANS:
cause of death
mortality

DIF: Moderate REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3b Explain how Florence Nightingale first drew a statistical correlation between infectious disease and human mortality. MSC: Remembering

4. The involvement of bacteria in _____ explains why their presence is essential to the continued existence of plants and animals.

ANS: geochemical cycling

DIF: Moderate REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4a Describe examples of how microbes contribute to natural ecosystems.

MSC: Understanding

5. Observe the DNA sequence shown. This sequence terminates at the base _____.



ANS: G

DIF: Easy REF: 1.5

OBJ: 1.5b Describe how the manipulation of DNA information has transformed the practice of medicine.

MSC: Analyzing

SHORT ANSWER

1. Consider the statement below. Evaluate whether you agree or disagree with this statement and provide evidence supporting your position.

“Microorganisms are dangerous to human existence.”

ANS:

A variety of answers are acceptable so long as they mention the positive and negative effects of microorganisms and provide appropriate evidence to support their claim.

DIF: Difficult REF: 1.1

OBJ: 1.1a Describe how we define a microbe, and explain why the definition is a challenge.

MSC: Evaluating

2. Explain how the piece of equipment shown in the image below was used to disprove the theory of spontaneous generation.



ANS:

The curved shape of the neck prevented microbes in dust particles in the air from reaching the media while still allowing air to flow, demonstrating that even with oxygen, no spontaneous growth of microorganisms occurred without direct contact with dust particles from the environment.

DIF: Difficult REF: 1.2

OBJ: 1.2b Describe how microbes participate in human cultural practices such as production of food and drink. MSC: Analyzing

3. Explain how it would have taken much longer to disprove the theory of spontaneous generation if John Tyndall was the only scientist investigating it.

ANS:

John Tyndall found the opposite result of Pasteur in his experiments because material he was boiling contained endospores that were resistant to boiling. His experiments would have appeared to support the theory of spontaneous generation as microbes from the spores germinated in a sealed flask.

DIF: Difficult REF: 1.2

OBJ: 1.2b Describe how microbes participate in human cultural practices such as production of food and drink. MSC: Evaluating

4. Why did agar offer an improvement over gelatin for the growth of microorganisms?

ANS:

Agar remains more solid at higher temperatures than does gelatin.

DIF: Easy REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3c Explain how Koch's postulates can show that a specific kind of microbe causes a disease.

MSC: Remembering

5. Give an example of a situation where Koch's postulates may not work properly.

ANS:

A variety of answers are acceptable so long as they deal with one of the following: a disease-causing agent present in a host that does not cause symptoms, a disease-causing agent in which the levels of the agent are very low or difficult to detect in the host, a disease-causing agent that cannot be grown in pure culture, or a disease-causing agent for which there is no known nonhuman model.

DIF: Difficult REF: 1.3

OBJ: 1.3b Explain how Florence Nightingale first drew a statistical correlation between infectious disease and human mortality. MSC: Evaluating

6. Why does traditional microbial growth media only allow for the growth of 0.1% of all microorganisms in pure culture in the laboratory?

ANS:

Traditional microbial growth media contains nutrients that are used to feed humans. While some microorganisms can flourish in these conditions, many are much more diverse and cannot grow on these nutrients or will be outcompeted by those organisms that can.

DIF: Easy REF: 1.4

OBJ: 1.4a Describe examples of how microbes contribute to natural ecosystems.

MSC: Understanding

7. Explain how comparing the sequences of antibiotic-resistant and -sensitive *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* could be useful to treating tuberculosis.

ANS:

The answer should discuss how this can lead to identification of the difference(s) that lead(s) to resistance and from there how to possibly target the antibiotic-resistant organism. For example: comparing the sequences of antibiotic-resistant and -sensitive *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* can allow one to note the differences between the two. Knowing what is missing or present in the antibiotic-resistant variety can allow researchers to understand how the resistant organisms are developing resistance. This is the first step toward developing a method to combat these resistant organisms.

DIF: Difficult REF: 1.5

OBJ: 1.5b Describe how the manipulation of DNA information has transformed the practice of medicine. MSC: Evaluating

8. CASE HISTORY

Debi was an ordinary teenager attending an affluent American public high school when she contracted tuberculosis (TB). She did not know the person who infected her. Infection requires inhalation of the causative bacteria.

Debi coughed all the time, felt tired, and was losing weight. Her coughing brought up blood. An X-ray revealed the signs of infection in her lung, including a large hole eaten away by the bacteria.

*From Debi's sputum sample, a DNA sequence was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The DNA sequence revealed *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the cause of TB. Doctors prescribed isoniazid and rifampin, antibiotics that kill most strains of *M. tuberculosis*. But Debi's TB strain proved resistant to nearly all known drugs (MDR-TB).*

Because drugs failed to eliminate the MDR strain, surgeons removed nearly half of her right lung to help the antibiotics overcome the infection. Debi recovered and returned to high school. She would have to continue taking antibiotics for years afterward. All the teachers and students in Debi's school were screened, and over 200 were found to have been infected by a student with tuberculosis misdiagnosed for two years. All required treatment to prevent disease.

When Debi contracted tuberculosis, she did not know who had infected her or how she had been infected. How could this be?

ANS:

The bacteria was airborne.

DIF: Moderate REF: Chapter 1 Introduction

OBJ: 1.1b Describe the three major domains of life: Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. Explain what the three domains have in common and how they differ. MSC: Understanding

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Which organism in this case history is the pathogen? To what domain does this organism belong and what are the defining features of that domain?

ANS:

Pathogen should be identified as *M. tuberculosis*, a bacterium. Defining features that separate this group from Archaea and Eukarya should be included.

DIF: Easy REF: Chapter 1 Introduction

OBJ: 1.1b Describe the three major domains of life: Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. Explain what the three domains have in common and how they differ. MSC: Understanding