

**Immune System**  
**for middle &**  
**high school**

**For**  
**Special**  
**Ed**

Special Needs for Special Kids





*This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, and has a super strong immune system. He almost never gets sick. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!*

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This unit contains over 130 pages of material. But, don't worry!! I have included a 9 day lesson plan to help you make the most of everything packed in this unit.

# Immune System Lesson Plan

## Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
  - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
  - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
  - Make one set for each student and also one for the teacher to use in I Spy games

## Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

## Teaching Tips

- *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  - a. For more info, read more here:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
- *Make your own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
  - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
  - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching  
students with significant  
needs

## Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards introduction</li><li>• Circle map</li></ul>	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards cut and paste</li><li>• Vocabulary puzzle</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Matching activity</li></ul>	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Close worksheet</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Sequencing activity</li></ul>	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Close worksheet</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Sequencing activity</li></ul>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessment</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards cut and paste</li><li>• Vocabulary puzzle</li></ul>		

*The lesson plans contain:*

*A quick look at what you will do each day*

## Day 8

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li><li>• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Vocabulary cards Scavenger Hunt (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Place one set of the vocabulary cards around the room before lesson</li><li>• Students walk around and find them, bring them back and matching them to their own set of cards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vocabulary cards (extra sets)</li><li>•</li></ul>
Close worksheet review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the completed close worksheet from yesterday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed worksheet</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Close worksheet (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do the remaining close worksheet on disorders of the immune system.</li><li>• Use color coding as needed</li><li>• Students should be able to refer to book or vocabulary cards as needed to find answers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Close worksheets</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Glue</li><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocabulary cards</li></ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student shares their finished close worksheet</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed activity</li><li>• Communication devices</li></ul>

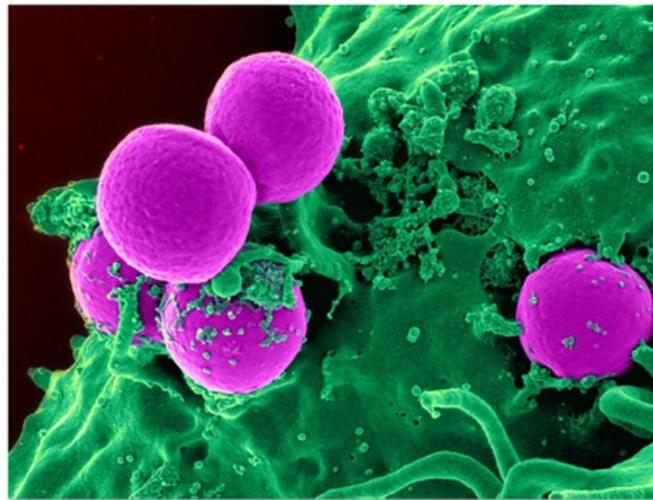
The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

This set of special organs, tissues and cells is called the **immune system**, and when it is working, it battles off millions of **pathogens** every day.



The lymphatic system has 2 main jobs. One is to carry these special cells called **lymphocytes** to the blood stream. From there, they will travel all over the body looking for areas of infection.



