

# Why is Meningitis so Dangerous?

## VOCABULARY

- \***Meningitis** – a serious infectious illness which affects your brain and spinal cord
- \***Meninges** – the three membranes that envelop the brain and spinal cord (*dura mater, arachnoid, pia mater*)
- \***Sheer Speed** – excessive speed or fast speed
- \***Cranium** – the round part of your skull that contains your brain
- \***Septicemia** – the same as blood poisoning

## COMPREHENSION

1. Meningitis can be caused by many different germs. Which type is by far the most deadly?
2. How do people get infected with bacterial meningitis?
3. Signs and symptoms of meningitis do not appear in a definite order or may not appear at all. Besides fever and headache, which other symptoms should you look out for?
4. Most people who are immediately treated make a full recovery from meningitis, but it can sometimes cause serious, long-term problems. What are some of the most common complications associated with meningitis?
5. Meningitis can affect anyone, but which age groups are most at risk of infection?
6. Can you describe what happens in the body when a person has septicemia or blood poisoning?

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## LET'S TALK

1. What ways can you protect yourself and your family from meningitis?
2. Meningitis can affect anyone, but what are the factors that can increase the risk?
3. What are the most common causes of bacterial meningitis?