

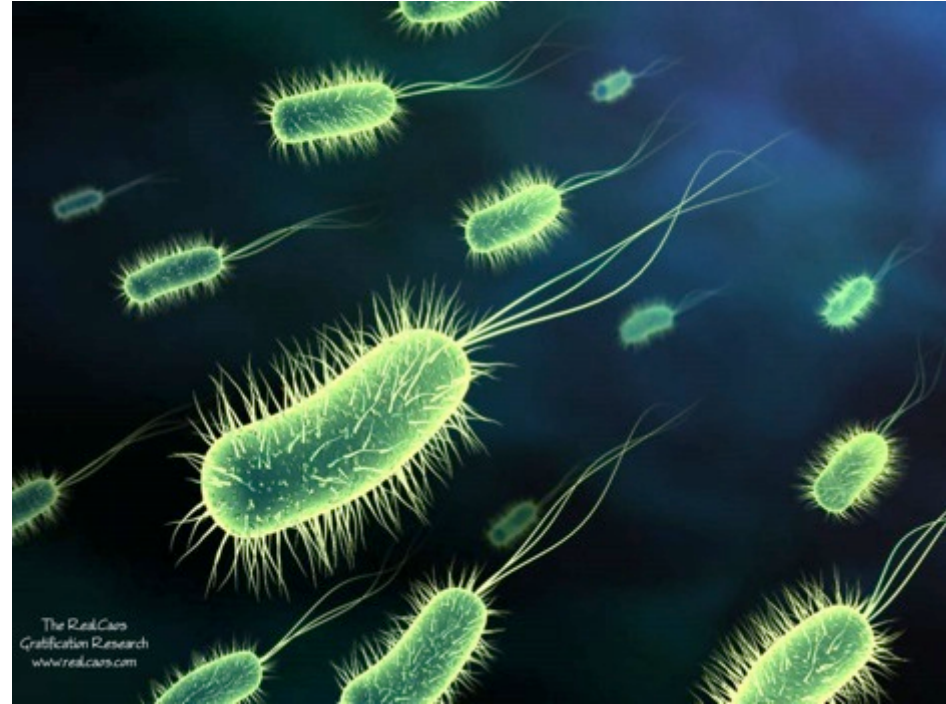
# 17-2: Monerans - Prokaryotic Cells

## Monerans - Prokaryotic Cells

A. Prokaryotes: *single-celled organism whose cells do not have a nucleus*

They are found everywhere

[Ted-Ed Microbes](http://www.ted-ed.com/microbes)



## II. Classification of Monerans

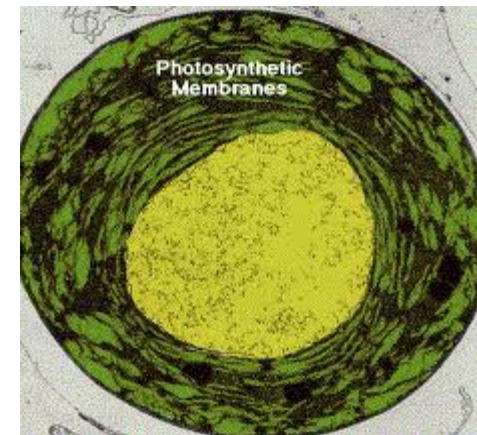
A. All prokaryotes belong to the kingdom Monera

