



MICROBES

THE TINY CREATURES AROUND US

Rebecca Borger



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

There are tiny creatures all around us—



smaller than a
LADYBUG

smaller than an
ANT



smaller than an



APHID

smaller than a **GRAIN of SAND** you can hold in the palm of your hand.



Sometimes they are so small you cannot see them with your own two eyes.

They can be so small that more than 200,000 of them would fit on the period at the end of this sentence.

200,000

Two hundred thousand!



These tiny creatures are not plants, and they are not animals.

But, they are **alive!**

They are called **MICROBES**, and there is a whole field of science devoted to studying them.

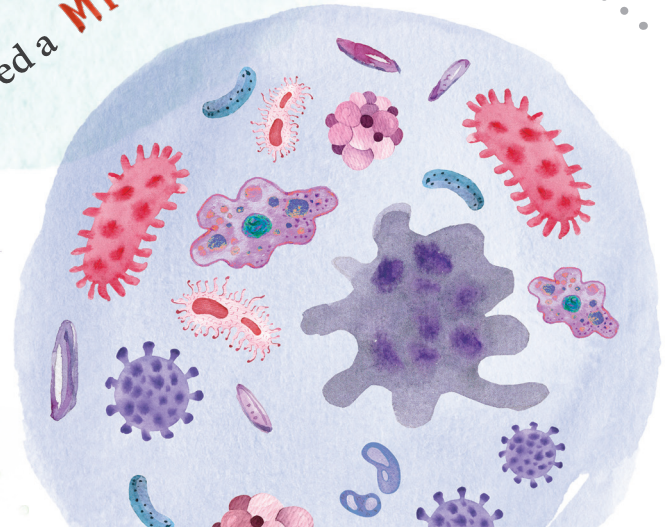
It is called **MICROBIOLOGY**.

That is a big word for the study of tiny, tiny things.

Microbiology is the study of a world that includes ...

... tiny living creatures so small you need a

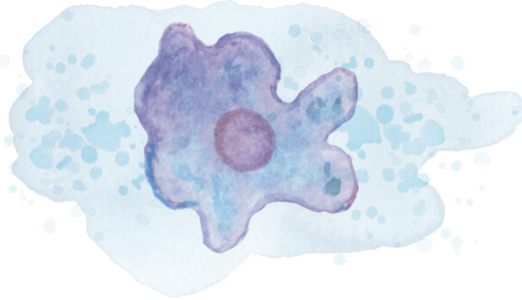
MICROSCOPE to view them. ...



Microbiology is the study of microbes all around us, everywhere.

This world of tiny creatures is full of big microbes,

like an
AMOEBA
that swims
in the ocean,



and small
microbes,

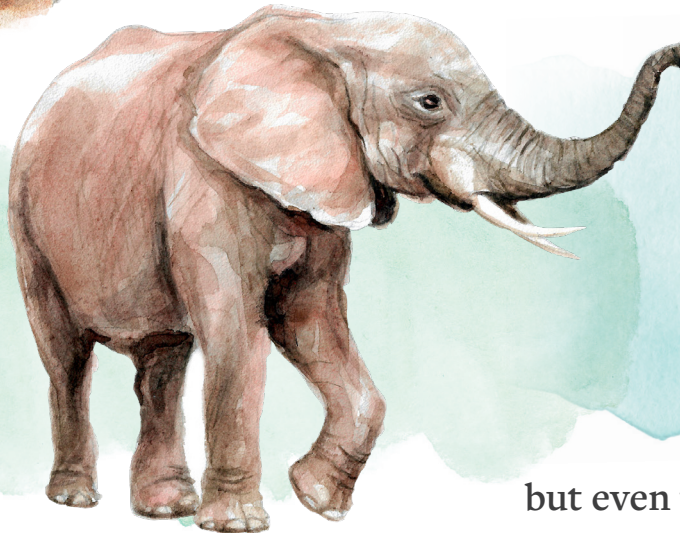


like **BACTERIA** deep in the soil,



just like the world you can see with your own two eyes is full of

big creatures,
like a giant
elephant,



and small
creatures, like
a baby mouse,

but even the biggest microbe is small to you.

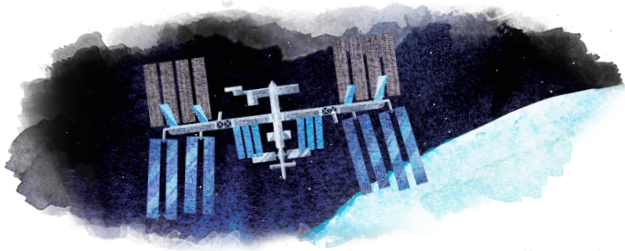
Microbes live everywhere.

