Defense Mechanisms Against Infection

Nonspecific Defenses

keep things out (fortress walls)

First Line of Defense

physical and chemical barriers

skin mucus saliva tears oils sweat glands

Second Line of Defense

inflammatory response

- white blood cells are produced and enter infected tissue
- tissue may become swollen and painful
- fever
- increased heart rate

Specific Defenses

track down pathogens that get past the nonspecific defenses (security guards)

immune response

- antigen triggers immune response
- <u>T cells</u> provide a defense against abnormal cells and pathogens inside <u>living cells</u>
- <u>B cells</u> provide immunity against antigens and pathogens in the <u>body fluids</u>.