

Contagion Crushers

Primary Curriculum	Grade 3
Supplemental Curriculum	Grades 3–5
Notes	Microbe growing activity requires 1 week to complete. Petri dishes contain agar gel. Standard unit/refill kit comes with enough materials for 30 students.

Description



How can you kill germs with the flip of a switch?

Explore the world of light, bacteria, and business as Colleen Costello, co-founder and president of Vital Vio (recently renamed to Vyv), tells her story about designing an everyday light source that automatically cleans while in use.


Using Vyv’s ellumi™ technology as the overarching phenomenon, students will explore bacteria, environmental influences, and life cycles as they ask themselves: *“How can understanding the way different organisms live help us to solve health-related problems?”*

Main Investigations

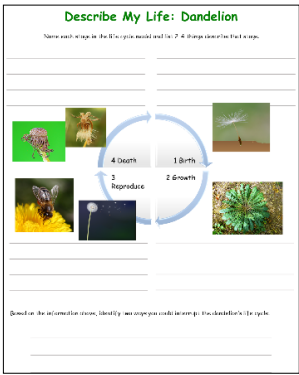
Bacteria Growing

Light Experiments



Life Cycle Investigations



Number of Lessons*

Full unit – 25 lessons

Supplemental program – minimum 5 lessons
(requires 1 week for microbes to grow)

**Lesson = 30–40 min. block, 50% of full unit lessons can be delivered in non-science classes*

Best Suited For

- Classroom science instruction

Overarching Enduring Understanding

How can naturally occurring materials can be used to create healthier, safer, and cleaner products that put less stress on the environment?

Number of Lessons*

Full unit – 25 lessons

Supplemental program – minimum 5 lessons (requires 1 weeks for microbes to grow)

*Lesson = 30 – 40 min block, 50% of full unit lessons can be delivered in non-science classes

FLOW OF INSTRUCTION

Investigation: What Does it Take to Crush a Contagion? (hands-on and mini research project (concurrent), occurs during weeks 1 and 2)

In this investigation students are introduced to concept of using life cycle models to explore, describe, and compare the various life stages of living organisms. As they work through the various parts of this investigation they will:

- identify patterns, similarities, and differences between the life stages of different types of organisms explore how life cycle models can be used to tell us about the interdependencies between living organisms and their environment, and,
- investigate how we can use the information in life cycle models to support or eradicate various organisms.

Using the *Contagion Crushers* unit overarching phenomenon “*How can you kill germs with the flip of a switch?*” students will further investigate the ways habitat and environment can influence the survival of various organisms as they learn about Vyv’s *Ellumi™* technology. As part of this investigation health-related problems will be defined (including constraints and criteria for success) and key aspects of the Vyv technology will be explored. Throughout this investigation, students will explore and develop a model that describes both the unique aspects and common steps in the life cycle of various organisms as they answer the question “*What does it take to crush a contagion?*”

Investigation: Who Lives Here? (hands-on and mini research project (concurrent), occurs during weeks 3, 4 and 5)

In this three-part investigation students explore, gather evidence, and draw conclusions about the interactions and interdependencies between organisms and their environment.

A: Who Lives in Our Classroom? (hands-on investigation, occurs during weeks 3 and 4)

In this hands-on investigation students collect samples of bacteria and other microbes from the different parts of the classroom. Samples are stored in different environments and growth is monitored to determine which classroom locations have more or less bacteria and which storage environment results in large bacteria growth.

B: Who Lives Throughout the World? (research project, occurs during weeks 3 and 4)

Student pick 1—3 different environments/habitats and construct an argument with evidence on why some organisms can survive their while others cannot. In their argument they must describe what about the organism enables it to survive there and if a person or plant could also survive in that location. (**Enrichment activity: Develop a technology or invention that would allow a person to survive in that environment**). Students must also hypothesize what type of change to the environment might harm the organism.

C: Who Lived Long Ago? (research project, occurs during week 5)

Students must gather evidence about one or two fossils from a similar location and describe what it tells us what about the organism and environment was like when it was alive.

