

Name _____

Exploring the Invisible: The World of Viruses

Short Answer Key

1. Viruses replicate by hijacking the cellular machinery of host cells.
2. A virus consists of genetic material (DNA or RNA) surrounded by a protein coat called a capsid.
3. Viruses are considered adaptable because they can mutate rapidly, leading to the emergence of new strains.
4. Some beneficial roles of viruses in ecosystems include controlling populations of harmful bacteria or transferring genetic material between different species, contributing to genetic diversity.
5. Viruses lack the essential characteristics of life, such as the ability to reproduce independently.