B. Divided into 4 Phyla:

1. *Eubacteria*
2. *Cyanobacteria*
3. *Archaeobacteria*
4. *Prochlorobacteria*



40  $\mu$ m



Prochlorobacteria

**C. Bacteria: *one-celled prokaryote; chiefly parasitic or saprophytic***

***(saprophytic = lives on dead organic material)***

**1. Size: *1 to 10 micrometers***

**2. Smaller than eukaryotic cells because:**

***bacteria do not contain the complex range of membrane-enclosed organelles that are found in most eukaryotic cells***

# D. Eubacteria

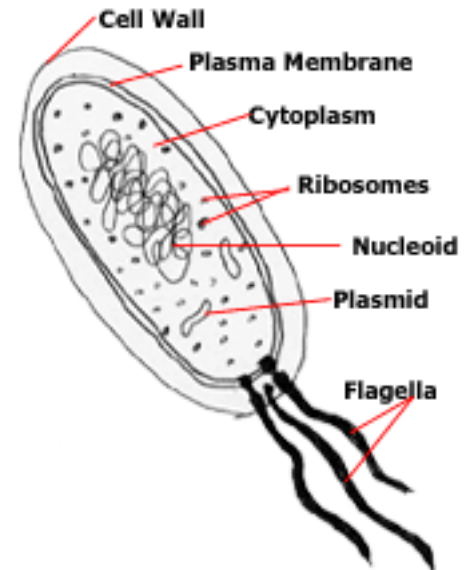
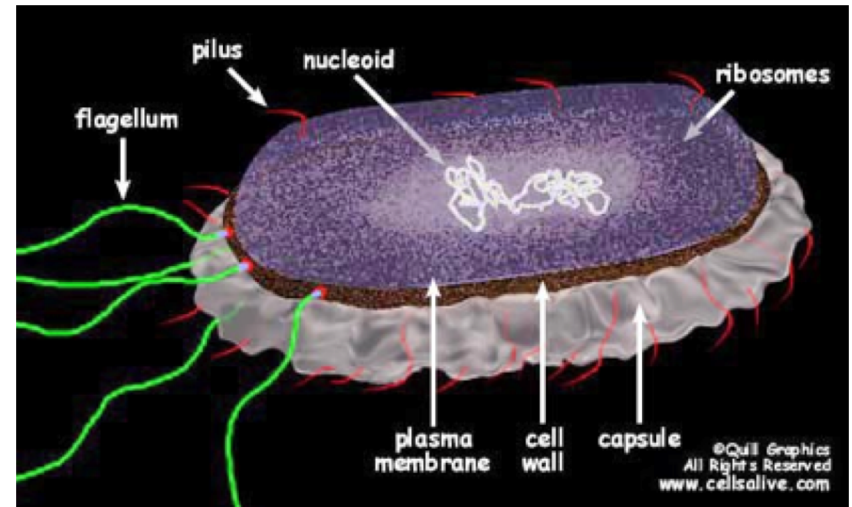
1. Commonly called: *bacteria*

2. General appearance:

a. Cell wall composed of: *complex carbohydrates*

b. Within the cell wall is a *cell membrane that surrounds the cytoplasm*

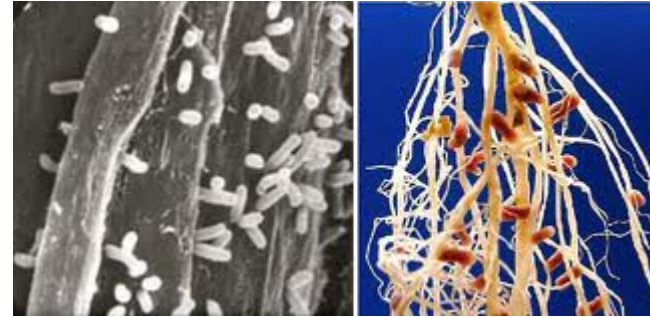
c. Some have long whip-like flagella that protrude from cell membrane through the wall; these are used for movement.



### 3. Lifestyles of bacteria include:

**a. Live in the soil**

*eg: Rhizobia*

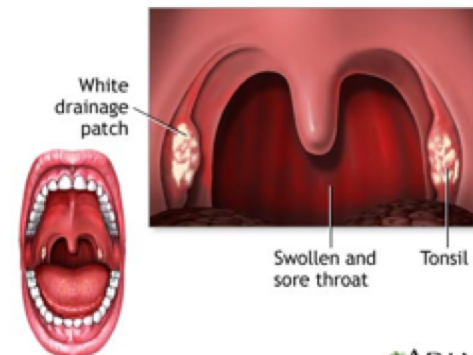


**b. Infect larger organisms and produce disease**

*eg: Streptococcus pyogenes*  
*(causes Strep throat)*



**c. Photosynthetic**



## E. Cyanobacteria

1. Commonly called: *blue-green bacteria*
2. Origin of the name: *are blue-green in colour*
3. All cyanobacteria can carry out the reactions of *photosynthesis*