Investigation: Multiplying Microbes (preparatory research project, occurs week 5 and 6)

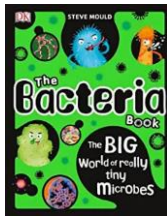
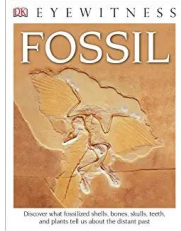
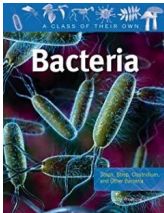

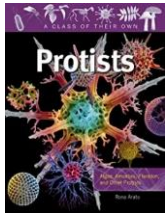
Building from the observations made in **Who Lives in Our Classroom?** students must work in teams to identify and describe microbe-related problems that may accompany weather-related hazards. Students will use the information from this investigation for their **Microbe Melee** summative challenge.

Investigation: Microbe Melee (summative challenge, occurs weeks 7 and 8+)


Student work in small groups to accomplish the following:

1. Describe a weather-related hazard and the microbe-related problem that may result. Using the life cycle model developed in **What Does it Take to Crush a Contagion**, they must identify what stage of life cycle the weather-related hazard affects.
2. Describe, or propose, a solution to that microbe-related problem. The description must include success criteria and a list of constraints. The description must also identify what part of the life cycle is being disrupted and how.
3. Compare their solution and that of another group to the design criteria and constraints. The comparison must include something that they think is very clever about each solution and something that could be improved for each solution.

Parts List

Full Unit	
<p>Printed Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educator Guide • Individual <i>My STEM Explorer Notes™</i> notebooks • Individual <i>My STEM Stories™</i> notebooks • Timeline sheets • Introductory investigation sheets • Describe My Life cards (5 sets) 	<p>Trade Books</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">    </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven Mould <i>The Bacteria Book: The Big World of Really Tiny Microbes</i> • David. M. Barker <i>A Class of Their Own: Archaea</i> • Judy Wearing <i>A Class of Their Own: Bacteria</i> • Rona Arato <i>A Class of Their Own: Protists</i> • DK Eyewitness: <i>FOSSIL</i>
<p>Provided Equipment & Materials</p>	<p>Digital Resources</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petri dishes with agar (10) • Petri dishes without agar (5) • Sterile cotton swabs¹ • Zip top bags (15) • Lab spectrometers (5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic copies of printed materials¹ • How-To videos for investigations¹ • Easy-to-use links to publicly available videos and other information.
<p>Common Equipment & Materials Needed but NOT Provided</p>	<p>Digital Resources</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile water • Sharpie • Tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic copies of printed materials¹ • How-To videos for investigations¹ • Easy-to-use links to publicly available videos and other information.

Supplemental Unit

Printed Materials	Trade Books
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educator Guide• Individual My <i>STEM Explorer Notes™</i> notebooks• Individual My <i>STEM Stories™</i> notebooks• Timeline sheets• Introductory investigation sheets	
Provided Equipment & Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steven Mould <i>The Bacteria Book: The Big World of Really Tiny Microbes</i>• Judy Wearing <i>A Class of Their Own: Bacteria</i>
Common Equipment & Materials Needed but NOT Provided	Digital Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Petri dishes with agar (10)• Petri dishes without agar (5)• Sterile cotton swabs¹• Zip top bags (15)• Lab spectrometers (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic copies of printed materials¹• How-To videos for investigations• Easy-to-use links to publicly available videos and other information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sterile water• Sharpie• Tape	

Refill Kit

Printed Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educator Guide• Individual My <i>STEM Explorer Notes™</i> notebooks• Individual My <i>STEM Stories™</i> notebooks• Timeline sheets• Introductory investigation sheets
Provided Equipment & Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Petri dishes with agar (10)• Petri dishes without agar (5)• Sterile cotton swabs¹• Zip top bags (15)
Digital Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic copies of printed materials¹• How-To videos for investigations¹• Easy-to-use links to publicly available videos and other information.

