

Science & Technology 2: STIs

Aim/Rationale

Students will observe the differences between bacteria and viruses in the context of sexually transmitted infections.

Competencies

- 1) *Seeks answers or solutions to scientific or technological problems.*
- 2) *Makes the most of their knowledge of science and technology.*
- 3) *Communicates in the languages used in science and technology.*

Hook

Have students brainstorm STIs and place them into categories: bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

Bacterial Infections	Viral Infections	Parasitic infections
Chlamydia	HIV	Pubic lice (crabs)
Gonorrhea	Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)	Trichomoniasis (Trich)
Syphilis	HPV	Fungal infection
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	Hepatitis A, B & C	Yeast Infection

Development/Teaching Methods

1. Research and Preparation (20 minutes)

- Assign each STI to a small group of students and allow them to do research on their topic. Students should return to the class with a short (<5 minute) presentation on the STI they were assigned.
- The presentation should include (where possible):
 - Classification: Bacteria/virus/parasite/fungal infection
 - Areas of the body that are susceptible to infection
 - Methods of transmission
 - How to protect yourself from infection
 - Where the STI lives inside your body (i.e. is it localized to the entry area? does it incorporate its DNA into the human genome and live in many cells all over the body? etc.)
 - Symptoms (if any!)
 - Does the infection increase susceptibility to other infections or illnesses? How?
 - Treatment
 - Some statistics about the STI's prevalence in Canada

2. Presentations (30 mins)

- Allow each group to give a brief presentation of the information they found out about the STI they were assigned.

3. Review (10 minutes)

- Restate methods of transmission and safer sex practices to prevent spread of STIs. Remind students of the importance of regular STI testing once sexually active, as many STIs do not exhibit symptoms.

For helpful resources:

- http://www.scarleteen.com/article/sexual_health/sti_risk_assessment_the_cliffs_notes
- <http://www.sexandu.ca/stis/>



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