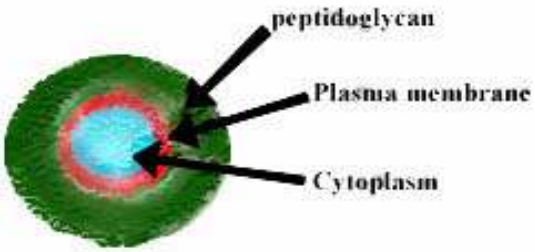
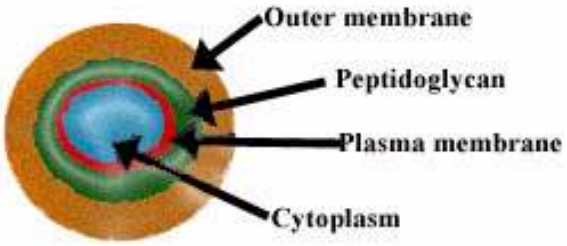
Cell wall

Gram positive (+) = purple



Gram positive bacteria include bacteria such as **Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, Lactobacillus, & others.** These bacteria are able to survive dessication (drying out) to an extent which allows them to survive on table tops, bathroom floors, and even in the air.
Gram positive bacteria differ from gram negative in that they posses a plasma membrane surrounded only by peptidoglycan. It is the thick, dense peptidoglycan layer that affords the gram positive bacteria relatively more protection then its gram negative counterpart.

Gram negative (-) = red = second outer lipid layer



Gram negative bacteria include E. coli, Serratia, & others. Generally these bacteria can only exist in moist environments. They differ from Gram positive bacteria in that they possess a reduced peptidoglycan layer, but they do possess an outer membrane, which does serve as some protection for the bacterial cell, as it protects in other ways, (i.e. possessing a negative charge to drive away anything with a positive charge {electrostatic defense})