The Immune System

1 What is the immune system?
The immune system is the way your body protects you from disease. Every day lots of germs enter your body. You do not always become ill because your immune system fights these germs and protects your body. Your immune system is similar to an army inside you. Your immune system can also recognise germs that entered your body in the past. It is then able to destroy them, so that you don’t become ill again.

Lots of different parts of the body work together to form the immune system. For example, the skin helps to stop germs from entering the body. Liquids in the body, for example saliva and tears, catch germs and carry them out of the body.

2 What are white blood cells and why are they important to your immune system?
In your blood you have red blood cells and white blood cells. White blood cells are important because they make antibodies. When a germ enters the body, these antibodies fight it and try to destroy it. The next time the same kind of germ tries to attack the body, the antibodies are there to stop it.

3 What is a vaccination and how does it help your immune system?
A vaccination is an injection that contains a weak form of a disease. Doctors usually give you vaccinations to help your immune system fight that disease. Because the injection is a weak form of the disease, your immune system can fight it easily. It will also remember exactly how it destroyed that disease. Later, if that germ tries to attack your body again, the immune system will stop it and you won’t get the disease.

But vaccinations cannot protect you from all diseases. This is because diseases can change and become stronger. Cold germs/viruses are constantly changing. This means that your immune system cannot fight against cold germs. This is why you can catch colds more than once.

Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Italian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>immune system</td>
<td>sistema immunitario</td>
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<tr>
<td>protect</td>
<td>proteggere</td>
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<td>disease</td>
<td>malattia</td>
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<td>germ</td>
<td>germe, batterio</td>
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<td>become ill</td>
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<td>army</td>
<td>esercito</td>
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<td>recognise</td>
<td>riconoscere</td>
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<td>destroy</td>
<td>distruggere</td>
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<td>skin</td>
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<td>saliva</td>
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<td>tear (n)</td>
<td>lacrima</td>
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<td>sangue</td>
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<td>cell</td>
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<td>injection</td>
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<td>weak</td>
<td>debile</td>
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<td>catch a cold</td>
<td>prendere un raffreddore</td>
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1 Leggi il brano. Abbina i termini scientifici alle definizioni corrette.

1 immune system b a an injection containing a weak form of a disease
2 germs _ b your body’s protection against germs
3 white blood cells _ c the part of your blood that fights germs
4 vaccination _ d things which can cause disease

2 Rispondi alle domande. ES

1 What is your immune system similar to?
2 How can your skin and body liquids help fight against germs?
3 What do antibodies do to protect the body?
4 How can a vaccination stop you from getting a disease?
5 Why do people get colds more than once?

3 Leggi il brano su Edward Jenner e rispondi alle domande. ES

Edward Jenner (1749 – 1798) was an English doctor. In those times, there was a serious disease called smallpox. Smallpox killed a lot of children. Jenner noticed that the women in his town who milked cows rarely caught smallpox.

He thought that this was because they often caught a weaker form of the disease, called cowpox, from their cows. In 1796 Jenner injected a weak form of cowpox into a healthy boy. The boy did not catch smallpox. Jenner continued with his research and even used his own children in his experiments. He invented the word vaccine from the Latin word for cow – vacca.

1 Who was Edward Jenner?
2 Which disease was he trying to fight?
3 Which people did he think were immune from this disease?
4 Which disease did he inject into a boy in his experiment in 1796?
5 Where does the word vaccine come from?

Glossary

- milk (v) mangere
- cowpox vaiolo bovino
- rarely raremente
- healthy sano

Presentazione orale

4 Project Prepara una presentazione orale su un famoso scienziato italiano. Prendi degli appunti usando le seguenti domande per aiutarti. Parla per circa 2 minuti. ES

- Where was he/she born?
- What do you know about his/her family and education?
- What work did he/she do?
- What important discoveries did he/she make for science?