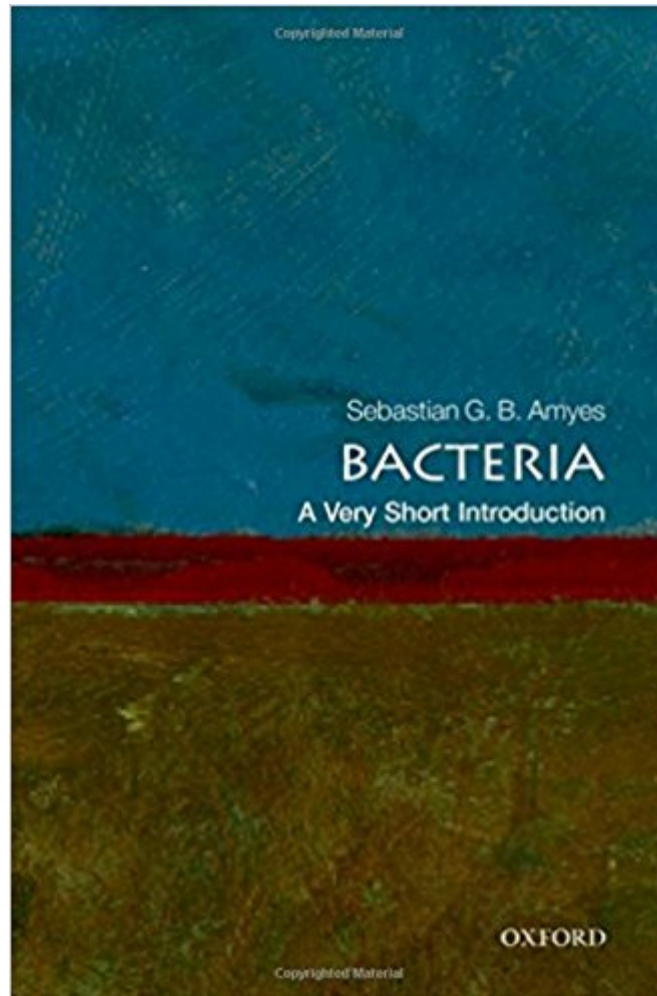




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# Bacteria: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



## Synopsis

Bacteria form a fundamental branch of life. They are the oldest forms of life and the most prolific of all living organisms, inhabiting every part of the Earth's surface, its ocean depths, and even such inhospitable places as boiling hot springs. In this Very Short Introduction, bacteriologist Sebastian Amyes explores the nature of bacteria, their origin and evolution, bacteria in the environment, and bacteria and disease. Amyes discusses some of the major infections caused by bacteria--bacteria causes pneumonia, diphtheria, cholera, and many other diseases--and shows how these pathogens avoid the defences of the human body. But the book looks at all aspects of bacteria, not just the negative side, stressing the key benefits of bacteria, which have been harnessed to preserve food, dispose of waste and to provide compost for horticulture. Indeed, life for man and for many animals would be impossible without bacteria. Amyes also offers a glance into the future, describing how bacteria might be manipulated to perform tasks that they previous were unable to perform and discussing the recent construction of a completely synthetic bacterial cell.

About the Series: Oxford's Very Short Introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects--from Islam to Sociology, Politics to Classics, Literary Theory to History, and Archaeology to the Bible. Not simply a textbook of definitions, each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative--yet always balanced and complete--discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field. Every Very Short Introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question, demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society. Eventually, the series will encompass every major academic discipline, offering all students an accessible and abundant reference library. Whatever the area of study that one deems important or appealing, whatever the topic that fascinates the general reader, the Very Short Introductions series has a handy and affordable guide that will likely prove indispensable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Despite its title, Bacteria is neither 'very short', nor is its level merely 'introductory' - it's appropriate for teachers as well as students. Succinct and full of detail, there's something for everyone to learn."  
--The Biologist

Sebastian Amyes is Professor of Microbial Chemotherapy at Edinburgh University, and author of Magic Bullets: Lost Horizons.

Wonderful introductory text.

.It is amazing to know, how important bacteria is in our lives such as; sewage treatment, the breakdown of oil spills, the production of cheese and yogurt through fermentation, the recovery of certain heavy metals, such as Gold. There is also the use of Bacteria in biotechnology, and the production of antibiotics and other chemicals. Returning to the book, a large part of the text is given over to epidemiology of bacteria; its management, there is an explanation of how antibiotics work, the problems of antibiotic resistance that is a real issue in today's society. As a short introduction to the subject, this volume does a reasonably concise job providing a good overview, of course there going to be items that are not detailed enough, or are just omitted. However, as a starter on the subject this book is a good introduction..

These little books are great for review.

good

The book is concise (as per title) & just right for layperson in the medical field. Would have liked a little more on the unique behaviors of the more common bacteria. Otherwise it fulfilled my need.

This book is hardly an introduction. It freely uses university terms and concepts without explanation. Not readable for the lay person. Avoid the pain and inoculate yourself from reading this book, just wash your hands and select another course (of food that is).

Small print, concise, great overview of the pioneers with good illustrations. I am glad that I took bacteriology in college and kept up with it over the years. On my shelf for a ready reference that I need.

Great little book

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