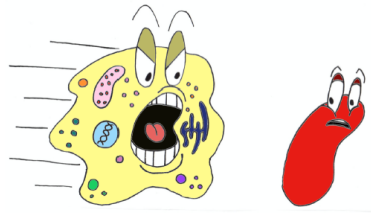


## IMMUNE CELLS: THE ARMY IN YOUR BODY

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The immune system is made up of special cells which protect the body from infection every day. Most of the time the immune system does a good job of keeping the body healthy and protecting us from millions of bacteria, viruses and parasites. If an infection does occur these cells mount a strong immune response to kill invaders. However sometimes these cells attack harmless invaders such as pollen, causing hayfever, or the body's own cells, causing autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis. Below are some of the cells of the immune system and information on how they keep the body safe from invaders.



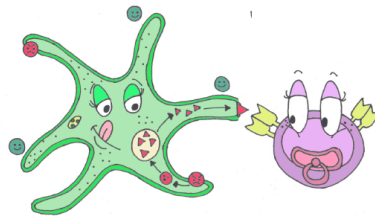
### MACROPHAGE: MAJOR EATER

Macrophages can recognise bacteria, find them fast and eat them! Macrophages can also talk to other cells and let them know what's happening. Macrophages are found throughout your body.



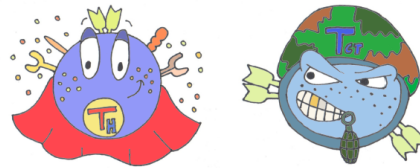
### MAST CELLS: SERGEANT SNEEZER

Mast cells are mostly found around the surfaces of your body, the skin, the mouth and the gut. Mast cells contain chemicals that they can release to help kill worms. But if they explode at the wrong time they can cause allergy.



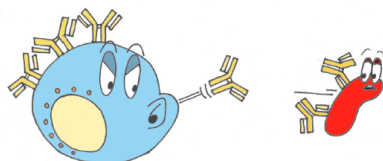
### DENDRITIC CELL: CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Dendritic cells tell the T cells about the bacteria and help the T cell decide what to do next.



### T CELL: CAPTAIN CO-ORDINATOR

T cells are good at multi-tasking. They can kill infected cells to stop infection spreading and tell other cells what to do.



### PLASMA CELLS: WEAPONS MANUFACTURER

Plasma cells make antibodies that can block bacteria and prevent them from sticking to surfaces as well as making them an easier target for other immune cells.



### NEUTROPHILS: FRONTLINE FIGHTERS

There are millions of neutrophils travelling around in your blood, ready to fight bacteria by eating them or trapping them in nets!