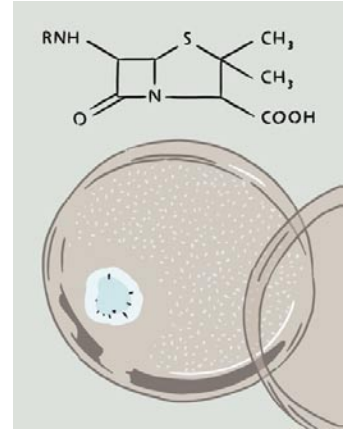
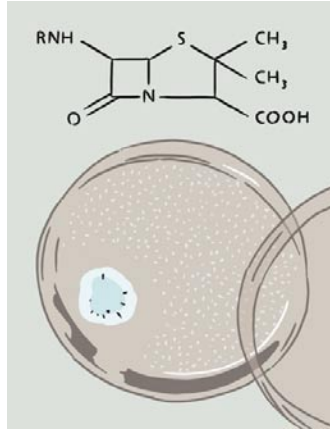
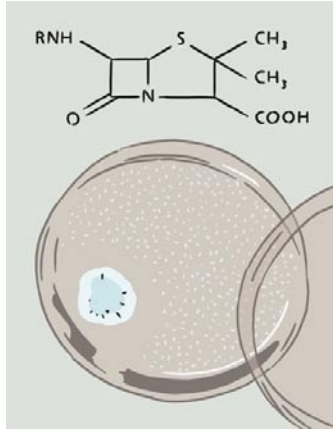


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Penicillin

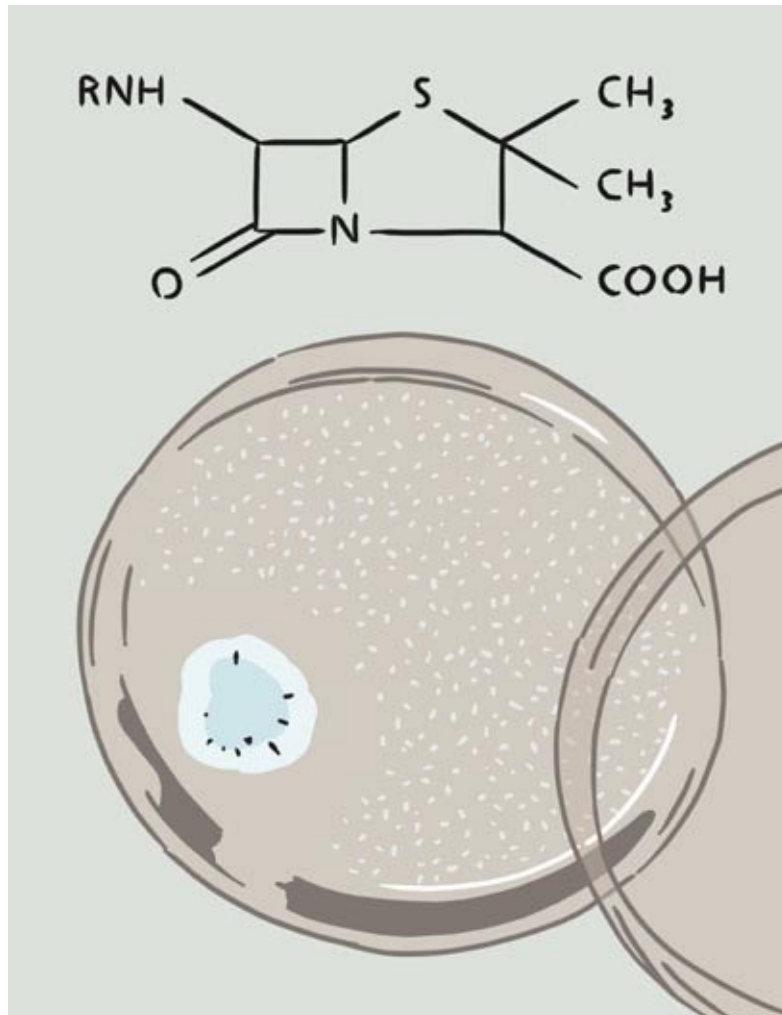
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Penicillin

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. If you have an infection, what kind of medicine do you take?
2. What grows on bread when it becomes old?
3. Do you know when penicillin was first made?
4. What is penicillin made from?
5. What kind of diseases is penicillin used to treat?



