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# 1 WHAT DISEASE IS THAT?

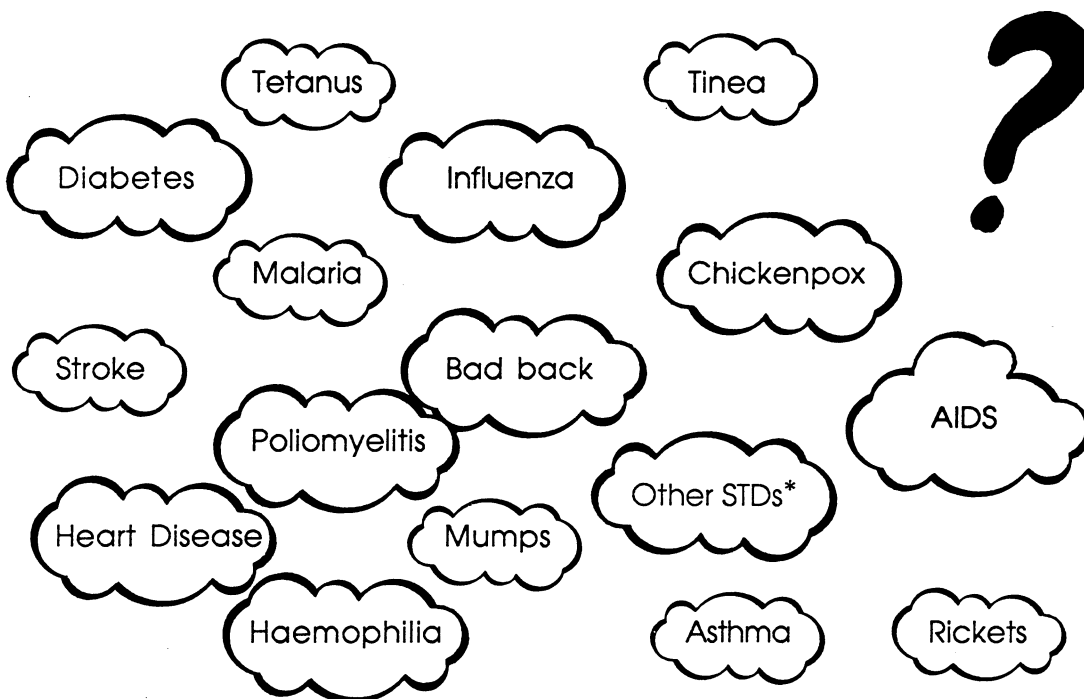
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Have you ever been sick? Perhaps you have had the measles, chickenpox or flu? Is it easy to catch all diseases? Some diseases are very easy to catch. Others, we can learn to protect ourselves from. In the next three chapters we shall do activities that will teach us about:

- the differences between the kinds of diseases,
- the nature of infectious diseases and how they spread,
- immunisation—how it has stopped the spread of some diseases,
- one disease in detail.

Floating below in Figure 1.1, are the names of some diseases. Think about each one and try to work out, in your own mind, what you know about each one.

**FIGURE 1.1 NAMES OF DISEASES**



\* STD = Sexually Transmitted Disease

# ACTIVITY 2.3 CATCHING NITS

• a lousy problem

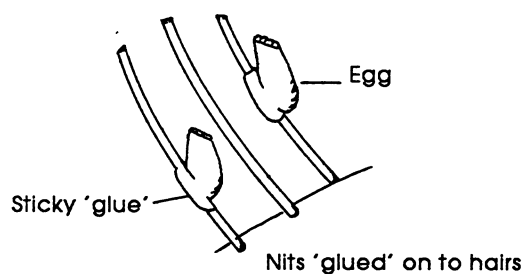
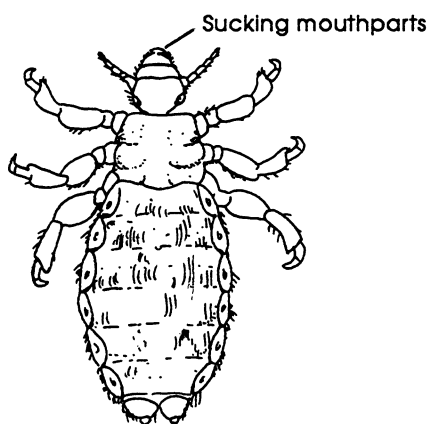
Probably one of the most common of those diseases listed in Table 2.1 is headlice.

Head lice inspection time. How embarrassing?  
It happens to everyone at some stage or other.



But what are head lice? What are nits?

FIGURE 2.2 A LOUSE



The louse is a flattish insect which sucks blood. Its eggs, called 'NITS', become glued onto the hair but can be spread from person to person on towels, combs, hats, etc. Lice can also jump from head to head where people are close together e.g. in a classroom.

# 8 AIDS IN AUSTRALIA

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How much of a threat is the AIDS epidemic? How many Australians will get AIDS? Why is it so important that we learn how *not* to get AIDS and so prevent the spread of AIDS?

We are going to look at certain facts about AIDS and the population of Australia and attempt to show how much of a threat AIDS really could be if left unchecked.

In this chapter, each activity commences with a 'facts' box. Under each box are some questions we can work through in order to better understand the pattern or the incidence of AIDS in Australia.

## **FACT 1 HOW MANY AIDS VIRUS CARRIERS ARE THERE NOW?**

There are currently an estimated 50,000 Australians who are carriers of the AIDS virus.

## **FACT 2 HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN AUSTRALIA?**

The current population of Australia is estimated to be 16 million.

Source: Prof. David Pennington, NACAIDS.

# 10 DO WE HAVE CHOICES?

Are other people affected by what we do? Is it any other person's business if I decide to have a drink of milk rather than water?

The answer to these questions is "sometimes yes and sometimes no". In this activity we will investigate how what we do can affect other people.

## ACTIVITY CONSEQUENCES 10.1

### 1 CONSEQUENCES CHAIN

