

Name _____

The Unsung Heroes of Immunity: Tonsils and Adenoids

Short Answer Key

1. Tonsils prevent infections by trapping and neutralizing invaders like bacteria and viruses that enter the body through the mouth or nose. They contribute to the immune system's defense by initiating immune responses against these threats.
2. The adenoid (pharyngeal tonsil) is located high in the back of the throat, near the area where the nose connects to the throat. This location is significant because it allows the adenoid to detect and initiate immune responses against invaders that are inhaled or ingested.
3. Tonsils and adenoids work together with other immune system components by detecting and neutralizing invaders at the entrance of the respiratory and digestive systems. They collaborate with lymph nodes, lymphocytes, and antibodies to mount effective immune responses.
4. In a situation where tonsils and adenoids become infected or swollen, the individual may experience symptoms such as sore throat, difficulty swallowing, and breathing problems. Recurrent infections can impact overall health and may require medical intervention.
5. The removal of tonsils and adenoids can affect immune responses, particularly at the entrance of the respiratory and digestive systems. The body can adapt over time, relying more on other immune system components to provide protection.