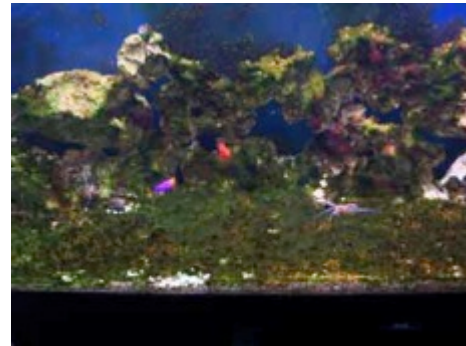
[Ted-Ed: Extinction!](#)

#### 4. Habitat:

a. *Fresh water*



b. *Salt water*



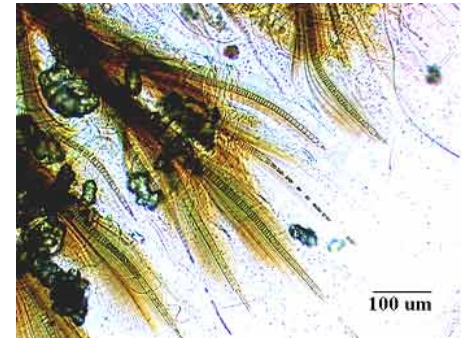
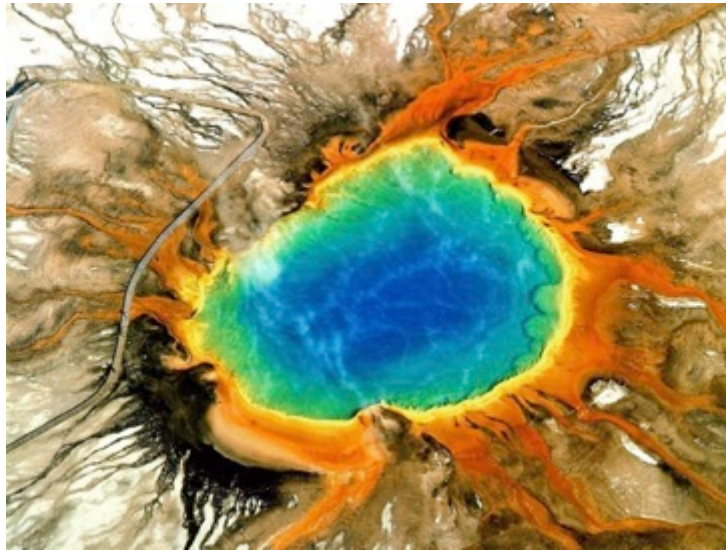
b. *Land*



5. Some “extreme” habitats:

a. *Hot springs*

b. *Arctic*



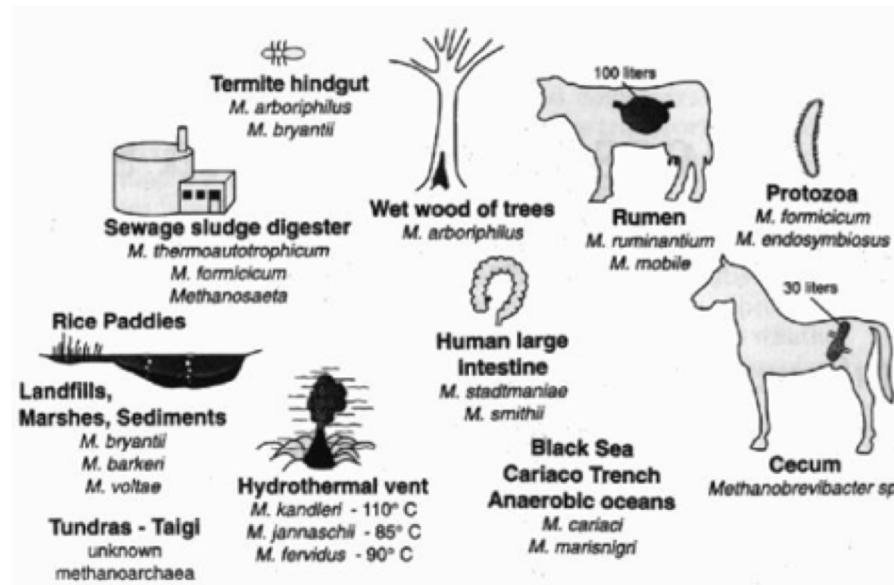
Tapered cyanobacteria filaments  
from Nunavut

