



Exploring the Allure of Extreme Experiences

Description

In his "In Times Past" column, David W. Dunlap delves into New York Times history by exploring artifacts at the Museum of The Times. A compelling artifact is a carton of the Ixiaro vaccine, crucial for reporters venturing into regions where diseases like Japanese encephalitis, spread by mosquitoes, are endemic. This disease, akin to yellow fever and dengue, poses significant risks in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. Donald G. McNeil Jr., a seasoned journalist with extensive experience covering pandemics, donated the Ixiaro carton to the museum. In an email, he noted the symptoms range from mild fever to, in extreme cases, seizures and death. The vaccine isn't mandatory for all travelers but offers protection for those sleeping in unscreened rural accommodations.

McNeil, the author of "The Wisdom of Plagues: Lessons From 25 Years of Covering Pandemics" and a contributor to Medium, worked at The Times from 1976 to 2021, gaining profound insight into infectious diseases, most recently Covid-19. His assignments often led him to tropical locales. In 2014, with new vaccines greenlit by the FDA, he visited the New York Center for Travel and Tropical Medicine, requesting to be "shot up with everything."

He received five vaccinations: Ixiaro, RabAvert (rabies), Typhim Vi (typhoid), a booster for tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, and likely an inactivated polio vaccine, although this wasn't noted on his vaccine card. McNeil reported no adverse side effects, except mild nausea from a shingles shot. The rabies vaccine was a precautionary measure, given his work occasionally brought him close to animals in rural areas, where encounters with stray dogs or wildlife are conceivable.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Artifact** /'ɑ:rtɪfækt/ (noun): An object made by a human being often of historical or cultural interest.
2. **Endemic** /ɛn'dɛmɪk/ (adjective): Regularly found among particular people or in a certain area.
3. **Vaccination** /,væk.sə'neɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The act of getting a vaccine to protect against disease.
4. **Precautionary** /prɪ'kɔ:ʃənəri/ (adjective): Taken in advance to prevent something dangerous or unpleasant from happening.
5. **Symptoms** /'sɪmptəmz/ (noun): Physical or mental features indicating a condition or disease.
6. **Adjunct** /'ædʒʌŋkt/ (noun): A thing added to something else as a supplementary rather than an essential part.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What disease is the Ixiaro vaccine crucial for protecting against?
Option: Malaria
Option: Japanese encephalitis
Option: Yellow fever
Option: Dengue
2. Which region poses significant risks for diseases like Japanese encephalitis?
Option: North America
Option: Europe
Option: Southeast Asia
Option: South America
3. What book did Donald G. McNeil Jr. author?
Option: The Wisdom of Plagues: Lessons From 25 Years of Covering Pandemics
Option: Fever: A Journalist's Encounter with Disease
Option: The Vaccination Chronicles
Option: Tropical Maladies: A Journalist's Perspective
4. What vaccine did McNeil receive as a precaution due to his work with animals in rural areas?
Option: Ixiaro
Option: RabAvert
Option: Typhim Vi
Option: Shingles
5. Which of the following symptoms did McNeil mention as possible effects of Japanese encephalitis?
Option: Headache
Option: Mild fever
Option: Muscle pain
Option: All of the above
6. Where did McNeil work from 1976 to 2021, gaining insight into infectious diseases?
Option: CNN
Option: The New York Times
Option: Wall Street Journal
Option: BBC



True-False

7. Donald G. McNeil Jr. donated a carton of the Ixiaro vaccine to the Museum of The Times.
8. The Ixiaro vaccine is mandatory for all travelers.
9. McNeil worked for The Times from 1976 to 2021.
10. McNeil received six vaccinations at the New York Center for Travel and Tropical Medicine.
11. Encounters with stray dogs or wildlife are not conceivable in rural areas.
12. McNeil reported adverse side effects from all vaccines he received.