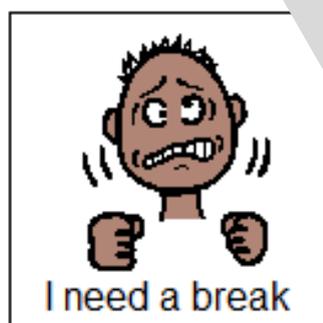
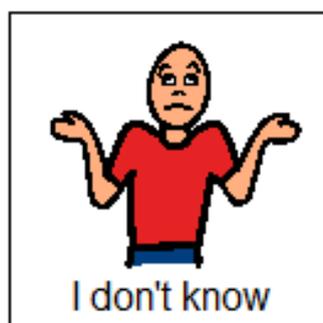
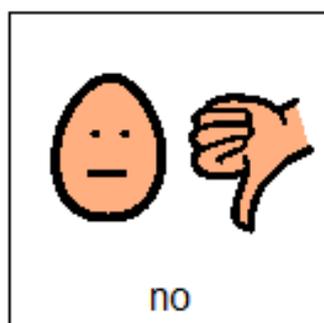
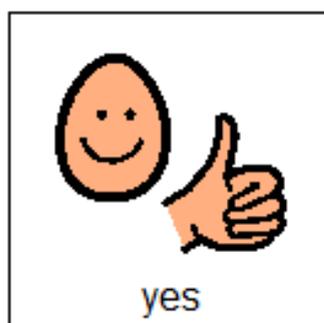
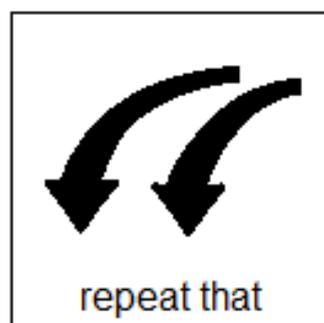
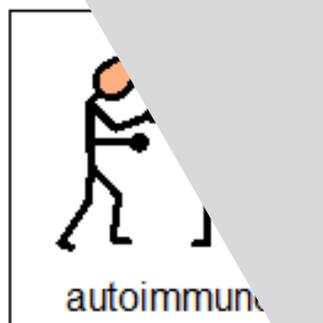
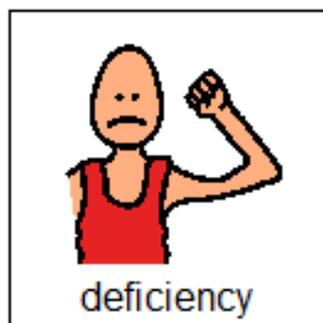
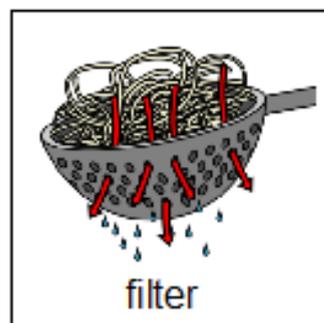
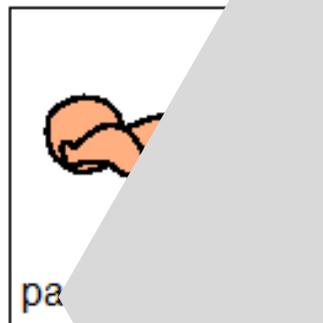
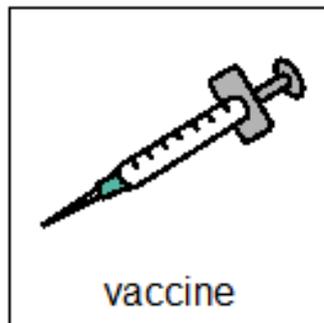
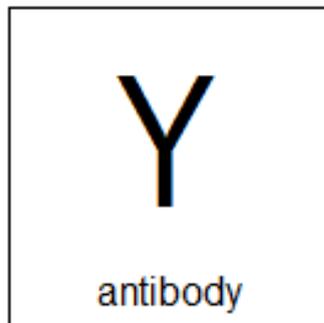
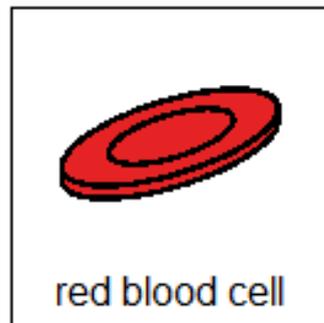
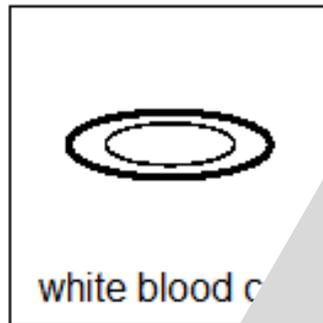
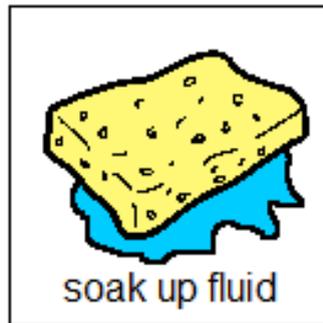
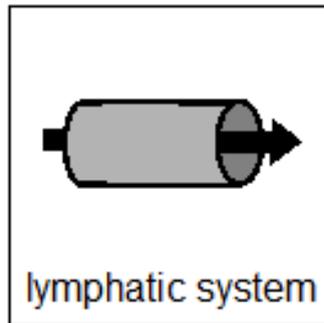
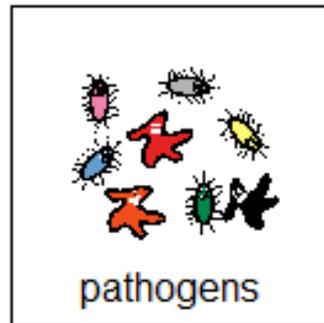
This unit contains a book that is 40 pages that talks all about the immune system.

It comes in a pdf version as well as a voice recorded powerpoint (so you don't have to print it out.)

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!



### immunity

Protection from things that could hurt you.



### pathogen

Something that could make you sick like viruses, bacteria, or parasites.



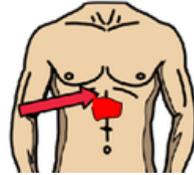
### lymphatic system

System of vessels that moves fluid and immune cells to the blood stream.



### spleen

Organ in the abdomen that filters out damaged cells and makes immune cells.



### antibody

Large Y-shaped protein that attaches to and destroys pathogens.



### active immunity

Immunity and antibodies that you develop during your life from beginning exposure to a pathogen.



### passive immunity

Immunity and antibodies that you are born with from your mom.



### vaccine

Contains killed version of the pathogen to create antibodies to a specific disease.

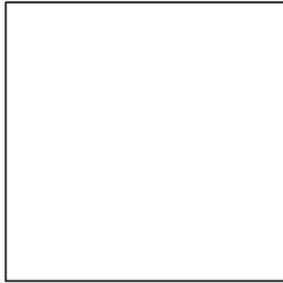


This unit comes with 16 vocabulary cards.