Overarching Enduring Understanding

How can naturally occurring materials can be used to create healthier, safer, and cleaner products that put less stress on the environment?

Number of Lessons*

Full unit – 25 lessons

Supplemental program – minimum 5 lessons (requires 1 weeks for microbes to grow)

*Lesson = 30 – 40 min block, 50% of full unit lessons can be delivered in non-science classes

FLOW OF INSTRUCTION

<p>3-LS3-2 Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.</p> <p>3-LS4-3 Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.</p> <p>3-LS4-1 Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago.</p>	<p>3-LS1-1 Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles, but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.</p> <p>3-ESS3-1 Make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of a weather-related hazard.</p> <p>3-5-ETS1-1 Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.</p> <p>3-5-ETS1-2 Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.</p>
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Using the *Contagion Crushers* unit overarching phenomenon “How can you kill germs with the flip of a switch?” students will further investigate the ways **habitat and environment can influence the survival of various organisms** (3-LS4-3) as they learn about Vital Vio’s *Ellumi*™ technology. As part of this investigation **health-related problems will be defined** (including constraints and criteria for success) and key aspects of the Vital Vio technology will be explored (3-5-ETS1-1). Throughout this investigation, students will explore and **develop a model that describes both the unique aspects and common steps in the life cycle of various organisms** (3-LS1-1) as they answer the question “What does it take to crush a contagion?”

Investigation: Who Lives Here? (hands-on and mini research project (concurrent), occurs during weeks 3, 4 and 5)

In this three-part investigation students explore, **gather evidence**, and **draw conclusions** about the interactions and interdependencies between **organisms and their environment**. (3-LS4-3, 3LS3-2, 3-LS4-1)

A: Who Lives in Our Classroom? (hands-on investigation, occurs during weeks 3 and 4)

In this hands-on investigation students collect samples of bacteria and other microbes from the different parts of the classroom. Samples are stored in different environments and growth is monitored to determine which classroom locations have more or less bacteria (3-LS4-3) and which storage environment results in large bacteria growth (3-LS3-2).

B: Who Lives Throughout the World? (research project, occurs during weeks 3 and 4)

Student pick 1—3 different environments/habitats and **construct an argument with evidence on why some organisms can survive their while others cannot** (3-LS4-3). In their argument they must describe what about the organism enables it to survive there and if a person or plant could also survive in that location. (**Enrichment activity: Develop a technology or invention that would allow a person to survive in that environment**). Students must also hypothesize what type of change to the environment might harm the organism.

C: Who Lived Long Ago? (research project, occurs during week 5)

Students must gather evidence about one or two **fossils** from a similar location and **describe what it tells us what about the organism and environment was like when it was alive** (3-LS4-1).

Investigation: Multiplying Microbes (preparatory research project, occurs week 5 and 6)

Building from the observations made in **Who Lives in Our Classroom?** students must work in teams to identify and describe **microbe-related problems** that may accompany **weather-related hazards** (3-ESS3-1). Students will use the information from this investigation for their **Microbe Melee** summative challenge.

Investigation: Microbe Melee (summative challenge, occurs weeks 7 and 8+)

Student work in small groups to accomplish the following:

1. Describe a **weather-related hazard and the microbe-related problem** that may result. Using the **life cycle model developed in What Does it Take to Crush a Contagion**, they must identify what stage of life cycle the weather-related hazard affects. (3-ESS3-1, 3-LS1-1)
2. Describe, or propose, a solution to that microbe-related problem. **The description must include success criteria and a list of constraints**. The description must also identify what part of the life cycle is being disrupted and how. (3-ESS3-1, 3-5-ETS1-1, 3-LS1-1)
3. **Compare their solution** and that of another group to the **design criteria and constraints**. The comparison must include something that they think is very clever about each solution and something that could be improved for each solution. (3-ESS3-1, 3-5-ETS1-2)