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# Researchers from the University of Utah are gathering samples to track the spread of Valley fever through soil spores.

## Description

Researchers at the University of Utah are studying the spread of a fungal respiratory infection known as Valley fever, which is increasingly prevalent in the dust and soil of the state. Spearheaded by epidemiologist Katharine Walter, the team is attempting to determine the areas most at risk of the infection as climate change continues.

Valley fever cannot be spread from person to person, making it difficult to track. It grows in soil and remains below the surface, making detection challenging. Symptoms are flu-like and can include fatigue, cough, fever, and muscle aches, among others. The disease can often go misdiagnosed, delaying critical treatment.

The research team received a \$375,000 grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to support their investigation and raise awareness about the infection. Their effort is particularly focused in Washington County, identified as having the highest prevalence of Valley fever. Valuable samples collected from the area will aid in determining where the fungus thrives.

Experts warn, due to climate shift, Valley fever is not the only disease projected to change. Education about the detection and prevention of these diseases is vital, especially for those working in dusty, open-air professions like construction or farming. The team's aim is to provide this much-needed information and highlight the urgency of this environmental health matter.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Prevalent** // (adjective): Widespread in a particular area or at a particular time.
2. **Epidemiologist** // (noun): A specialist in the study of patterns, causes and effects of health and disease conditions in defined populations.
3. **Respiratory** // (adjective): Relating to the organs of breathing.
4. **Fungal** // (adjective): Relating to or caused by a fungus.
5. **Misdiagnosed** // (adjective): Incorrectly diagnosed by a medical professional.
6. **Prevalence** // (noun): The fact or condition of being prevalent commonly.

## Vocabulary quizzes

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



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1. Which term describes something that is widespread or commonly occurring?  
Option: Epidemiologist  
Option: Innovative  
Option: Prevalent  
Option: Proponents
  2. Which term is related to a type of infection caused by molds or yeasts?  
Option: Efficient  
Option: Fungal  
Option: Dengue  
Option: Neurons
  3. What is the term used for the cultivation of grapes?  
Option: Viticulture  
Option: Consistency  
Option: Delightful  
Option: Observation
  4. Which term refers to a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time?  
Option: Endemic  
Option: Epidemic  
Option: Sanitation  
Option: Impact
  5. What is the act of carefully watching or monitoring something or someone?  
Option: Irrigation  
Option: Observation  
Option: Fluorescent  
Option: Deterioration
  6. Which term describes the cells that transmit information in the brain and nervous system?  
Option: Concept  
Option: Neurons  
Option: Overwhelming  
Option: Prevalence
  7. What term refers to an abstract idea or general notion?  
Option: Surveillance  
Option: Irrigation  
Option: Concept  
Option: Misdiagnosed



8. Which term describes the effect or influence of one thing on another?

Option: Misdiagnosed

Option: Impact

Option: Epidemic

Option: Efficient

9. Which term relates to the human organ system responsible for breathing?

Option: Innovative

Option: Respiratory

Option: Viticulture

Option: Labeling

10. Which term refers to the conditions relating to public health especially the provision of clean drinking water and adequate sewage disposal?

Option: Consistency

Option: Sanitation

Option: Innovative

Option: Efficient

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

11. An \_\_\_\_\_ studies the patterns causes and effects of health and disease conditions in defined populations.

12. To achieve success it is important to maintain \_\_\_\_\_ in your efforts.

13. Installing an \_\_\_\_\_ irrigation system can save water and improve plant growth.

14. The \_\_\_\_\_ of diabetes is increasing globally due to changes in lifestyle.

15. An \_\_\_\_\_ approach to problem-solving can lead to unique and effective solutions.

16. Public health officials conduct ongoing \_\_\_\_\_ to monitor disease outbreaks.

17. Lack of maintenance leads to the \_\_\_\_\_ of infrastructure over time.

18. Some marine animals exhibit mesmerizing colors under \_\_\_\_\_ lighting.

19. The artist created a \_\_\_\_\_ illustration that captured the beauty of nature.



20. Effective product \_\_\_\_\_ helps consumers make informed choices.

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

21. The response to the charity drive was so positive that it was .
22. The of the new policy believe it will bring positive changes to the community.
23. The patient's symptoms were typical but often by healthcare providers.
24. The exploration of the by early settlers led to the discovery of new lands.
25. The mystery novel had a plot full of twists and turns that kept readers engaged and stimulated their curiosity.
26. During the dry season farmers rely on proper systems to water their crops.
27. Achieving success in any field often requires dedication hard work and a high level of .
28. Health authorities conduct regular to track the spread of infectious diseases.
29. The new policy had a significant on the local economy leading to increased investment.
30. The sudden outbreak of the flu became an in the region affecting a large number of people.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Prevalent 2. Fungal 3. Viticulture 4. Epidemic 5. Observation 6. Neurons 7. Concept 8. Impact 9. Respiratory 10. Sanitation

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Epidemiologist 12. Consistency 13. Efficient 14. Prevalence 15. Innovative 16. Surveillance 17. Deterioration 18. Fluorescent 19. Delightful 20. Labeling

**Matching sentence:** 1. Overwhelming 2. Proponents 3. Misdiagnosed 4. Americas 5. Intriguing 6. Irrigation 7. Consistency 8. Surveillance 9. Impact 10. Epidemic

## CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

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