**The Grand Prismatic Hot Spring and its  
famous thermophilic cyanobacteria**



# F. Archaeobacteria

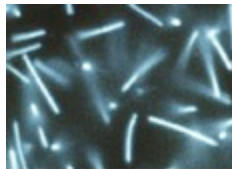
1. Habitat: *extremely harsh environments*
2. Methanogens:
  - a. Habitat: *oxygen-free environments*
    - i. Examples: thick mud & animal digestive tracks



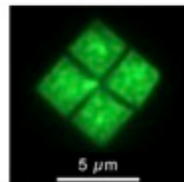
b. Origin of name: *these bacteria produce methane gas*

c. Other “extreme” habitats:

- i. *salty environments*
- ii. *extremely hot environments*



*Methanopyrus kandleri*  
*Methanogen*






*Haloquadrada walsbyi*:  
*Halophile*



*Pogonophorans: Thermophile*

# III. Identifying Monerans

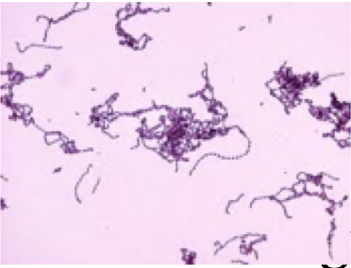
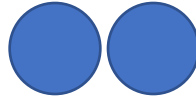
**Name and sketch the basic shapes of bacteria:**

| Shape: | Name:    | Sketch  |
|--------|----------|---|
| Rod    | Bacilli  |  |
| Sphere | Cocci    |  |
| Spiral | Spirilla |  |
|        |          |   |

**B. Sketch: 2 cocci together (diplococci):**

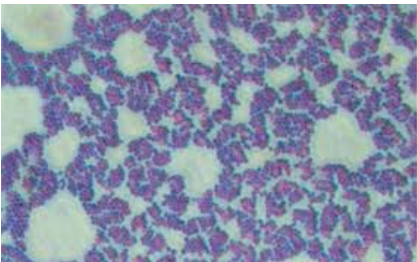
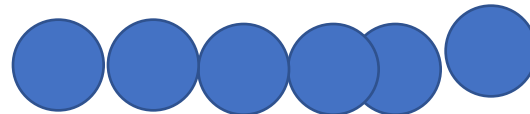


**Sketch: long chain of cocci**  
Neisseria sp.

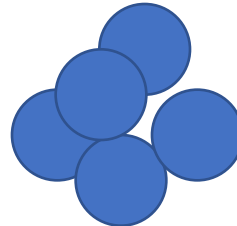


**clump of cocci:**

Streptococcus sp.



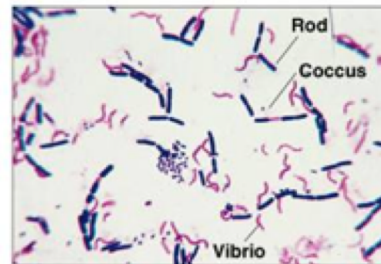
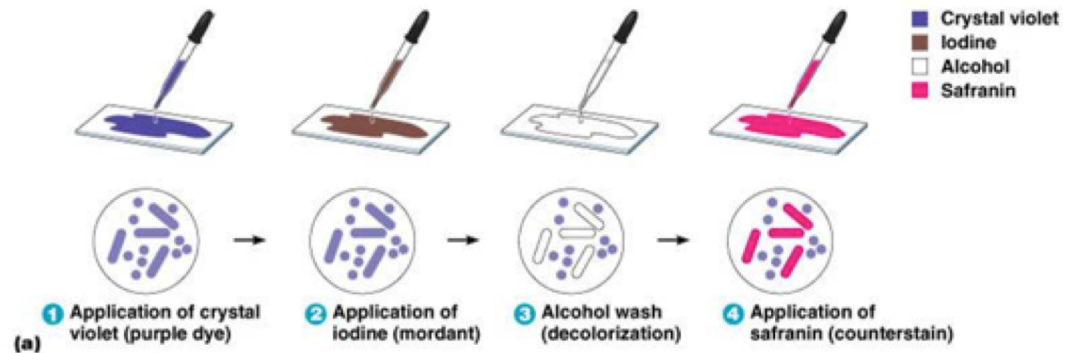
Staphylococcus sp.



