

Summary strategy: This strategy teaches students how to summarize text. This is very helpful when dealing with information filled text that you can encounter in science class. It starts with two column notes, pulling out bullets (details) from each paragraph along with a main idea. You then organize all your main ideas and details in a topic web map. Finally you take each row from the topic web and turn it into a sentence. Each paragraph essentially becomes a one sentence summary.

Example:

The reading

Part A.

A world of living creatures too small to see with our eyes is all around us—and in us, too. They cannot be seen, yet these minute life forms make their presence known by the things they do. They cause bread dough to rise and green scum to form on ponds. They even are responsible for the sore throat that occurs when you have a cold. These creatures are called microbes, or micro-organisms. When they cause disease they are called germs. Microbiology is the study of these microbes.

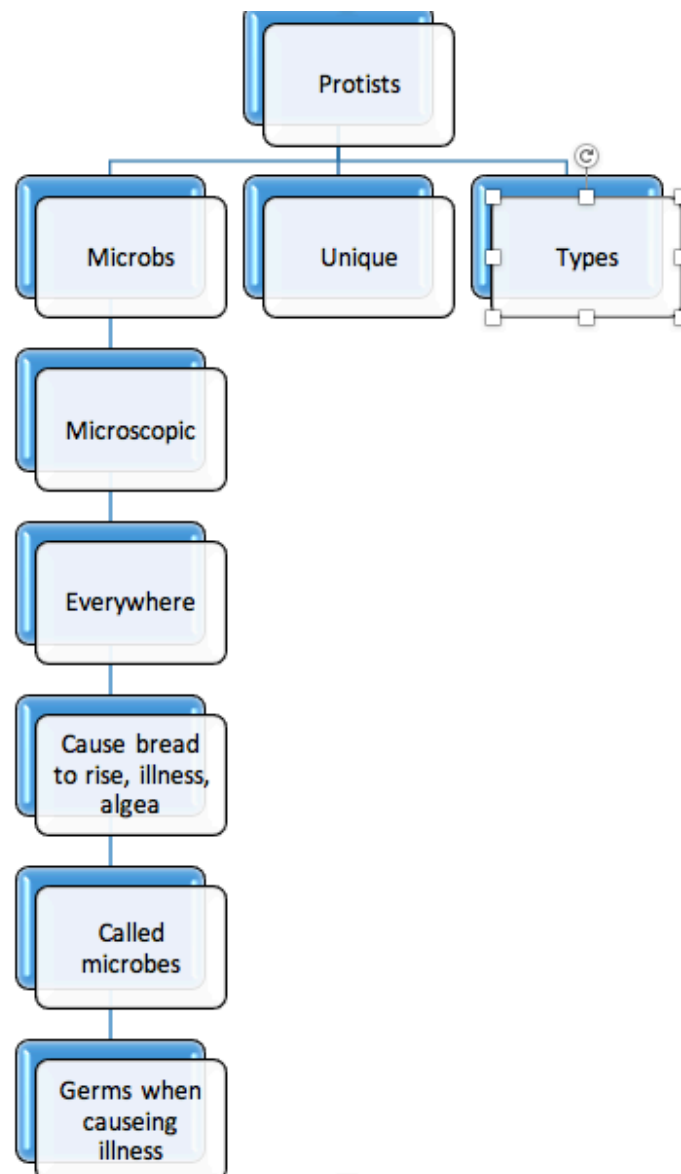
The first microbiologists (scientists who study microbes) found that microbes were curious creatures. They did not fit readily into either the plant or animal kingdom. Microbes do some of the same things that both plants and animals do. Some get their energy from sunlight, as plants do. Other microbes move and find their food, as animals do. Microbes also have unique properties of their own. Most are simple creatures made of a single cell, while plants and animals are complex organisms made of many cells and a variety of different kinds of cells.

Microbiologists have identified many different types of microbes. Bacteria, algae, fungi, protozoa, and viruses are the major types. Some microbes, such as bacteria, are simple, one-celled organisms that do not have a membrane around their genetic material. Other types of microbes, including algae, fungi, and protozoa, consist of larger and more complex cells. These complex cells have a membrane around their genes forming a true nucleus.

The completed two column notes. It is best to get the “details” first and then find the main idea. Most of the time, one of the details can become the main idea.

Details	Details
Microbes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too small for us to see</li> <li>• in us and all around us</li> <li>• Cause bread to rise, green scum to form on ponds, sore throats</li> <li>• called microbes/micro-organisms</li> <li>• called germs when causing disease.</li> </ul>
Unique, not in plant or animal kingdom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microbiologist = study microbes</li> <li>• do not fit into plant or animal kingdom</li> <li>• some perform photosynthesis some hunt like animals</li> <li>• Unique properties of their own</li> </ul>
Different types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different types</li> <li>• Bacteria, algae, fungi, protozoa, viruses</li> <li>• some prokaryotes (bacteria),</li> <li>• some eukaryotes (algae, fungi, protozoa)</li> </ul>

Topic web: Here is an example topic web. The first column on microbes as been completed as an example.



Create sentence:

Protists are microbes (microscopic organisms) which are found everywhere and are responsible for causing bread dough to rise, green scum in ponds, and illness such as sore throats. The microbes that cause illness we refer to as germs.