Every day students will do a group activity using these cards to get more familiar with words that are likely new to them.

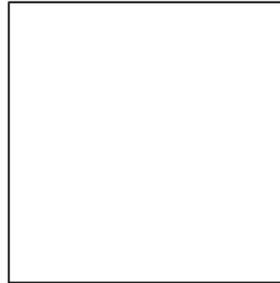
## thymus

Gland in the chest that creates immune cells  
ONLY until you are a teenager.



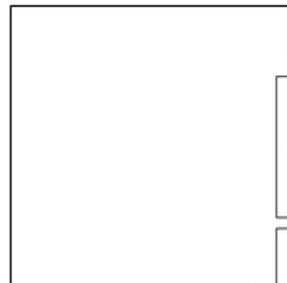
## T-cells

Found in the thymus and help get rid of  
infected and damaged cells.



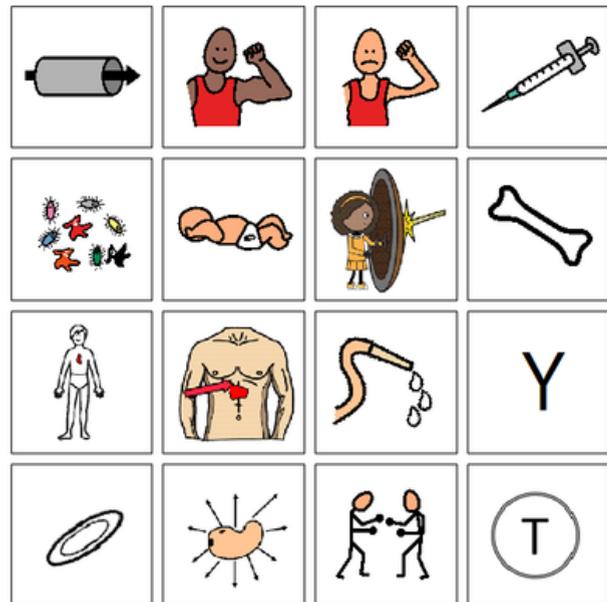
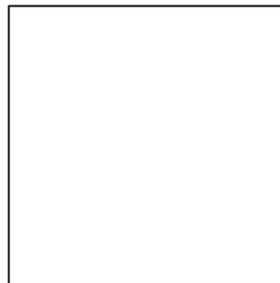
## lymph nodes

Glands in your neck and body that swell  
trap and the infected cells and pathogens.

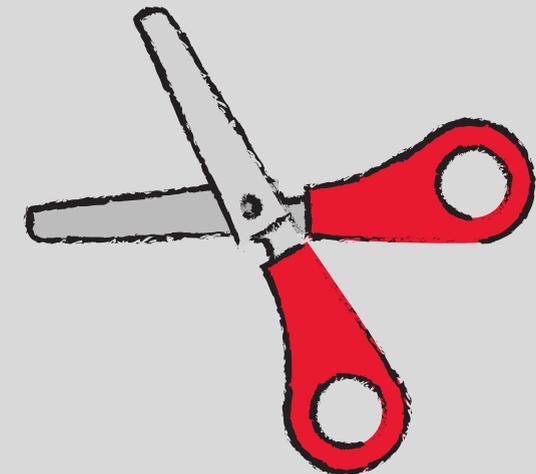


## bone marrow

In the center of bones where many  
cells of the immune system are made.



Students will also test  
their knowledge of these  
new words and symbols  
with a cut and paste  
activity on days 5&6.



immunodeficiency

autoimmune

[Empty box for definition]

[Empty box for definition]

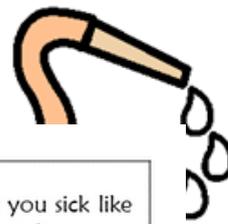


lymphocytes

lymph

[Empty box for definition]

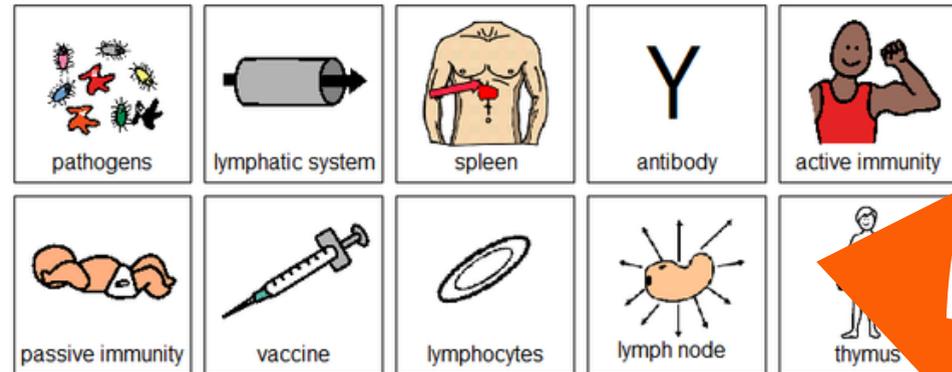
[Empty box for definition]



