Microorganisms

Microorganisms

* Small, living organisms that are not visible to the naked eye
* Found everywhere! Including ON and IN the human body

Nonpathogen vs Pathogen

* Microorganisms can be pathogens or nonpathogens.
* ***Nonpathogens*** can be part of the normal flora of the body and are beneficial to us
* Flora=plant life adapted for living in specific environment
* ***Pathogens*** cause disease and infection

GERMS!

* If they are pathogenic, we call them GERMS!
* Can be helpful in one part of the body but pathogenic when present in another part of the body
* FOR EXAMPLE- E. Coli is part of large intestinal flora, but if it is in the urinary tract, it can cause an UTI

Reproduction of Microorganisms
What they need

1. Warm environment
2. Darkness; can be killed by sunlight
3. Food and moisture
4. Oxygen to live-aerobic
5. No oxygen to live-anaerobic

Classes of Microorganisms

6 classes of microorganisms

1. Bacteria
2. Protozoa
3. Fungi
4. Rickettsiae
5. Virus
6. Helminth