Teacher’s Immune System Vocabulary

Instructions: Look up the words or phrases numbered 1-7 using the medical dictionary on the MedlinePlus website at http://www.merriam-webster.com/medlineplus/. Write under each word its definition using your own words. Also note above the underlines, the matching related words/phrases from the bottom—numbered a-g.

1. Diphtheria  
   d. Disease  
   A contagious disease caused by bacterial infection and its toxin.

2. Corynebacterium (C. diphtheriae)  
   f. Pathogen  
   A group of bacteria that include diphtheria causing germ.

3. Antitoxin  
   c. Antibody  
   Immune cell that fights off specific poison/toxin.

4. Toxin  
   g. Poison  
   Harmful substance/material.

5. Acquired immunity  
   b. antitoxin in horse’s blood  
   Immune response activated by a specific germ or its toxin, which produces immune cells that fight off that germ/its toxins.

6. Passive immunity  
   e. treating people with antitoxin serum  
   Preventing or treating a disease by “borrowing” immune cells against the disease-causing germ from another entity.

7. Serum  
   a. A portion of blood  
   Liquid portion of blood without chemicals that stop bleeding—coagulation factors.

Related Words/phrases:
   a. A portion of blood
   b. Horse’s producing diphtheria antitoxin
   c. Antibody
   d. Disease
   e. Treating people with antitoxin serum
   f. Pathogen
   g. Poison