

Day  
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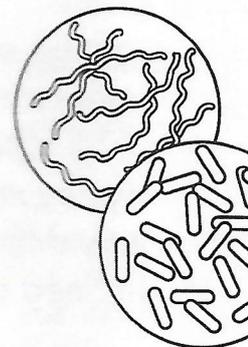
## Weekly Question

**Are all germs bad?**

Scientists are finding many uses for bacteria. Since bacteria are such good decomposers, they can be used to clean up waste. One type of bacteria digests oil. People use it to repair damage from oil spills, both in the ocean and on roads. Other bacteria are good at breaking down toxic substances in sewage, so these bacteria are used in water treatment plants.

Scientists are also exploring ways to get bacteria to produce energy. Scientists have created simple fuel cells, which are like batteries, that use bacteria to convert garbage into electricity. These fuel cells may someday recycle waste into electricity during space flights.

So are all germs bad? Not at all. In fact, tiny bacteria may soon provide the solutions to some of Earth's biggest problems.



**A. Use information from the passage to answer each question.**

1. How do bacteria clean up pollution? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How might bacteria help provide energy in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

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**B. Suppose a scientist was studying bacteria in her lab to find out what the bacteria could help clean up. What do you think the scientist could do to learn what the bacteria were good for? How might the scientist set up her experiment?**

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