



# Classroom Activity

10 Big Question: How do we unravel the causes of disease?

## Guess That Virus

Each virus is different from the next in some way. Can you identify these viruses from the clues given below?

1. This virus is found predominantly in Africa. Risk of death is high. The virus is commonly carried by fruit bats and monkeys.
2. This virus is a lentivirus (a type of retrovirus). Many people are unaware they are carrying it. There is no known cure; instead antiviral treatments are often used to keep the progression of disease at bay.
3. Risk of contracting this virus is quite low, but mortality rate if you do is around 70%. Infection occurs through direct contact with poultry.
4. This virus is transmitted by mosquitos and exists mainly in the tropics. Symptoms include a characteristic skin rash that is similar to measles.
5. Commonly transmitted through the air by coughs and sneezes, the risk of catching this RNA virus is reduced by good personal hygiene habits. There is a vaccine for this virus but it is mostly available in the developed world and is required on a yearly basis.
6. The World Health Organisation certified the eradication of this virus in 1979. This was achieved by a series of vaccination campaigns worldwide.
7. Infection with this virus is linked with increased incidence of cervical cancer among others. A vaccine against it was developed in Australia and has been rolled out worldwide.

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## Answers

1. Ebola
2. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
3. Bird flu (also known as Avian influenza)
4. Dengue fever
5. Influenza
6. Smallpox
7. Human papillomavirus (HPV)

## Extension activity

You may like to pick one of these viruses or one of your own choice to investigate further. Here are some suggested questions to direct your research:

- > How is infection spread?
- > What are the symptoms?
- > When and where is it most prevalent?
- > What is the treatment? How successful is the treatment? Is it a cure?
- > Is there a vaccine? If so, how successful is it?
- > Can you prevent its spread? How?
- > What type of virus is it?
- > What does it look like?