

Everything that you always wanted to know about VIRUSES

But were too
afraid to ask!



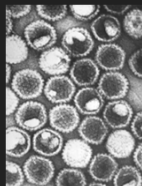
What exactly is a Virus?

- A non-living particle that can reproduce inside living cells

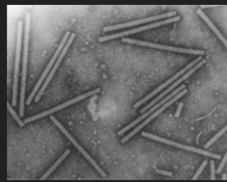


A bacteriophage virus landing on and infecting a bacterium (Wikipedia, 2018)

Viruses can look very different!



Herpes Virus (Centers for Disease Control, 2013)

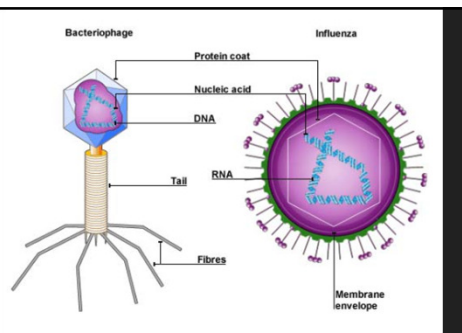


First virus ever identified Tobacco Mosaic Virus (Australia National University, 1997)



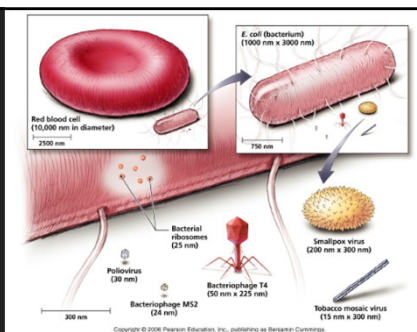
Ebola Virus (Centers for Disease Control, n.d.)

Basic Parts of a Virus



Viruses are SMALL!

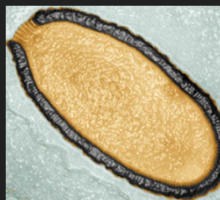
A comparison of the size of a Red Blood Cell, E. Coli Bacterium, and various viruses (Pearson Education, 2006)



Where do Viruses sit on the Tree of Life?

Viruses are not currently classified as living, but this may change as more and more is discovered about them.

Scientists hypothesize that viruses evolved at about the same time as bacteria around 3.5 billion years ago.



Pithovirus: A giant virus whose discovery led scientists to question how viruses fit into the tree of life (Science Photo Library)