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Penicillin

Penicillin is the name of a group of powerful drugs that can stop the growth of certain types of disease and infection. It is produced naturally by a mold that grows on things like stale bread or overripe fruit.

By the late 1800s, medical researchers knew that bacteria (or germs) caused many illnesses, and they began to search for drugs that would kill these bacteria.

In 1896, Ernest Duchesne, a French doctor, noticed that some molds killed bacteria. He wrote about his findings, but was unable to carry on his research and his observations were forgotten.

In 1929, Alexander Fleming, an English medical researcher, accidentally noticed that a blue-green mold growing in a lab dish of disease-producing bacteria had killed all the bacteria around it. After experimenting, he found that the juice produced by the mold was doing this, but he never learned how to make enough of it to treat people with infections.

In 1938, researchers at Oxford University in England who were interested in disease-fighting drugs read about Fleming's discovery in an old medical journal. They experimented with his ideas and, by 1941, were able to make enough penicillin to treat a few patients. The patients got better, and they continued their work.

With the start of World War Two, vast quantities of penicillin were soon needed. Battle wounds often became infected, and soldiers were dying from these infections.

The Oxford researchers took their ideas to a special laboratory in Peoria, Illinois, where the scientists studied molds. They worked together, and by 1944, penicillin was being produced in large quantities. Their work saved many soldiers' lives.

Meanwhile, British scientist Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin worked out the chemical structure of penicillin. This meant it could be produced from non-natural sources.

Although some people are allergic to penicillin and it has no effect on certain kinds of bacteria, penicillin is still used today to cure many life-threatening diseases.

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Penicillin

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

1. Penicillin can cure all serious diseases. _____
2. Penicillin is made from mold. _____
3. Many World War One soldiers were saved by the use of penicillin. _____
4. Penicillin can only be made from all natural sources. _____
5. English and French doctors contributed to the discovery of penicillin. _____

B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

1. How is penicillin produced naturally? _____

2. When did scientists first discover that many diseases were caused by bacteria? _____

3. What did Alexander Fleming discover? _____

4. How did the Oxford researchers learn about Fleming's work? _____

5. Why was penicillin needed in large quantities during the war? _____

6. When did penicillin first start to be produced in large quantities and what happened as a result of this? _____

7. How were scientists later able to produce penicillin from non-natural sources? _____

8. Why are some people not able to take penicillin? _____

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Penicillin

VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Choose the word(s) with the closest meaning to the underlined words in the following sentences.

1. Penicillin is made from mold that grows on stale bread.
a) wheat b) cheap c) not fresh
2. Medical researchers knew that bacteria caused illness.
a) teachers b) people looking for new information c) reporters
3. Ernest Duchesne was unable to carry on his research.
a) lift b) continue c) pay for
4. Alexander Fleming experimented with molds.
a) did tests b) taught c) created
5. The Oxford researchers read about Fleming's discovery.
a) past b) ideas c) finding
6. They read about his discovery in an old medical journal.
a) library b) hospital c) magazine
7. During the war, vast quantities of penicillin were needed.
a) different kinds b) large amounts c) soldiers
8. During the war, battle wounds became infected.
a) laboratories b) injuries c) soldiers.
9. Some people are allergic to penicillin.
a) can't afford b) addicted c) have a bad reaction
10. Penicillin is used to cure many life-threatening diseases.
a) light b) dangerous c) bacterial