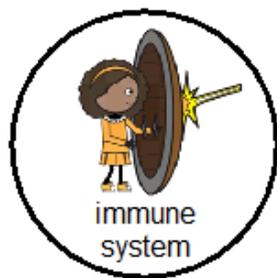
The clear fluid that travels through the lymphatic system and contains immune cells.	Something that could make you sick like viruses, bacteria, or parasites.
Large Y-shaped protein that attaches to and destroys pathogens.	Glands in your neck and body that swell trap and the infected cells and pathogens.
System of vessels that moves fluid and immune cells to the blood stream.	White blood cells that fight pathogens.
In the center of bones where many of the cells of the immune system are made.	Gland in the chest that creates immune cells ONLY until you are a teenager.

You have **2 choices**:

1. Students match the picture to the definition (easier).
2. Students match the definition to the picture (harder).



**Errorless**

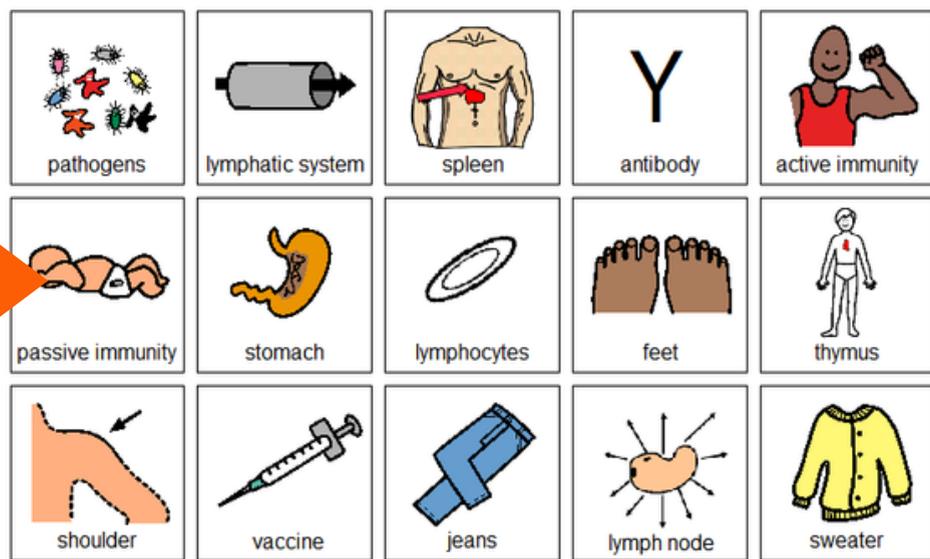


There is a circle map in this unit.

This circle map is a great way for students to see a the concept at a glance. There are 2 versions:

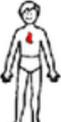
- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