## C. Cell wall

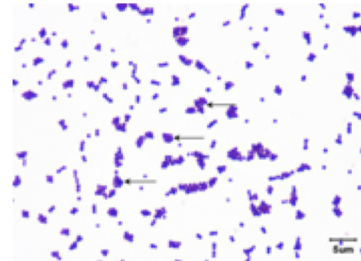
Gram Stain: Gram staining studies the *chemical* nature of the bacterial cell wall

Gram-positive bacteria have a thick mesh-like cell wall made of peptidoglycan (50-90% of cell wall), which stains purple while Gram-negative bacteria have a thinner layer (10% of cell wall), which stains pink.

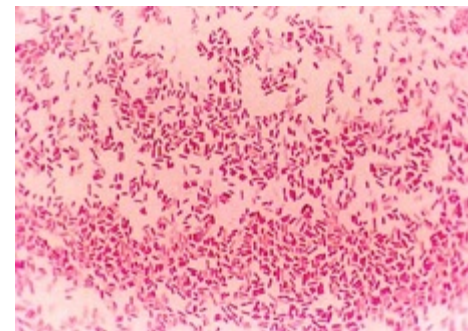


(b)

2. Gram-positive bacteria are coloured purple because they take up the stain crystal violet
- a. Their cell walls are made of: *one thick layer of carbohydrate and protein molecules*



3. Gram-negative bacteria are coloured red because they take up the stain safranin
- a. Their cell walls are made of: *a second, outer layer of lipid and carbohydrate molecules*

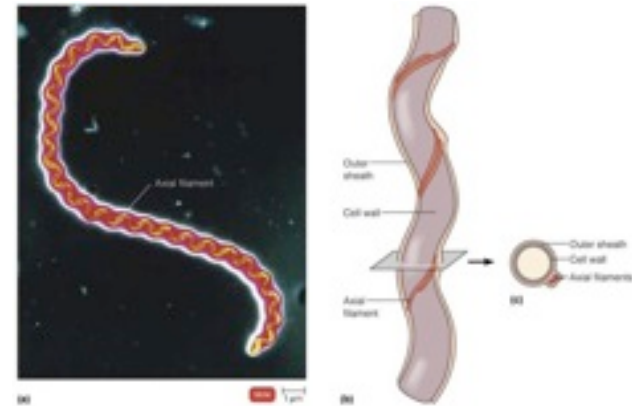


## D. Types of bacterial movement:

1. *propelled by one or more flagella*



2. *helical bacteria which have a specialized internal structure known as the axial filament*



3. *glide slowly along a layer of slime like material that they secrete themselves*