They live where there are people, plants, and animals—

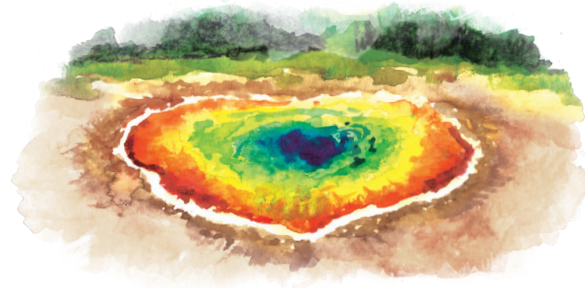
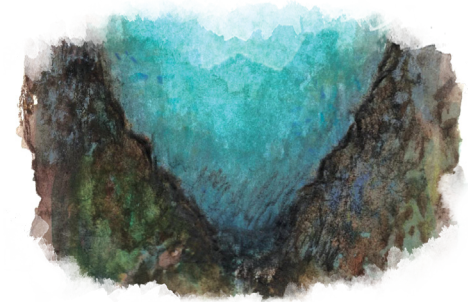


and they live where no people, plants, or animals can ever live.

You can find them up in space
(at the International Space Station) . . .



and in the deepest
part of the ocean
(in the Mariana
Trench).



You can find them at national parks
(in the Morning Glory Rainbow Pool
at Yellowstone National Park) . . .

and in the dirt in your own backyard garden.



..... You can find them in your bathtub



..... and in the very air you breathe.

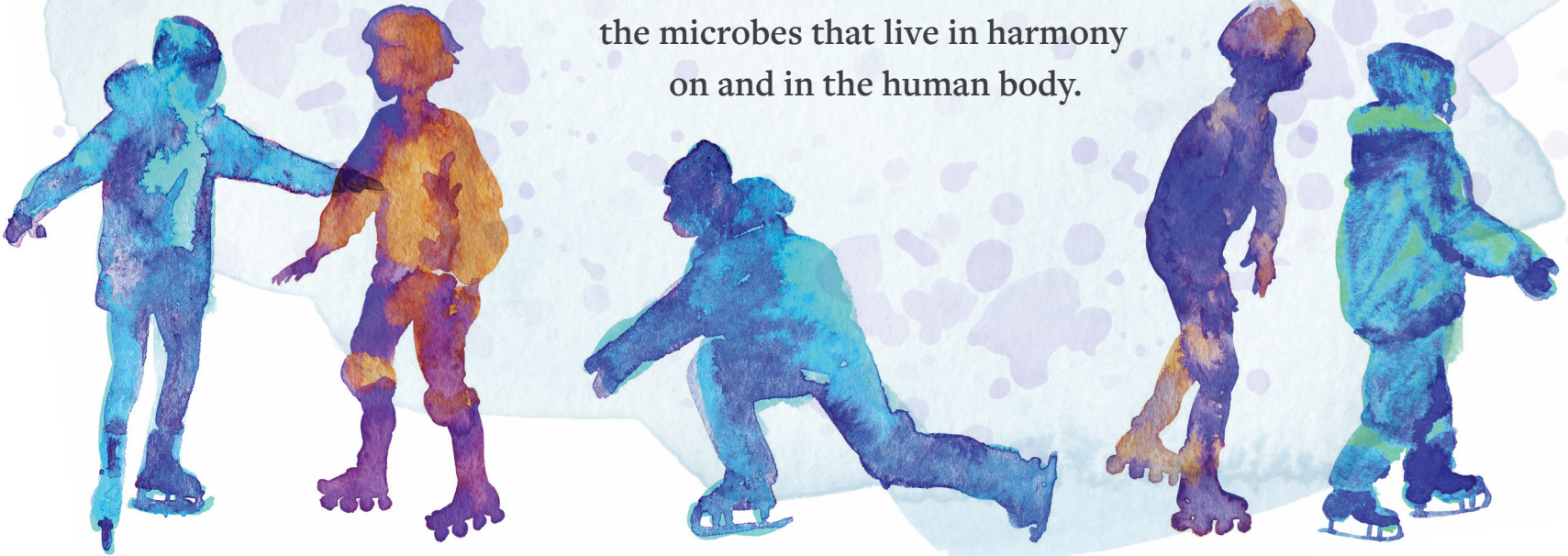


You can find them in extreme **HEAT**,
and you can find them in extreme **COLD**. Microbes that live
in environments so hostile no other life can survive are called **EXTREMOPHILES**.

Most interesting of all, you can find microbes, tiny creatures of the unseen world, on the outside and the inside of you!

This is called the **HUMAN MICROBIOME**, and there are at least as many microbes in and on your body as there are your very own cells! Some scientists say there are ten times as many.

The human microbiome is the name for all the microbes that live in harmony on and in the human body.



These microbes work to help your body do all the wonderful, marvelous things it can do.



MICROBES

THE TINY CREATURES AROUND US

Did you know there is an invisible world just as varied as the world you can see with your own two eyes? This invisible world is the world of microbes: tiny living creatures doing amazing jobs from on your very own skin to in the deepest parts of the ocean. Enjoy beautiful watercolor illustrations as you journey through this book to uncover an unseen world full of wonder. Each page will help you learn more about these tiny creatures and the important roles they play in our world.



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