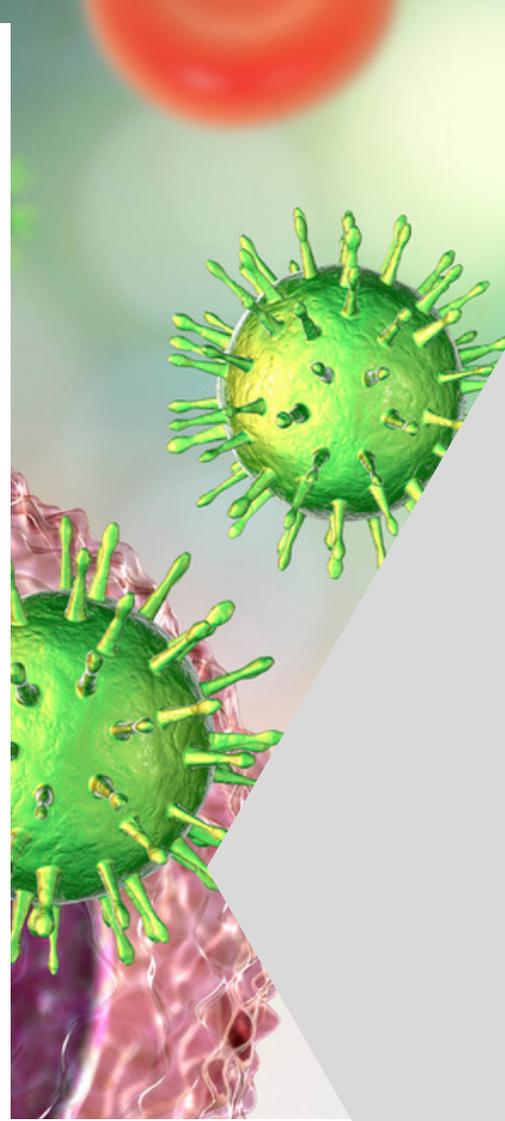
**harder**



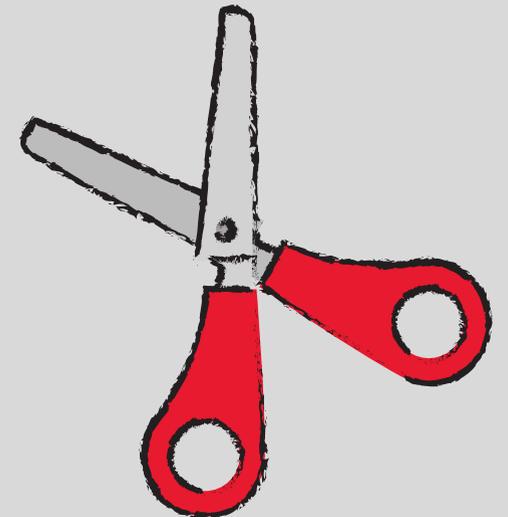
Find the picture that goes with each description below.

 inside bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	 filters old cells	<input type="checkbox"/>
 shrinks as you get older	<input type="checkbox"/>	 fights pathogens	<input type="checkbox"/>
 immunity you build up	<input type="checkbox"/>	 immunity from Mom	<input type="checkbox"/>
 get this from a doctor	<input type="checkbox"/>	 first line of defense	<input type="checkbox"/>

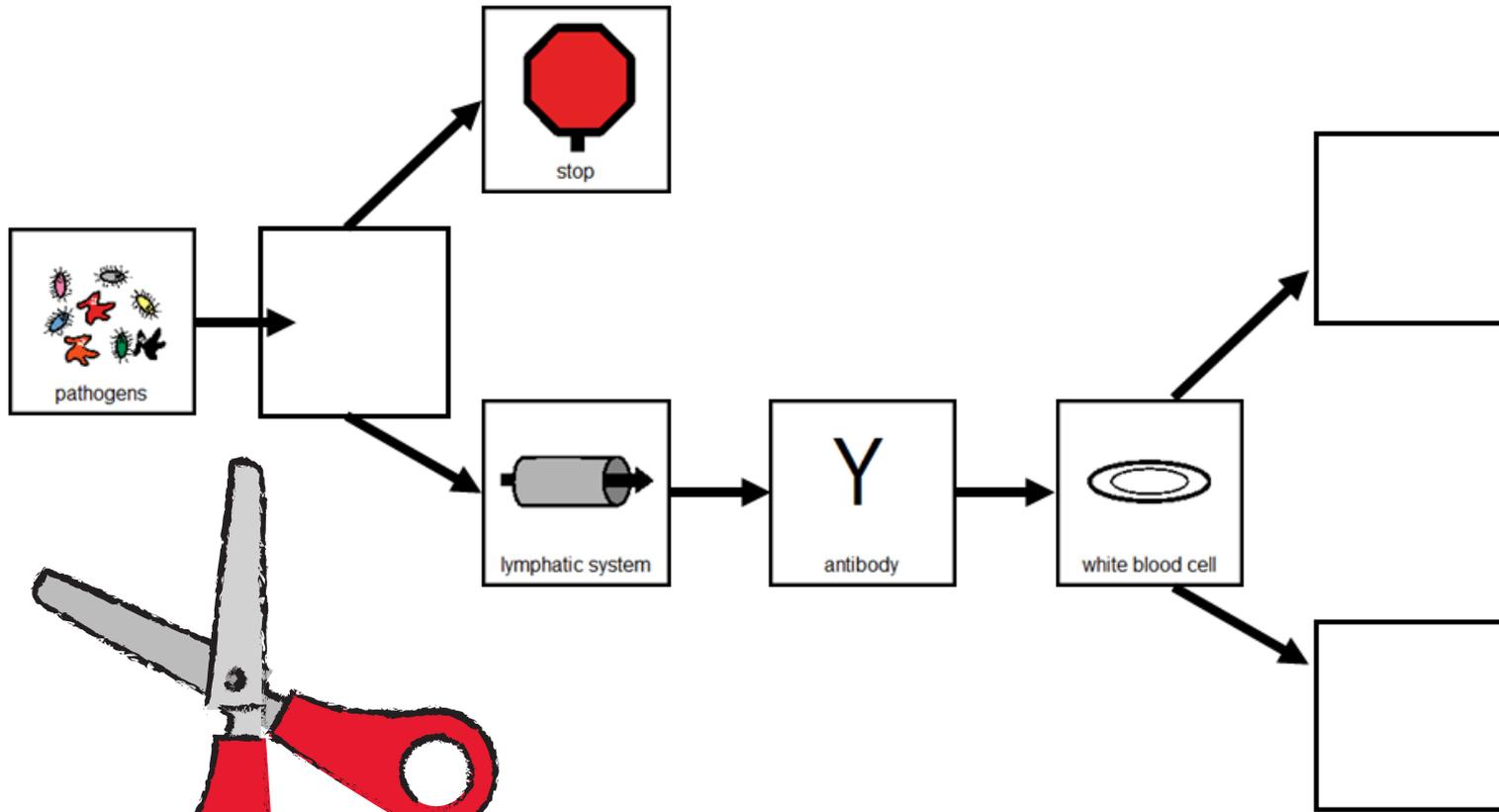
 vaccine	 bone marrow	 active immunity	 spleen
 passive immunity	 thymus	 antibody	 skin



There is a matching activity included. Here, students will match characteristics about the immune system (These are reviewed in the book.)

