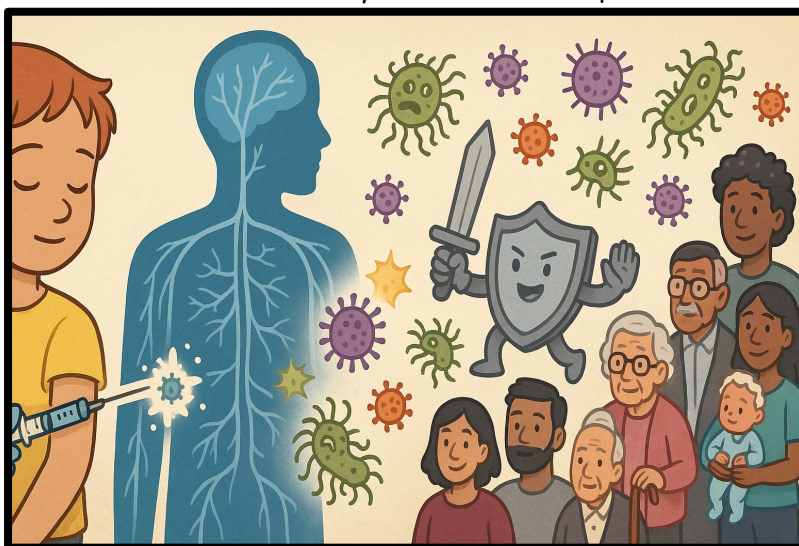


Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Explain Connections in Information

Read the short story and answer each question.



How Vaccines Work

Every day, your body fights off germs—tiny invaders like viruses and bacteria that can make you sick. Your body's **immune system** is like a personal defense team. When a germ enters the body, the immune system works to find and destroy it.

Once the immune system fights off a germ, it often remembers it. That means if the same germ tries to attack again, your body is ready. This is where **vaccines** come in.

A vaccine is a tool that trains your immune system without making you seriously sick. It contains a tiny, weakened, or inactive part of a germ—just enough for your immune system to recognize it. Once your body “practices” fighting it, it builds protection. This is called **immunity**.

Vaccines help people avoid serious illness, and they protect communities too. When many people are vaccinated, it becomes harder for germs to spread. This is called **herd immunity**, and it helps protect people who are too young or too sick to get vaccines themselves.

The relationship between vaccines and the immune system is powerful. By learning to recognize and fight certain germs, your body becomes stronger and safer—often without ever getting sick.



Name: _____

How Vaccines Work

1. How do vaccines interact with the immune system?

- A. Vaccines train the immune system to recognize and fight certain germs.
- B. Vaccines make the immune system weaker over time.
- C. Vaccines help the immune system ignore all germs.
- D. Vaccines stop your heart rate from increasing during illness.

2. What is the relationship between herd immunity and community health?

- A. When many people are vaccinated, germs spread less, helping protect everyone.
- B. Herd immunity only protects animals, not humans.
- C. Herd immunity means people are no longer allergic to germs.
- D. It happens when doctors give vaccines to plants and animals.

3. Fill in the blank:

After your immune system learns to fight a germ, your body builds _____.

4. How do the concepts of vaccination and herd immunity work together to protect people?

5. What part of the immune system's response helps vaccines become effective?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: V

Lexile Level: 950L–1100L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Informational – Life Science / Health

Introducing the Text

“This text explores the interaction between vaccines and the immune system, showing how both work together to protect the human body. Students will analyze these relationships and identify how specific ideas and processes are connected to help people stay healthy.”

Vocabulary: immune system, germ, vaccine, immunity, herd immunity

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about how your body fights illness?
 2. What is a vaccine, and why might people get one?
 3. How might one person’s health choices affect others in their community?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does a vaccine contain, and how does it help the immune system?
 2. What happens after your immune system “learns” to fight a germ?
 3. What is herd immunity, and who benefits from it?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How are the immune system and vaccines connected?
 2. What role does vaccination play in protecting an entire community?
 3. How does the author explain the cause-and-effect relationship between vaccination and immunity?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a flowchart showing the path from getting a vaccine to achieving immunity. Include at least 4 steps, and label the relationships using arrows and brief explanations. Optionally, add a section about how herd immunity works.

