

Pre-Columbian Americas: Syphilis Presence Predates Columbus's Arrival

Description

Syphilis has a long history. People aren't sure where it came from. Some think it started in America and then spread to Europe. Others think it was already in Europe before America was discovered.

Researchers studied old bones from America. They found the germ that causes syphilis. The germ was in Mexico, Chile, Peru, and Argentina thousands of years ago. It probably led to syphilis and other diseases.

Syphilis got worse before Columbus came to America. When settlers returned to Europe, it caused a big outbreak called the Great Pox. This disease caused a lot of death and disfigurement.

The researchers believe syphilis started in America and spread to Europe in the late 15th century. It is connected to other diseases like yaws, pinta, and bejel.

Scientists want to study more to learn about the history of syphilis. They think ancient DNA can help us find out more about diseases like syphilis from the past.

Vocabulary List:

- 1. **Syphilis** /'sɪf.ɪ.lɪs/ (noun): A sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium Treponema pallidum.
- 2. Outbreak /'aʊt.breɪk/ (noun): A sudden increase in the occurrence of a disease in a particular time and place.
- 3. **Disfigurement** /dɪsˈfɪg.ər.mənt/ (noun): The act of spoiling the appearance of something or someone.
- 4. **Researcher** /rɪˈsɜːr.t[ər/ (noun): A person who conducts scientific or academic investigations.

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- 5. Connected /kəˈnɛk.tɪd/ (adjective): Having a relationship or association with someone or something.
- 6. Ancient /'eɪn.ʃənt/ (adjective): Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Where do some people believe syphilis originated from?

Option: America Option: Europe Option: Asia



Option: Africa

2. When do researchers believe syphilis started spreading to Europe?

Option: Thousands of years ago

Option: Before Columbus came to America

Option: Late 15th century Option: Early 16th century

3. What is the connection between syphilis and other diseases according to the researchers?

Option: Malaria and Tuberculosis Option: Yaws, Pinta, and Bejel Option: Influenza and SARS Option: Cholera and Dengue

4. What do scientists believe can help learn more about diseases like syphilis from the past?

Option: Studying modern DNA samples

Option: Ancient artifacts Option: Ancient DNA

Option: Fossils

JEWS.COM 5. Before Columbus came to America, syphilis got worse causing what outbreak?

Option: Smallpox Option: Influenza Option: Black Death Option: Great Pox

6. Where was the germ that causes syphilis found thousands of years ago according to researchers?

Option: Europe

Option: Mexico, Chile, Peru, and Argentina

Option: Africa Option: Asia

True-False

- 7. Syphilis started in Europe before America was discovered.
- 8. Researchers found the germ that causes syphilis in old bones from America.



- 9. The Great Pox caused by syphilis resulted in a lot of death and disfigurement.
- 10. Syphilis is not connected to diseases like yaws, pinta, and bejel according to scientists.
- 11. Ancient DNA is believed to be helpful in understanding diseases like syphilis from the past.
- 12. Settlers returning to Europe brought syphilis causing the Great Pox outbreak.

Gap-Fill

13. Syphilis probably led to other diseases like yaws, pinta, and bejel. What outbreak did it cause before
Columbus came to America? The Great
14. Researchers believe syphilis started in America and spread to Europe in the late century.
15. Ancient DNA is considered helpful in studying diseases like syphilis from the
16. The germ that causes syphilis was found in years ago in Mexico, Chile, Peru,
and Argentina.
17. The researchers studied old bones from America to find the that causes
syphilis.
18. Before Columbus came to America, syphilis got worse and caused a big outbreak called the Great

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. America 2. Late 15th century 3. Yaws, Pinta, and Bejel 4. Ancient DNA 5. Great Pox

6. Mexico, Chile, Peru, and Argentina

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. True **Gap-Fill:** 13. Pox 14. 15th 15. past 16. thousands 17. germ



Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. Which disease is caused by the bacterium Treponema pallidum?

Option: Syphilis Option: Norovirus Option: Diabetes Option: Dementia

2. Which term refers to something from a long time ago?

Option: Ancient Option: Radiation Option: Resilience Option: Diabetes

ESL-NEWS.COM 3. Which process turns organic remains into minerals?

Option: Fossilized Option: Exoskeleton Option: Assess

Option: Contaminated

4. What is the term for being well-watered or retaining water?

Option: Hydrated Option: Diabetes Option: Inflammation Option: Dementia

5. What are single-celled microorganisms called?

Option: Bacteria Option: Preserved Option: Diverse Option: Survive

6. Which virus is known for causing stomach and intestinal inflammation?

Option: Norovirus Option: Exoskeleton Option: Ancient Option: Syphilis

7. What energy is emitted by particles?



Option: Radiation Option: Germ-free Option: Urging Option: Lifestyle

8. Which health condition is characterized by high blood sugar levels?

Option: Diabetes Option: Dementia Option: Embryos Option: Disinfect

9. Which condition leads to a decline in cognitive function?

Option: Dementia Option: Researcher Option: Germ-free Option: Survive

ESL-NEWS.COM 10. Which term refers to the ability to recover from difficulties?

Option: Resilience Option: Bacteria

Option: Contaminated

Option: Syphilis

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

11. A sudden	of a disease in a specific population can lead to widespread concern.
12. The	_ collected data to analyze the results of the study.
13. Common	of the flu include fever cough and fatigue.
14. Chronic	can lead to serious health conditions if left untreated.
15. Health experts are	the public to get vaccinated against the flu.
16. Adopting a healthy	can reduce the risk of many chronic diseases.
17. Certain bacteria can	in extreme environments due to their adaptive abilities.
18. Avoid consuming	food or water to prevent foodborne illnesses.



19. The ancient artifacts were well in specially designed containers.
20. Health professionals regularly the risk factors associated with certain diseases.
Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)
21. Digital technologies have revolutionized the way people are globally .
22. Laboratory mice raised in a environment help scientists study the role of microbes in health.
23. Insects have an external skeletal structure called an for support and protection.
24. The detective carefully examined the crime scene for any that could lead to solving the case.
25. The researchers studied the development of frog to understand genetic processes.
26. It is important to surfaces regularly to prevent the spread of germs and viruses.
27. Colds are a illness especially during the winter months.
28. The Amazon rainforest is home to a range of plant and animal species.
29. The archaeologists unearthed an burial site dating back thousands of years.
30. The community showed great in rebuilding after the natural disaster.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Syphilis 2. Ancient 3. Fossilized 4. Hydrated 5. Bacteria 6. Norovirus 7. Radiation 8. Diabetes 9. Dementia 10. Resilience

Gap-Fill: 11. outbreak 12. researcher 13. symptoms 14. inflammation 15. urging 16. lifestyle 17. survive 18. contaminated 19. preserved 20. assess

Matching sentence: 1. connected 2. germ-free 3. exoskeleton 4. clues 5. embryos 6. disinfect 7. common 8. diverse 9. ancient 10. resilience

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL2

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