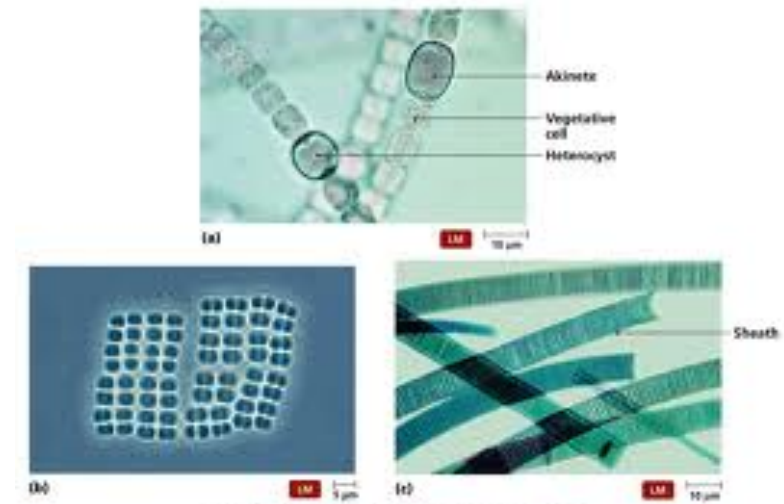
4. *do not move*

# IV. How Monerans Obtain Energy

## A. Autotrophs

1. Phototropic autotrophs: *organisms that trap the energy of sunlight and convert it to organic nutrients*

a. Example: *cyanobacteria, eubacteria*



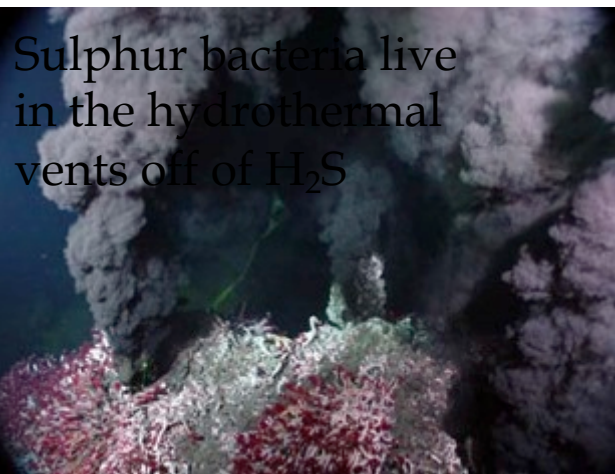


2. Chemotrophic autotrophs: *organisms that can obtain energy from inorganic molecules*

a. Example inorganic molecules used:

*hydrogen sulfide, nitrites, sulfur, and iron*

b. Example: *Nitrosomonas*  
(*uses ammonia and oxygen*)



Sulphur bacteria live in the hydrothermal vents off of  $H_2S$



The thin pink strands are bacteria That use sulfides in hot springs

## B. Heterotrophs

1. Chemotrophic heterotrophs: *organisms that can obtain energy from organic molecules*

Example: *bacteria*

2. Humans are also chemotrophic heterotrophs

a. Many bacteria compete with us for:

*food sources*

b. Example: Salmonella grows in raw meat, poultry,  
& eggs

c. If not properly cooked (to kill the bacteria) they will “eat” this food and release poisons into it

d. This causes the illness we call food poisoning

## V. Bacterial Respiration

- A. **Aerobic Respiration:** *process that involves oxygen and breaks down food molecules to release energy*
  
- B. **Fermentation:** *process that enables cells to carry out energy production in the absence of oxygen (Anaerobic respiration)*

# Bacteria can be classes as:

- C. **Obligate aerobes: *organisms that require a constant supply of oxygen in order to live.***  
*eg: Bacillus subtilis*
  
- D. **Obligate anaerobes: *organism that lives only in the absence of oxygen***  
*Eg: Clostridium botulinum*
  
- E. **Facultative anaerobes: *organisms that can survive with or without oxygen***  
*eg: Staphylococcus, E. coli, Listeria*

# The Case of *Clostridium botulinum* (An obligate anaerobe)

1. Example organism: *Clostridium Botulinum*

2. Often found in: *soil*

3. Causes no problems because it is  
unable *to grow in the presence of oxygen, it normally causes very few problems*

4. If it finds its way into a place free of *air* and filled with *food material*, they grow very quickly

5. A perfect place for them: *canned food*

6. They produce *toxins* that cause “botulism”

7. These are deadly; they interfere with *nerve* activity, causing *paralysis* and sometimes *death*

8. Commercially canned goods are safe because: *the bacteria and their toxins have been destroyed by heating the foods for a long time before the cans are sealed*