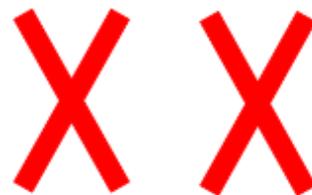


Use the pictures on the next page to finish the sequence of how your immune system works.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2020 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved  
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There are 3 sequencing activities included. Each one has more steps missing. Each one has a color coded version included. Students then add the X where a defect in the immune system would interfere with that process.

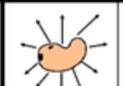
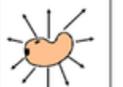
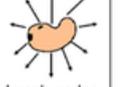


# Immune System

		 lymphocyte	
	Y antibodies	 pathogen	
	 pathogen	 vaccine	
			

**easy**

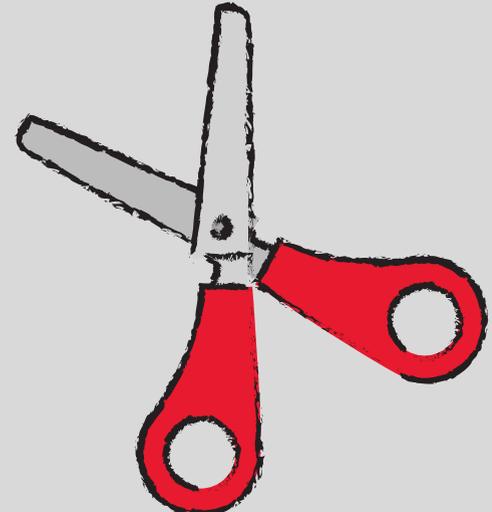
# Immune System

 spleen			 lymph nodes	 vaccine
 lymph nodes			 spleen	 pathogen
 lymphocyte			 vaccine	 lymph nodes
 vaccine	 spleen		 lymphocyte	Y antibodies
 pathogen		 spleen	Y antibodies	 vaccine
Y antibodies	 lymphocyte	 vaccine	 pathogen	 spleen

**hard**

There is a Sudoku puzzle in this unit as well. This is a great way to work with the new vocabulary!!

There are 2 versions plus answer keys.

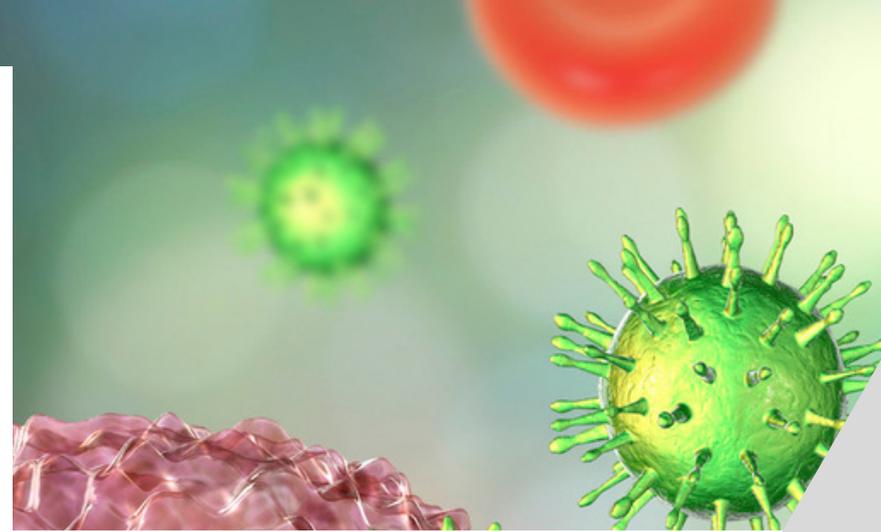


 pathogens	 lymphocyte	 vaccine	 vaccine
Y antibodies	Y antibodies	Y antibodies	

## Immune System

ZZ IMMUNITY STAFSTLYMO  
 YMLMRAVDZQIMNOMNEAYC  
 SJFJDMKXCXMAVXFUQTFC  
 RHFRIZTJHIMOPATHOGEN  
 RCBOLBCOZTUPPWEJYZXF  
 DTHXYBBDKDNIECAYLLIK  
 NRGVMVAKHKORWTDZLLRR  
 CTGDPGPIRCDHEZXFPLDX  
 XQYSHNKHZBEIACTIVEPH  
 ROCPNCSADLFRWKEHUHWA  
 SNNLOULNLMIQBOVZAFMU  
 ZDZEDYNSFWCVFCAPXWNT  
 GVREEDEKXBILUUCANTCO  
 IMWNSTFCBQENUKCSCSMI  
 ZXMRWOGFVCNMABISDHTM  
 SWDQLYMPHOCYTENIRCHM  
 FGUNCWESYHYCEUEVPYYU  
 QFZOBXRZJIYADQVIETFMN  
 GKANTIBODIESJOCTUOUE  
 SMWVYDERNSDIABETESSF

immunodeficiency	lymphocyte	antibodies	lymph nodes
autoimmune	pathogen	immunity	diabetes
spleen	vaccine	active	passive
thymus			



