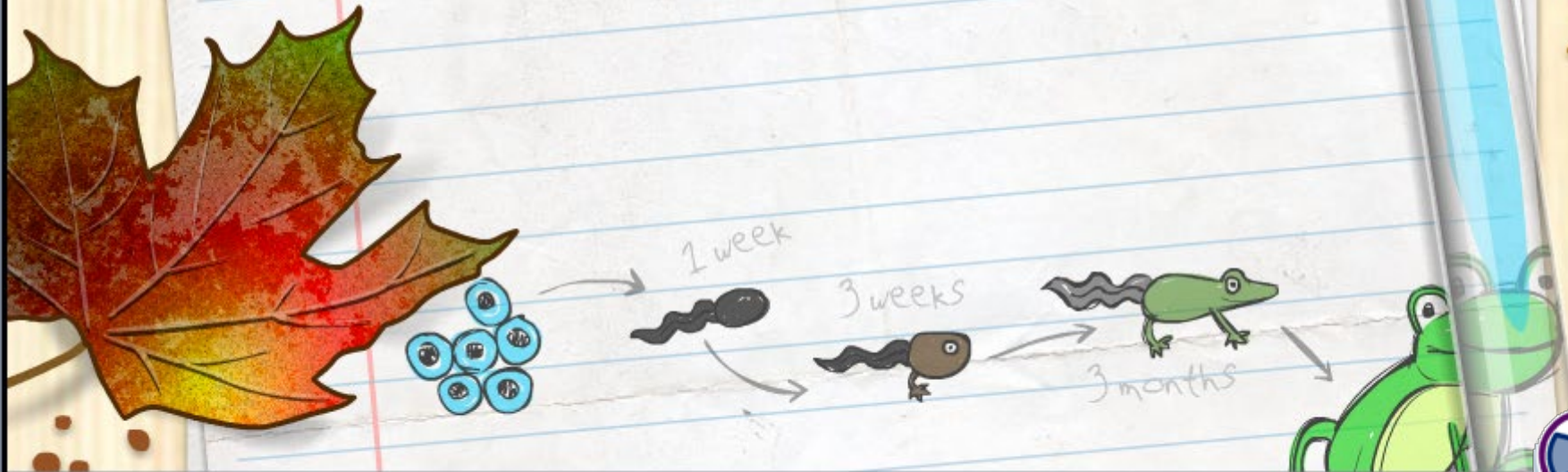




Microorganisms



A cartoon illustration of a young boy with dark skin, wearing a green and black plaid shirt over a white t-shirt, dark blue pants, and red sneakers. He has his arms crossed and is looking towards the right.

Germs, bacteria, viruses, microbes... whatever you call them, these tiny living things can be found everywhere!

A cartoon illustration of a young girl with long brown hair, wearing a red hoodie over a grey shirt, black leggings, and orange flat shoes. She has her hands in her pockets and is looking towards the left.

Some **microorganisms** are harmful and some are helpful. Let's take a closer look at some.

Microorganisms



Microorganisms live all around us. When we can see them, we are seeing a big colony of millions growing together.

Microorganisms can cause food to **decay**.

Mold is a microorganism you often see on decaying food. There are other microorganisms called **bacteria** that also make food decay and can make you ill. Those you can't see, but can usually smell.



Microorganisms



Microorganisms **decompose** dead organisms by **breaking them down**. This compost pile contains yard waste and food scraps.



Once the organisms are broken down, the nutrients can be added to soil to feed new plants and help them grow well.
That's nature's way of recycling!



This is **yeast**.

Yeast is made up of millions of single-celled organisms.



Unlike many microbes, yeast is very useful to us.
We use yeast in our food!



Microorganisms

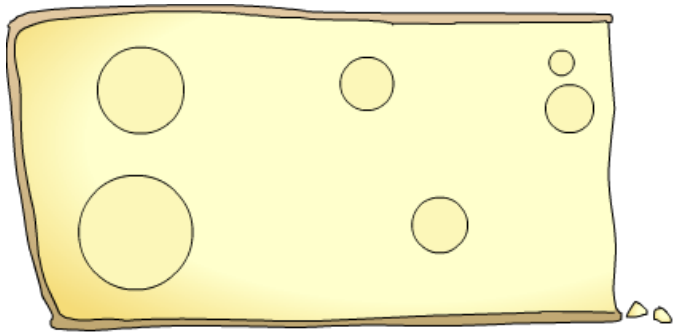


Microorganisms



It's not just bread that uses microorganisms. Many other foods are produced using microbes.

Some yogurt contains 'friendly' bacteria that help to keep you healthy.



Cheese production requires the use of bacteria. Some cheeses contain a type of mold that we can eat.