

KEY QUESTION:

What is cancer and how can Macmillan help?

This task is linked to elements of the National Curriculum including PSHE/ PDMU/ Health and Wellbeing, Literacy, ICT and Science. Further links can be made to the *Every Child Matters Outcome Framework (2008)*.

Resources

- a photocopy of the activity sheet for each pupil
- **optional:** the *Cancertalk* DVD, *Jenny's diary*, scenes 1 and 2 (available as part of the *Cancertalk* KS2 teaching pack – downloadable from macmillan.org.uk/schools. Hard copies can also be ordered online, or by calling **0845 601 1716**)
- website access – to know how Macmillan Cancer Support helps people living with cancer: macmillan.org.uk/schools

Desired learning outcomes

- Learn the basic facts about cancer.
- Consider and empathise with the emotions often felt by people who are affected by cancer.
- Learn about how Macmillan helps people with cancer.

What to do

Explain how the body's cells grow, what cancer is, how it is treated, and how Macmillan helps people living with cancer. Use information from our youth website: whybother.org.uk or from the *Cancertalk* teaching pack to support this.

Ask your pupils about times they have been ill – what did they have? How did they feel? How did they get better? (Medicines, care from mum and dad etc.) Some pupils may mention chickenpox, or broken bones, and you can refer to these on the activity sheet (points one and two).

From your explanation of what cancer is and how it develops, see if pupils can remember how it can be treated (points three–six on the activity sheet).



Your name:.....

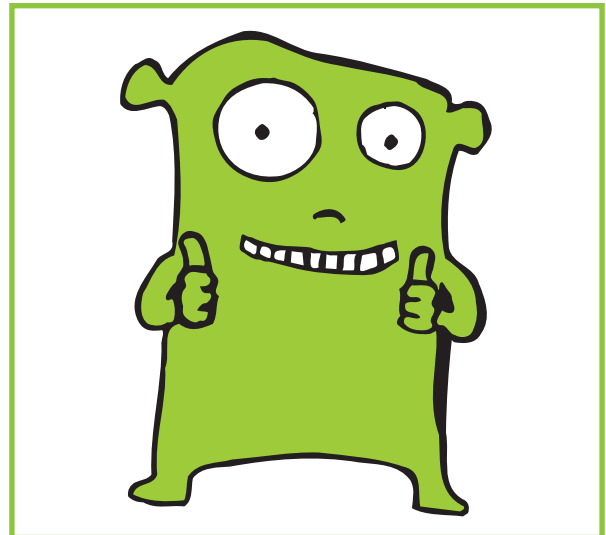
Activity:

ALL ABOUT CANCER

Macmillan Cancer Support helps people living with cancer. We provide very special care in many ways. Try and complete these nine activities.

1. Make this Macmillan monster look like he has chickenpox. You need to draw lots of red spots all over his body.

Chickenpox takes about 10 days to go away.



2. When some people have accidents, they break bones in their body. A special machine called an x-ray machine can take a picture of their bones to find out which one is broken. Have you or someone you know ever broken any bones? Which ones?

Broken bones can take about eight weeks to heal.



3. Our body is made up of millions of tiny cells, so small you need a microscope to see them. When we're healthy, these cells work hard. Then they wear out and are replaced with new ones. Cells normally divide in a controlled way so that new cells are made in the body. The cells in our body are lined up neatly – like building blocks.

Continue the diagram, by adding more cells.

Sometimes, instead of behaving themselves, some cells grow too quickly and they crowd out the good cells. These cells are called cancer cells.

Grown-ups can get cancer and sometimes even children get cancer. You cannot catch cancer – it's not like chickenpox. If children do get cancer, there's lots of help and support for them – including Macmillan nurses.



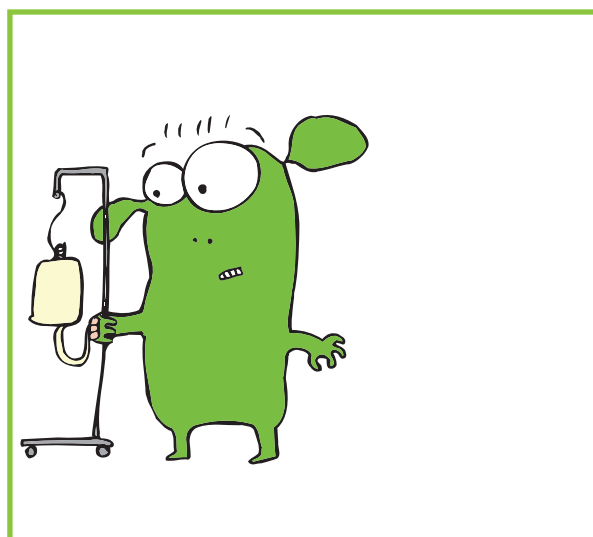
4. If someone has cancer, they have to go to hospital. The doctors will try different ways to help them get better. Sometimes the person will have an operation to cut out the cancer. Complete the three main ways that doctors treat cancer.

(See the next two points for hints.)

