








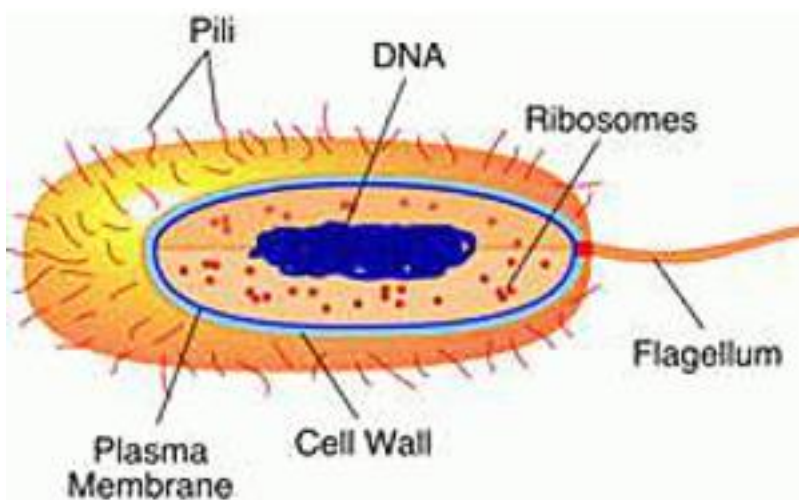
What's a Booger?



-  Boogers are produced by your body when it is trying to stop germs from entering through the nose.
-  Boogers contain a sticky substance, called mucus, and white blood cells. White blood cells are part of your immune system. The immune system contains cells which act as soldiers who fight off germs and protect the body from invaders.
-  Some of the cells of the immune system produce a protein called lysozyme. Lysozyme can break apart bacteria and digest it. Lysozyme proteins reflect green light, which makes boogers look green to us.
-  The above information should give you a pretty good reason to not eat your boogers. You also shouldn't stick your fingers in your nose because there are A LOT of bacteria on your nose.
-  Adding bacteria to your nose on purpose gives your immune system more work to do. Sometimes it can't even do the job on its own and needs medicine, like antibiotics to help.

Source:

Murphy, G. (2007). *Why is snot green?* New York, NY: MacMillan Children's Books.



This man is about to have bacteria enter his nose.



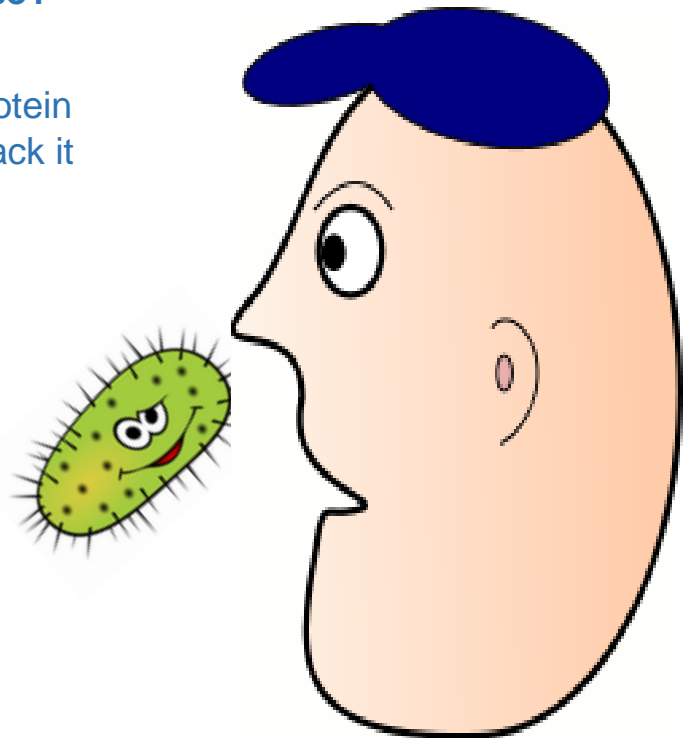
What will be the body's response?

- a. It will produce sticky mucus
- b. It will produce a cell busting protein
- c. It will send immune cells to attack it
- d. All of the above



What do we call the mucus, bacteria, lysozyme, and white blood cells that form in our noses?

- a. Wax
- b. Boogers
- c. Sand
- d. Tears



Why should this man avoid sticking his finger in his nose to remove the mucus, bacteria, lysozyme and blood cell mixture?

- a. He may scratch his nose and get a nosebleed
- b. He may transfer bacteria from his finger to another person or object
- c. He may introduce more bacteria into his nose than the body's immune system can handle
- d. All of the above



What will this man likely have to do if he does stick his finger in his nose?

- a. Eat hamburgers
- b. Go to the mall
- c. Take antibiotics
- d. Go camping

Answers: D, B, D, C