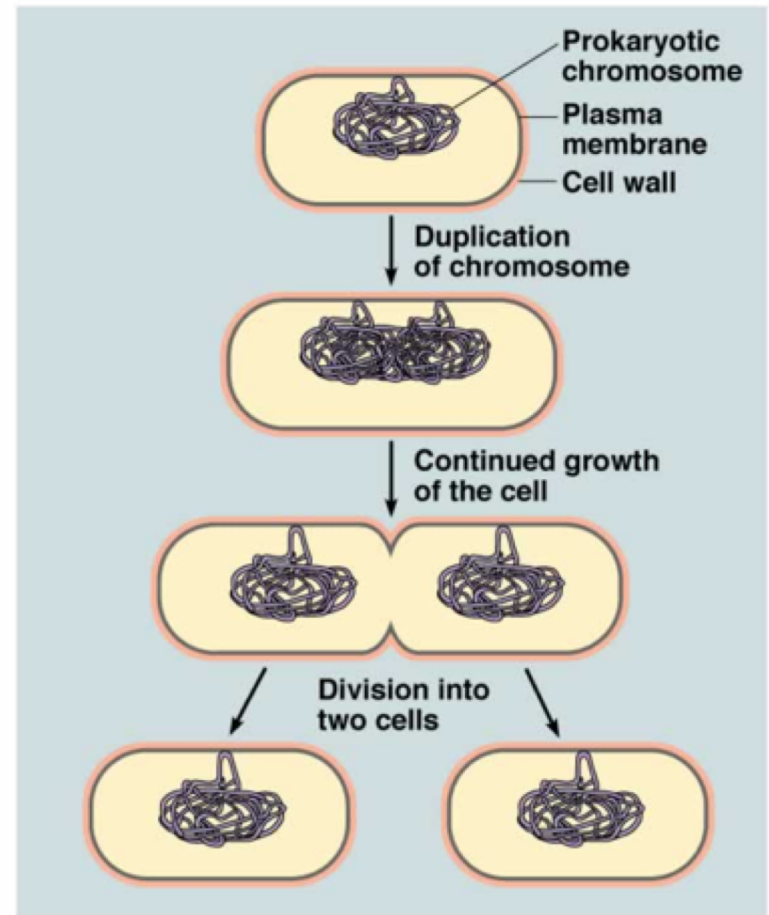
# VI. Bacterial Growth and Reproduction

A. Bacterial growth is limited by:

1. *space*
2. *food*

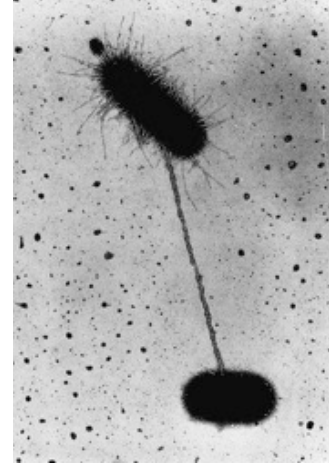
B. Binary fission: *type of asexual reproduction in which an organism*

*divides to produce two identical daughter cells*



# C. Conjugation

**C. Conjugation: *process in bacteria and protists that involves an exchange of genetic information***



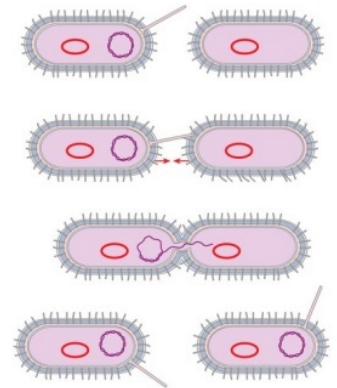
**1. List the steps:**

**a. *A long bridge of protein forms between and connects two bacteria***

**b. *The genetic information from one cell (donor), is transferred to the other cell (recipient), through this bridge***

