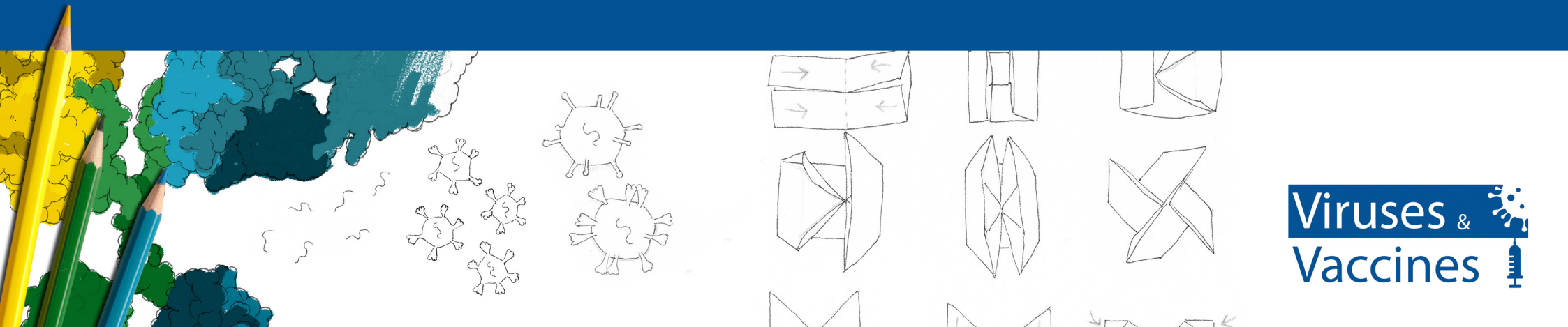


# A virus flick-book



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Make yourself a little flick-book showing the 'life' of a virus. Colour in the boxes, cut out and put in order, then staple on the left. Flick the pages to see the adventure of a little virus.

These drawings are based on images of real specimens taken using an electron microscope. Can you use the 'Virus collection' resource to identify this virus? It's a really distinctive virus and as yet a vaccine has not been developed.

You will see a tiny bit of the surface of a cell (a cell is the basic building block of any living organism). Cells are tiny, measuring less than the width of a human hair, so we need a microscope to look at them. Viruses are hundreds of times smaller, and are so tiny that normal microscopes won't show any of their details; we need an electron microscope for this. The drawings show a virus landing on the surface of a cell and attaching through its spikes. The inside of the virus (genetic material, which can be DNA or RNA) can then enter the cell and will start to be copied. The genetic material inside the virus contains instructions for making proteins, including the spikes. Once taken over, the cell starts to make more viruses which burst out ready to attack other cells. We would quickly get unwell if it wasn't for our own body's hero: antibodies.

