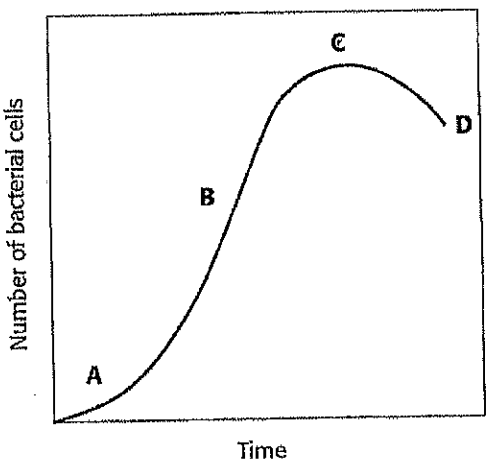
Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Skills Worksheet

Science Skills

Interpreting Graphs

The graph below shows a representation of standard bacterial growth under ideal conditions. The *x*-axis represents time, and the *y*-axis represents the number of bacterial cells. The growth is charted from the beginning with one bacterium in an isolated container of suitable food and placed in a setting where the temperature is ideal for bacterial growth.



Use the graph to answer the following questions.

1. Bacteria begin to grow steadily at point *A*. What happens to growth at point *B*?

2. At point *C*, bacterial growth begins to level off. What are some possible reasons that bacterial growth slows down?

3. The bacterial population begins to decline at point *D*. Using what you know about bacteria, what reasons could cause the population to decline?

4. Considering that bacteria will multiply exponentially, and also considering that the world contains huge amounts of potential food for bacteria, why don't bacteria grow in massive amounts and cover Earth?