

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Bacterial Invaders: Understanding How Infections Occur

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Bacteria can enter the human body and cause infection through direct contact with contaminated surfaces or bodily fluids, ingestion of contaminated food or water, or inhalation of airborne bacteria.
2. Toxins produced by bacteria contribute to the symptoms of bacterial infections by damaging cells and tissues, leading to inflammation, tissue destruction, and systemic effects such as fever and malaise.
3. Antibiotics are medications that target and kill bacteria or inhibit their growth, helping to eliminate bacterial infections from the body. They work by disrupting essential bacterial processes or structures, ultimately leading to bacterial cell death.
4. Preventive measures to reduce the risk of bacterial infections include practicing good hygiene, such as regular handwashing, avoiding close contact with sick individuals, properly cooking and storing food, and staying up to date with vaccinations.

