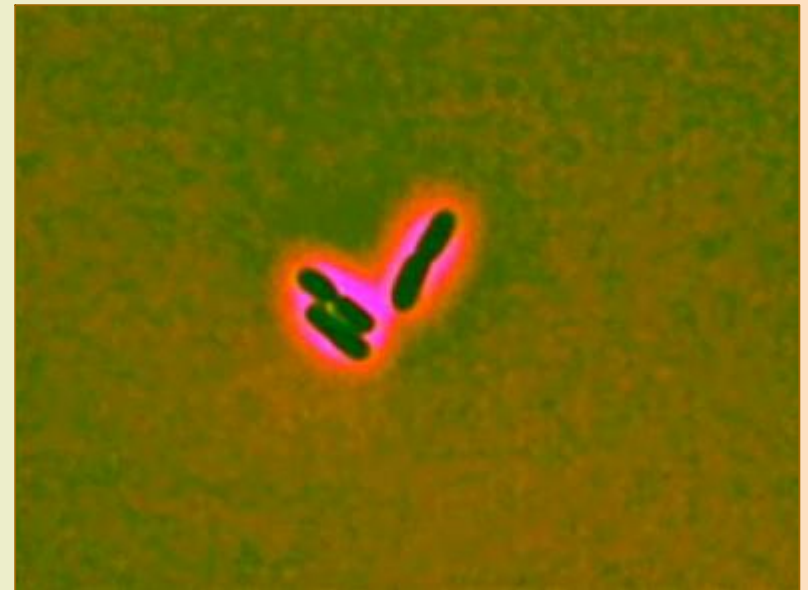


Harmful bacteria



Unfortunately, not all bacteria are helpful. When blue-green bacteria take over a pond, it lives out other forms of life.

When food is left out, bacteria will quickly grow on it, causing it to spoil.



Video:

<http://videos.howstuffworks.com/hsw/10410-bacteria-harmful-bacteria-video.htm>

Harmful bacteria

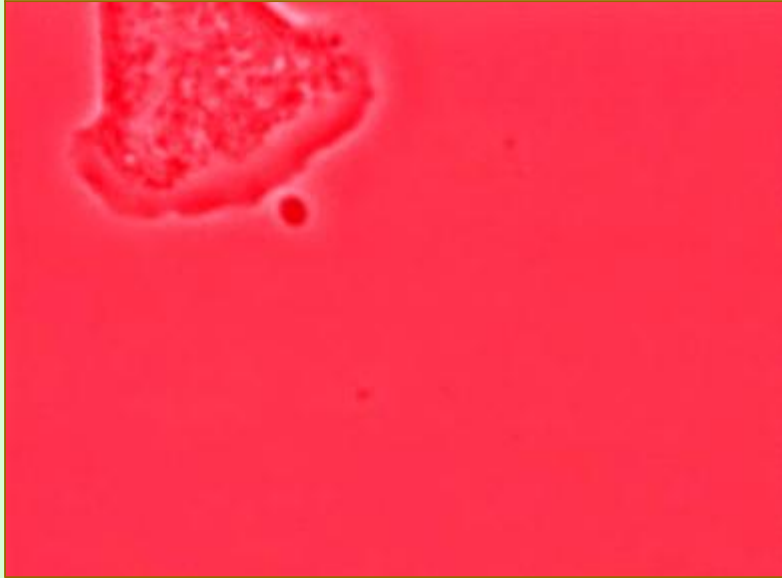


The bacteria in your mouth can contribute to tooth decay and even gum disease. That is why it is important to floss and brush your teeth, to get rid of the food the bacteria feed on.

Bacteria like these can give you a nasty sore throat or infect an open sore. Fortunately your body has a number of effective defenses against harmful bacteria.



Harmful bacteria



Here is one of them: here a white blood cell attacks and consumes a bacterium that has managed to find its way into the bloodstream.

Millions of white blood cells like this one are constantly patrolling the bloodstream, searching out invader bacteria, keeping your body healthy.

But some bacteria are more difficult to kill. The bacteria that causes pneumonia have slippery outer capsules and slide away when white blood cells try to capture them. Bacteria like these can kill you.

