

MODEL: CLASSIFICATION ORGANIZATION

In this scientific article, the writer uses classification organization to group information by common characteristics. As you read, think about how this organization, with the help of the text features, helps you digest the information.

from

Germ Warfare

Nonfiction article

The human body is built to fight off germs, and its first line of defense is skin. Along with other natural barriers, skin blocks out germs so they can't get to us. The few pathogens that do make it inside the body must fight it out with the immune system.

FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

5 **TEARS** Tears constantly wash away foreign objects. They contain their own antibiotic, an enzyme called lysozyme, which kills bacteria.

10 **MUCOUS MEMBRANES** Mucous membranes line the inside walls of the organs and tubes that open to the outside of the body. They produce sticky mucus that traps germs much as flypaper traps flies.

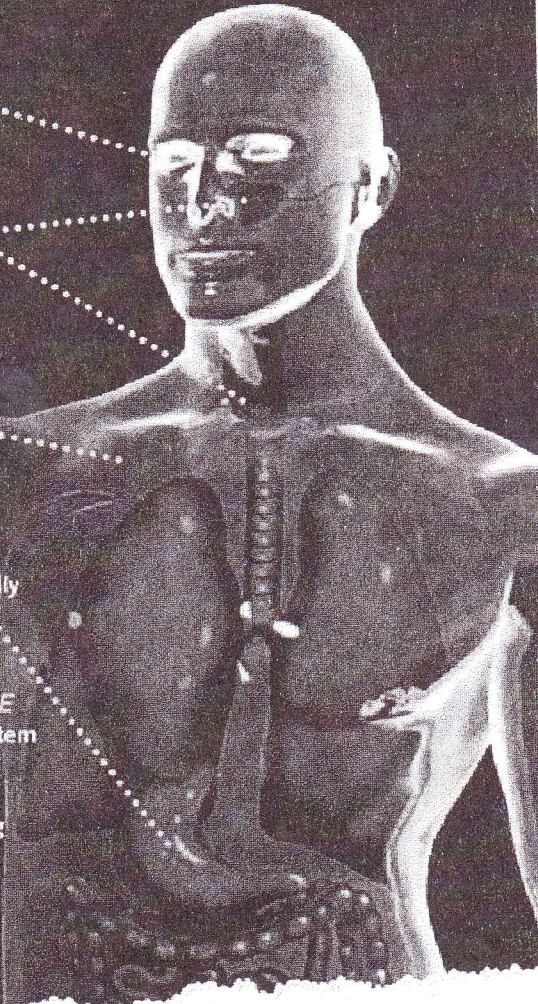
15 **SKIN** Few germs can penetrate unbroken skin. However, they do work their way in through cuts or openings like the nose and mouth.

20 **STOMACH** The acids used to digest food are so strong that germs usually cannot survive. Most germs caught in mucus end up here and die.

SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE

25 **IMMUNE SYSTEM** The immune system is a group of cells in the blood and lymph (a bodily fluid). Those cells specialize in finding and destroying tiny invaders.

30 (1) An invader enters the body. Several types of white blood cells move to attack...



Close Read

1. Into what two main categories is the information grouped? Explain how you can tell.
2. Notice the boldfaced words used throughout the article. Two have been boxed. What purpose do they serve?
3. What does the information in the annotated diagram add to your understanding of mucous membranes?