Gap-Fill

13. In which year did McNeil leave The New York Times after working there from 1976 to _____ ?
14. McNeil requested to be "shot up with everything" in _____ .
15. The rabies vaccine McNeil received was a precaution due to his work occasionally bringing him close to animals in rural areas, where encounters with stray dogs or wildlife are _____ .
16. McNeil received a booster for tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough along with the _____ vaccine.
17. McNeil reported feeling mild nausea from a _____ shot.
18. The symptoms of Japanese encephalitis range from mild fever to seizures and _____ .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Japanese encephalitis 2. Southeast Asia 3. The Wisdom of Plagues: Lessons From 25 Years of Covering Pandemics 4. RabAvert 5. All of the above 6. The New York Times

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 2021



14. 2014 15. conceivable 16. Typhim Vi 17. shingles 18. death

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which of the following is considered an Artifact?

- Option: A. Ancient pottery
- Option: B. Jungle fever
- Option: C. Endemic disease
- Option: D. Vaccination procedure

2. What term describes something that is added or joined as a helper or supplement?

- Option: A. Toxicity
- Option: B. Skepticism
- Option: C. Adjunct
- Option: D. Diligently

3. Which word means full of danger or risk?

- Option: A. Improvement
- Option: B. Perilous
- Option: C. Alleviation
- Option: D. Excitement

4. Related to mental processes such as perception memory and problem-solving. What term fits this description?

- Option: A. Skeletal
- Option: B. Endemic
- Option: C. Cognitive
- Option: D. Cardiac

5. Which term refers to the presence of unwanted or harmful substances?

- Option: A. Regulated
- Option: B. Undisclosed
- Option: C. Contamination
- Option: D. Consumption

6. Which word means the ability to produce a desired or intended result?

- Option: A. Effectiveness
- Option: B. Toxicity
- Option: C. Efficacy



Option: D. Hospitalization

7. What term describes the degree to which a substance can damage an organism?

Option: A. Susceptible

Option: B. Skepticism

Option: C. Toxicity

Option: D. Afflicted

8. Which term refers to the act of placing someone in a hospital for medical care?

Option: A. Ill-advised

Option: B. Hospitalization

Option: C. Cautioned

Option: D. Symptoms

9. What term is used to describe the act of using up goods or services?

Option: A. Excitement

Option: B. Consumption

Option: C. Wellbeing

Option: D. Diligently

10. Which term refers to something controlled or governed according to specific rules or principles?

Option: A. Excitement

Option: B. Regulated

Option: C. Skeletal

Option: D. Symptoms

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. An _____ disease is constantly present in a particular region or population.

12. Fever cough and fatigue are common _____ of a cold.

13. It is advisable to take _____ measures to prevent accidents.

14. She _____ deleted all her important emails.

15. Regular exercise is essential for maintaining good _____.

16. The region was severely _____ by the natural disaster.

17. She worked _____ on her research project to meet the deadline.



18. The _____ structure of the building was revealed after the fire.
19. Regular exercise is beneficial for _____ health.
20. She showed steady _____ in her language skills after practicing daily.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Infants are more to infections due to their developing immune systems.
22. Ignoring safety precautions when handling chemicals is .
23. He was about the risks involved in the extreme sport.
24. The medication provided some to her chronic pain.
25. The team's victory brought great to the fans.
26. Regular practice led to a noticeable in her piano skills.
27. Exposure to high levels of mercury can lead to severe in humans.
28. The company faced legal action for their involvement in the scandal.
29. There was widespread about the effectiveness of the new drug.
30. Public health campaigns promote the importance of to prevent diseases.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A. Ancient pottery 2. C. Adjunct 3. B. Perilous 4. C. Cognitive 5. C. Contamination 6. C. Efficacy 7. C. Toxicity 8. B. Hospitalization 9. B. Consumption 10. B. Regulated

Gap-Fill: 11. Endemic 12. Symptoms 13. Precautionary 14. Inadvertently 15. Wellbeing 16. Afflicted 17. Diligently 18. Skeletal 19. Cardiac 20. Improvement

Matching sentence: 1. Susceptible 2. Ill-advised 3. Cautioned 4. Alleviation 5. Excitement 6. Improvement 7. Toxicity 8. Undisclosed 9. Skepticism 10. Vaccination

CATEGORY

- 1. Health - LEVEL4

Date Created

2024/11/27



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