## Immune System

ZZ IMMUNITY STAFSTLYMO  
 YMLMRAVDZQIMNOMNEAYC  
 SJFJDMKXCXMAVXFUQTFC  
 RHFRIZTJHIMOPATHOGEN  
 RCBOLBCOZTUPPWEJYZXF  
 DTHXYBBDKDNIECAYLLIK  
 NRGVMVAKHKORWTDZLLRR  
 CTGDPGPIRCDHEZXFPLDX  
 XQYSHNKHZBEIACTIVEPH  
 ROCPNCSADLFRWKEHUHWA  
 SNNLOULNLMIQBOVZAFMU  
 ZDZEDYNSFWCVFCAPXWNT  
 GVREEDEKXBILUUCANTCO  
 IMWNSTFCBQENUKCSCSMI  
 ZXMRWOGFVCNMABISDHTM  
 SWDQLYMPHOCYTENIRCHM  
 FGUNCWESYHYCEUEVPYYU  
 QFZOBXRZJIYADQVIETFMN  
 GKANTIBODIESJOCTUOUE  
 SMWVYDERNSDIABETESSF

immunodeficiency	lymphocyte	antibodies	lymph nodes
autoimmune	pathogen	immunity	diabetes
spleen	vaccine	active	passive
thymus			

There is also a word search to work with vocabulary. If your students cannot do a word search, have them highlight the circle words on the answer key.



## The Immune System

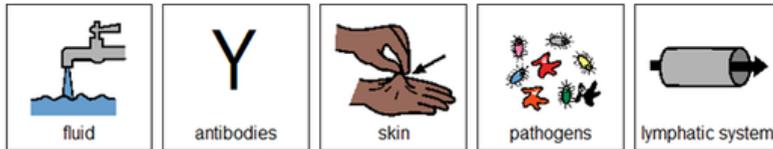
1. The immune system fights millions of  every day.

2. The  is the first line of defense.

3. If the pathogen gets into the body, it usually travels to the .

4. The lymphatic system moves pathogens and extra  into the blood.

5. Large Y-shaped proteins called  attach to the pathogen.



## Disorders of the Immune System

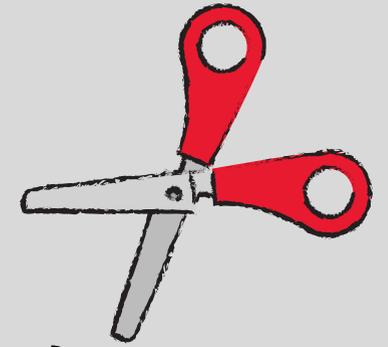
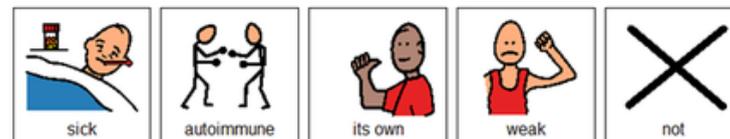
1. An immunodeficiency means your immune system is .

2. When your immune system is weak, you are  often and for longer.

3. If you have an autoimmune disease, the immune system attacks  cells and tissues.

4. Type 1 diabetes is an example of an  disease.

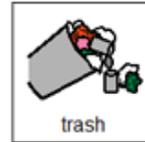
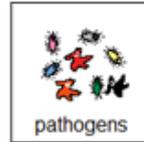
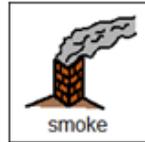
5. Problems with your immune system are  common.



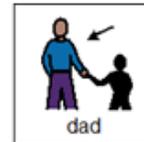
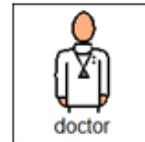
Close worksheet are a great informal assessment. This unit has 2 as an overview and one on disorders of the immune system.

Answer key included.

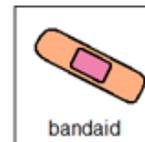
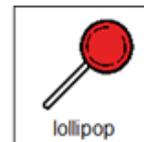
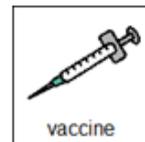
1. What does the immune system protect you from?



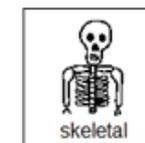
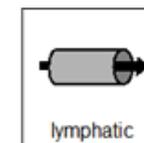
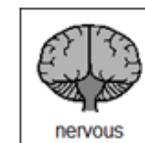
2. Where does your passive immunity come from?



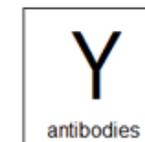
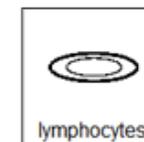
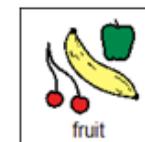
3. What can you get at the doctor that helps you build your active immunity?



