



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** /dɪs'fɪg.ər.mənt/ (noun): The act of spoiling the appearance of something or someone.
4. **Researcher** /rɪ'sɜːr.tʃər/ (noun): A person who conducts scientific or academic investigations.
5. **Connected** /kə'nek.tɪd/ (adjective): Having a relationship or association with someone or something.
6. **Ancient** /'eɪn.fənt/ (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

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
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

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

Date Created

2025/01/05

Author

aimeeyoung99