

The Curiosity Box

SAFETY:
Keep small pieces away from young children and pets. These balloons are made from LATEX. Do not use if you have an allergy.



Make a Microbe

In your pack you have:

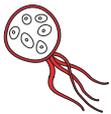
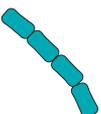
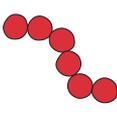
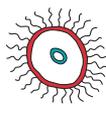
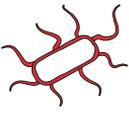
- Latex balloons
- Pipecleaners
- Coloured thread
- Glue
- Googly eyes
- Paint
- Paper napkins
- Paintbrush

You will also need:

- A cover for your work surface
- A small bowl
- Cup
- Scissors

Your mission: To build your own pet microbe using papier maché!

- 1 Decide which shape microbe you would like to make: you could use the microbe gallery below or make up your own.

					
<p>Escherichia coli Lives in your gut where it helps to digest food and produces vitamin K.</p>	<p>Thermococcus celericrescens Lives in very hot places (85° C) called hydrothermal vents in the ocean.</p>	<p>Streptomyces griseus Found in soil and produces Streptomycin, the first ever antibiotic.</p>	<p>Streptococcus thermophilus Used to make yoghurt. Turns the sugar in milk into lactic acid, which is why yoghurt tastes sour.</p>	<p>Streptococcus salivarius Lives in your mouth and helps keep bacteria that can make you sick out.</p>	<p>Lactobacillus ghanesis Found on cocoa beans and needed to make chocolate.</p>

- 2 Blow up one of the balloons until you have the shape you need and then tie a knot in the end. Remember - microbes are so small you can't see them without a microscope, so don't blow up the balloon too much - about the size of your hand would be perfect!

3 Pour all the glue into your small bowl. Half-fill the empty glue bottle with water, put the lid on and give it a good shake. Remove the lid and add this gluey-water to your glue. Use your paintbrush to mix it all together.

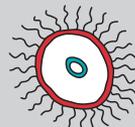
4 Separate the layers of the napkins and rip them into pieces. The bigger the pieces are, the more they will wrinkle up when you stick them on. So the size of the pieces depends on whether you want a wrinkly microbe or not.

5 Dip a piece of napkin into the glue, then hold your balloon by the knot and stick the gluey paper onto it. Keep adding pieces to make a layer all over the balloon, then add more layers until you can no longer see the colour of the balloon.

6 Place your balloon, knot-side down into the cup to dry. Make sure you rinse out your brush and leave it to dry, ready for the painting stage!

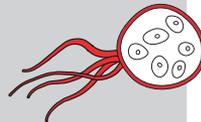
7 Leave your microbe overnight to completely dry. The glue should have set hard. Now you can add some amazing microbe features!

Pili are used by microbes to communicate. They look like thin threads, so use your thread to glue some pili like this.



Flagella are like little propellers that move the microbes around. They look like pipecleaners, so why not add some?

Colours and eyes: Yes, we know that real microbes are usually not coloured and none of them have big eyes, but you can turn YOUR microbe into a cute pet by adding googly eyes and lots of paint!



 MyCuriosityBox

 [youtube.com/thecuriositybox](https://www.youtube.com/thecuriositybox)

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