1. **What are Cyanobacteria?**
   - It is a type of **microscopic bacteria** that live in water and use sunlight to produce energy—similar to plants. Because of this, they're often called **"blue-green algae**,**"** but they are actually bacteria, not true algae.

2. **What they do?**
   - **Cyanobacteria** perform **photosynthesis**, meaning they use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to grow and produce oxygen. They've existed for many of years and are a natural part of aquatic ecosystems.

3. **Where they're found?**
   - Lakes and ponds
   - Rivers and reservoirs
   - Slow-moving or warm water bodies
   - They are usually present at low levels and not harmful.

4. **When do they become a problem?**
   - Under certain conditions—like **warm temperatures, sunlight,** and **excess nutrients (fertilizer runoff, waste)**—they can multiply rapidly and form what's called a **harmful algal bloom (HAB)**.

5. **Why They Matter?**
   - Some **Cyanobacteria** produce **toxins (cyanotoxins)** that can:
   - Irritate skin and eyes
   - Cause illness if swallowed
   - Be dangerous or fatal to pets and wildlife

6. **Simple Takeaway:**
    - **Cyanobacteria** are **naturally occurring bacteria in water**, but when they grow out of control, they can make the water **unsafe for people and animals**.
    - Always wash your hands with soap and clean water after lake water activities.