

The HIV Life Cycle



Name _____ Date _____

What is the HIV life cycle?

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) attacks and destroys the CD4 cells of the immune system. CD4 cells are a type of white blood cell that play a major role in protecting the body from infection. HIV uses the machinery of the CD4 cells to multiply (make copies of itself) and spread throughout the body. This process, which is carried out in seven steps or stages, is called the HIV life cycle. HIV medicines can stop the virus at different stages in the cycle.





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