4. This system takes the extra fluid back to the blood stream.



5. These are special proteins that attach to and attack the pathogens.

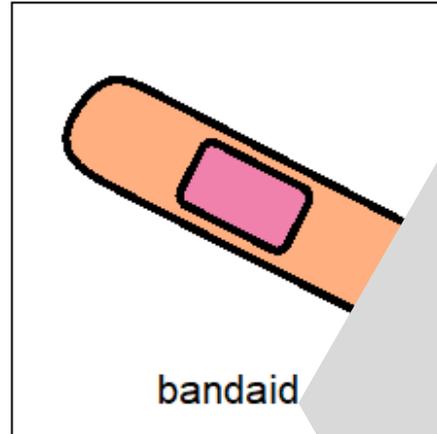
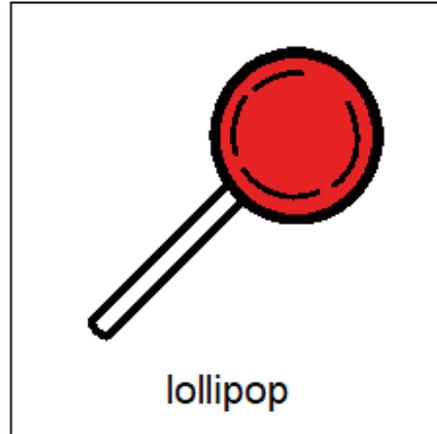
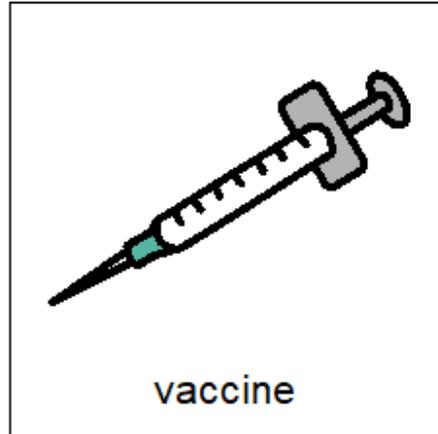


FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

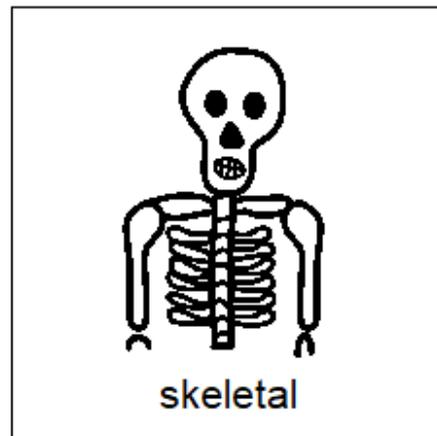
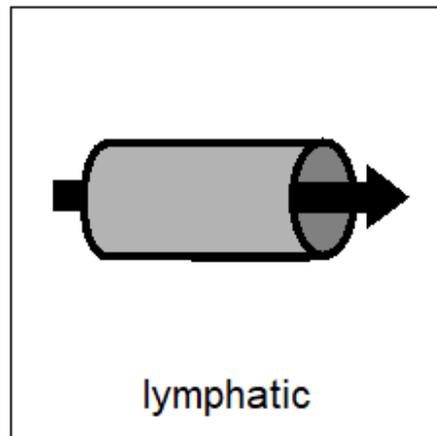
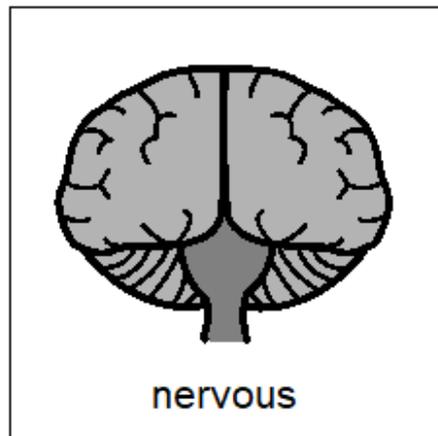
Answer key included.

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 3



Q 4



With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.

1. What does the immune system protect you from?
  - A. Smoke
  - B. Pathogens
  - C. trash
2. Where does your passive immunity come from?
  - A. Doctor
  - B. Dad
  - C. Mom
3. What can you get at the doctor that helps you build your active immunity?
  - A. Vaccine
  - B. Lollipop
  - C. bandaid
4. This system takes the extra fluid back to the blood stream.
  - A. Nervous
  - B. Lymphatic
  - C. skeletal
5. These are special proteins that attach to and attack the pathogens.
  - A. Fruit
  - B. Lymphocytes
  - C. antibodies
6. What are the main cells that fight disease in the body?
  - A. Brain cells
  - B. Tongue
  - C. lymphocytes

*This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.*



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

**[Click Here to read more!!](#)**

*All of the activities (except the book) come in color and black and white.*