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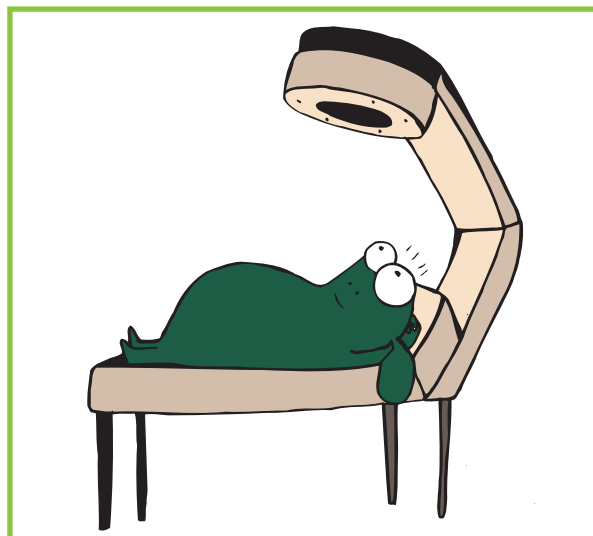
5. Macmillan nurses and doctors can give you special strong medicines to help get rid of cancer. One type of medicine is called chemotherapy. Chemotherapy can make a person feel sick and sometimes their hair falls out. But it doesn't hurt and their hair grows back.

Draw a Macmillan nurse next to the Macmillan monster.



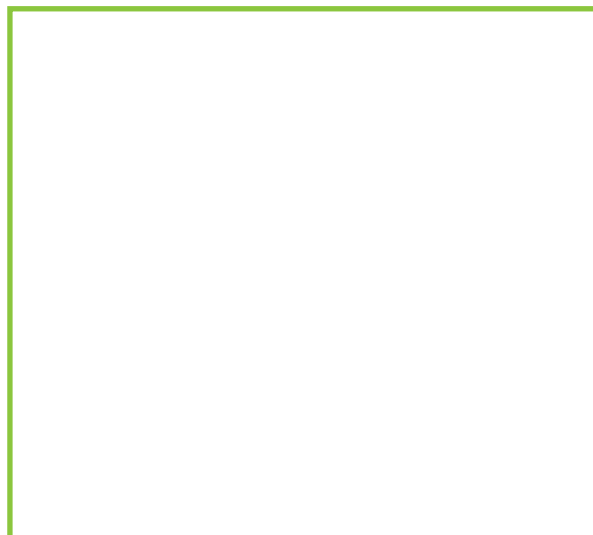
6. They may have radiotherapy, which is like having an x-ray. Special rays are aimed at the cancer cells.

Have you ever had an x-ray? What for?



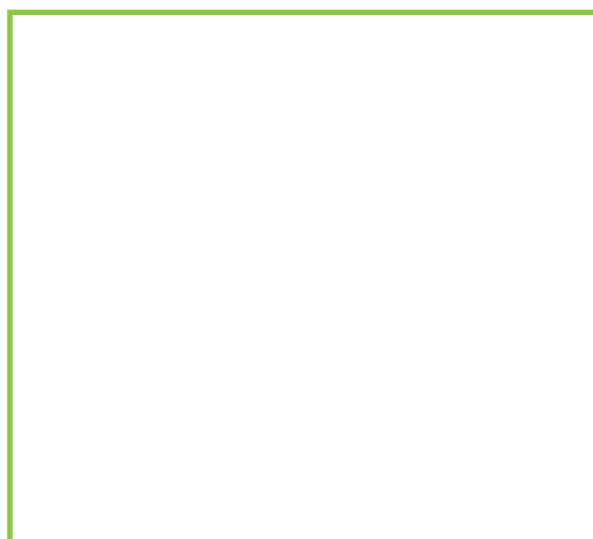
7. People have lots of feelings when someone they know has cancer. They might feel sad, angry, worried or scared. Can you draw these different emotions? Draw some faces in the box.

Think about how you can help someone feeling like this.



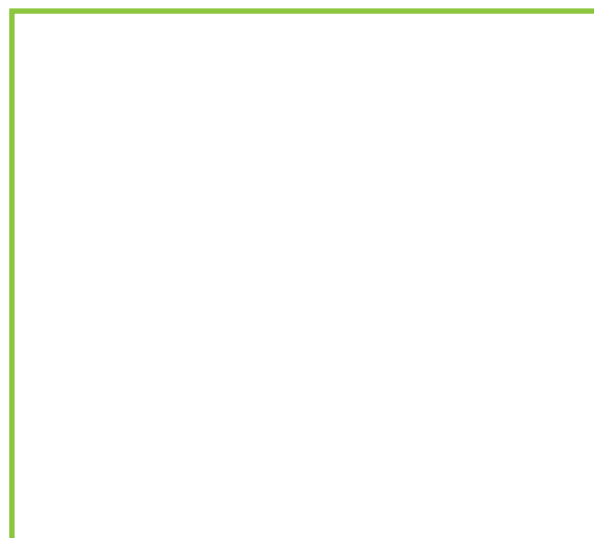
8. Macmillan nurses and doctors look after people who have cancer and try to make them better. Many people do get better from cancer and feel well again.

Draw a happy face in the box.



9. You can help a person with cancer to feel better.

Draw how you can help them here.



Go to [macmillan.org.uk/schools](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/schools) for more information about cancer and how you can help people living with it.

Discuss how people with cancer may feel (point seven) and explain that Macmillan helps people living with cancer (point eight).

Ask pupils to draw a picture of how they could help someone with cancer. Ideas can be anything from giving them cards, flowers and toys, to watching a film or helping out with the housework.

Event idea: This activity could be done while taking part in one of Macmillan Cancer Support's events such as The Big Sports Day, The World's Biggest Coffee Morning, Walk with us, or even your fundraising event for Macmillan. See our website for more details: macmillan.org.uk/schools

(If pupils are affected by cancer, either directly or indirectly, you can order our publication, *Talking to children when an adult has cancer* from macmillan.org.uk/publications. Alternatively, call our cancer support specialists on **0800 808 00 00** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 9pm).)

www.macmillan.org.uk/schools

