

UNIT 02 / 13 • LEARN & TRY

The Invisible Living World: Beyond Our Naked Eye

Name: _____ Date: _____

Learn

Microorganisms include many bacteria, microscopic fungi and protists. Viruses are studied with them but depend on host cells to reproduce. Microorganisms have varied roles: decomposition, fermentation, nutrient cycling and sometimes disease. Being microscopic does not mean being harmful. Microscopes reveal features invisible to unaided eyes. Do not culture unknown environmental microbes at home.

Worked example

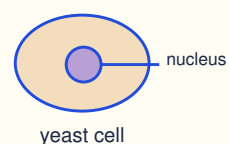
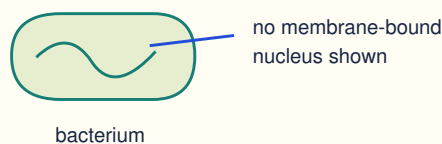
Yeast can produce gas during fermentation, helping dough rise. The same observation does not mean every microorganism behaves like yeast.

1. Name a useful activity of microorganisms.

2. Are all microorganisms harmful?

3. What instrument helps reveal microscopic structures?

Two microscopic living organisms



Schematic examples, not microscope photographs; relative sizes are not shown.