**c. *The recipient cell has a different set of genes***

**d. *New combinations of genes increase the genetic diversity in that population of bacteria***



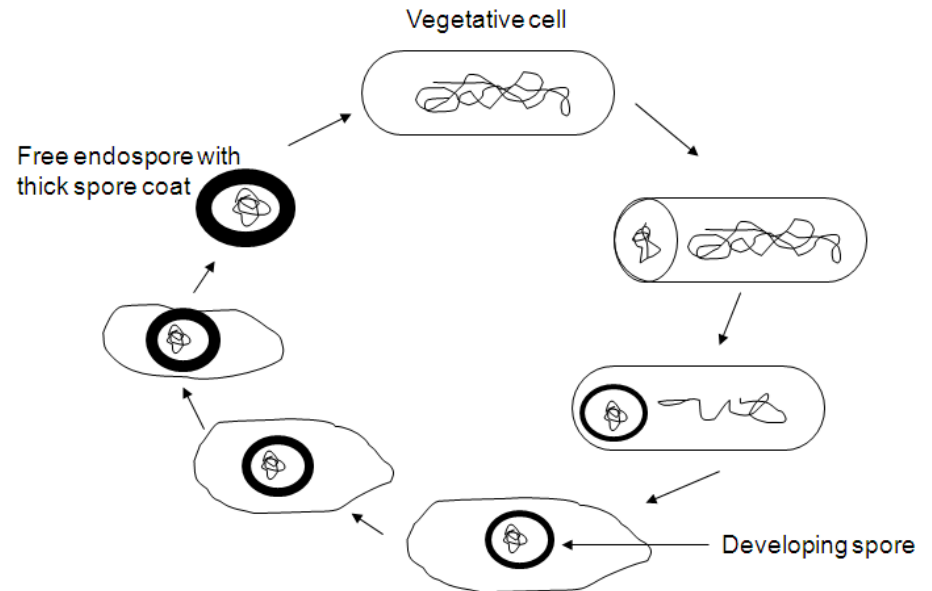
**2. Genetic diversity helps to ensure that even if the environment changes, a few bacteria may have the right combinations of genes to survive**

## D. Spore formation:

1. An endospore is formed when *conditions become unfavorable*

2. Can remain dormant for *months or even years*

3. When conditions improve *the endospore will open and the bacterium will begin to grow again*





# VI. Importance of Monerans

## TED-ED Tasty Food

**A. Bacteria are used to produce:**

1. *Cheese*
2. *Yogurt*
3. *Buttermilk*
4. *Sour cream*
5. *Pickles*
6. *Sauerkraut*
7. *Wine*



## B. Industrial uses of bacteria:

- 1. *Cleaning up oil spills***
- 2. *Remove waste products and poisons from water***
- 3. *Mine minerals from the ground***
- 4. *Synthesize drugs and chemicals***



C. Symbiosis: close relationship between two species in which at least one species benefits from the other

**1. Example: humans and *E. coli*:**

**a. Bacteria benefit by being provided with:**

- i. *Warm safe home***
- ii. *Plenty of food***
- iii. *Free transportation* [Ted-Ed Flatulence](#)**

**b. Humans benefit by getting:**

- i. *Help in digesting our food***
- ii. *Vitamins that we cannot produce***

**c. Cattle benefit by: *having the bacteria in their intestines to produce enzymes necessary to break down cellulose, the principal carbohydrate in grass and hay***

## VII. Bacteria in the Environment

A. Nutrient flow: Bacteria recycle *and decompose, or break down, dead material*

[Winogradsky Column](#) [Streak Plate](#)

1. Saprophytes: *organism that uses the complex molecules of a once-living organism as its source of energy and nutrition*

2. Other non-moneraans that also help the process: *insects and fungi*

## B. Sewage decomposition:

1. Waste water contains: *human waste, discarded food, organic garbage, and even chemical waste*
2. Bacteria grow *rapidly* here and as they grow, they *break down the complex compounds in the sewage into simpler compounds*
3. This process produces: *purified water, nitrogen gas and carbon dioxide gas, and leftover products that can be used as crop fertilizers*



## C. Nitrogen fixation:

1. All organisms on Earth are totally dependent on monerans for nitrogen
  - a. Green plants use it to make amino acids (building blocks for proteins)
  - b. Since animals eat plants, plant proteins is, ultimately, the ONLY source
2. Our atmosphere is 80 % N<sub>2</sub> gas - but living things need it in ammonia form
3. Cyanobacteria are the only organisms capable of performing nitrogen fixation

4. Many plants have symbiotic relationships with nitrogen-fixing bacteria:

a. Example: soybean and Rhizobium, which invades and grows in root nodules

i. Bacteria get: *home and a source of nutrients*

ii. Plant gets: *ammonia*

iii. Nodules are built-in fertilizer factories

5. More than 170 million tons of nitrogen fixed every year



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**Nodules of a legume**



Courtesy Nitragin Company, Inc.