

# Classroom Activities

## 10 Big Questions - How do we unravel the causes of disease?\*

### Ecosystems of bacteria:

#### You will need:

- Nasal/throat swabs
- Agar plates
- Incubators

#### Method:

There are all sorts of bacteria living all over your body, there's no escaping it. Each body part is a different ecosystem, with different species of bacteria that have adapted to these ecosystems.

Try testing these bacteria. Before you begin dip the swabs in saline first, this will make the bacteria stick better to the swab.

Swab the warm areas, like the inside of the nose, the throat or the underarm. Swab cool areas, the tip of the nose, the outside of the ears or the fingertips. Rub the swabs on to different agar plates and incubate them at 32, 37 or 42 degrees.

Bacteria that live in cool areas are likely to be adapted to grow better in cooler temperatures. Same with the bacteria in warm areas.

This classroom activity was suggested by Thomas Tu a PhD student in the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, University of Adelaide.

\* To find out more about the 10 Big Questions, go to:

<http://www.sciences.adelaide.edu.au/learning-teaching/10bq/>

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