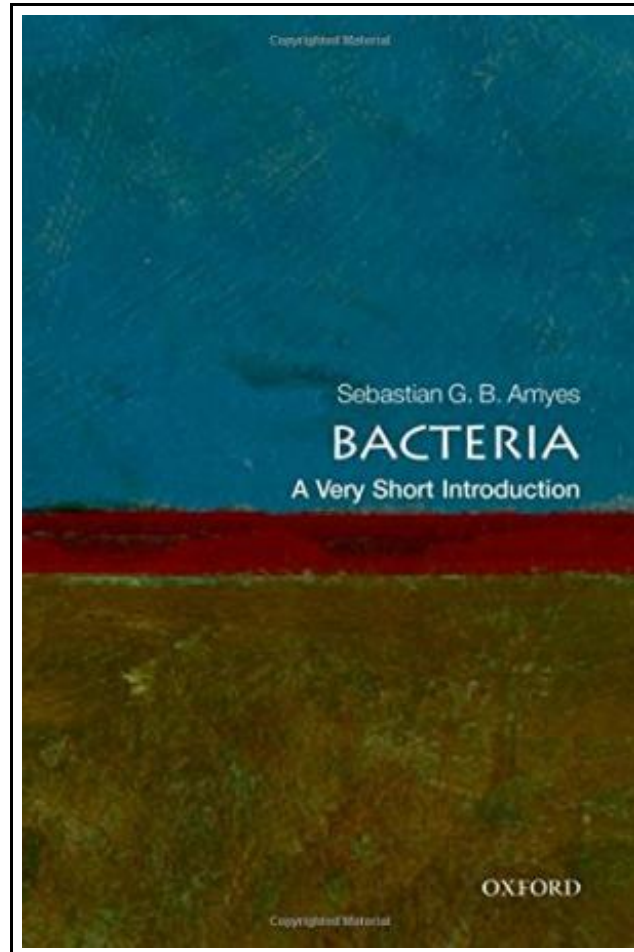


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BACTERIA: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION



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Oxford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 160 pages. Dimensions: 6.8in. x 4.3in. x 0.5in. Bacteria form a fundamental branch of life. They are the oldest forms of life and the most prolific of all living organisms, inhabiting every part of the Earth's surface, its ocean depths, and even such inhospitable places as boiling hot springs. In this Very Short Introduction, bacteriologist Sebastian Ameyes explores the nature of bacteria, their origin and evolution, bacteria in the environment, and bacteria and disease. Ameyes discusses some of the major infections caused by bacteria—bacteria causes pneumonia, diphtheria, cholera, and many other diseases—and shows how these pathogens avoid the defences of the human body. But the book looks at all aspects of bacteria, not just the negative side, stressing the key benefits of bacteria, which have been harnessed to preserve food, dispose of waste and to provide compost for horticulture. Indeed, life for man and for many animals would be impossible without bacteria. Ameyes also offers a glance into the future, describing how bacteria might be manipulated to perform tasks that they previously were unable to perform and discussing the recent construction of a completely synthetic bacterial cell. About the Series: Oxford's Very Short Introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects—from Islam to Sociology, Politics to Classics, Literary Theory to History, and Archaeology to the Bible. Not simply a textbook of definitions, each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative—yet always balanced and complete—discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field. Every Very Short Introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question, demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society. Eventually, the series will encompass every major academic discipline, offering all students an accessible and abundant reference library....



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