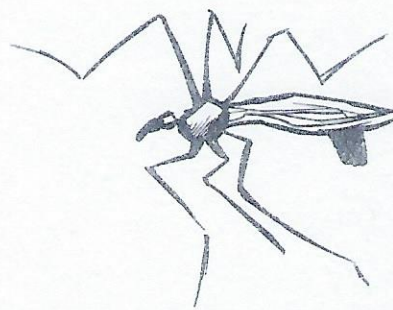


FINDING THE CAUSE OF YELLOW FEVER

Day 2



Yellow fever was a dreaded disease for hundreds of years before 1900. People didn't know what made them so sick. They would have a high fever. Their joints would ache. They would vomit. They would bleed internally. Their skin would turn yellow because of liver damage. Some people got better, but many died.

Doctors could not figure out what caused the disease. They did notice that it happened in warm, humid regions of the world. The Spanish-American War was fought in Cuba in 1898. Less than 1,000 soldiers were killed. Over 5,000 died from yellow fever. American doctors were sent to Cuba to try to find the cause of the disease.

Some doctors thought that mosquitoes spread the illness. Other doctors weren't so sure. Many soldiers who were bitten did not get sick. On August 27, 1900, U.S. Army doctor James Carroll

let an infected mosquito bite him. Several days later, he came down with yellow fever. He proved that the mosquito had caused his illness. Dr. Carroll did get well again.

It was later learned that only certain kinds of mosquitoes carried the disease. It was also learned that in order to infect people, the mosquito had to have sucked blood from an infected person during the first three days of the person's illness. Then it took 10 days before it could infect another person. That is why some soldiers got sick and others did not.

Once the cause of yellow fever was found, steps were taken to control the mosquito population. Later a vaccine was made that protects a person from getting the disease. Yellow fever is now a rare disease.

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Answer the questions.

1. In what kind of climate did yellow fever show up?

2. Which sentence in the story tells you that Cuba has a warm, humid climate?

3. Why were some doctors not convinced that mosquitoes caused yellow fever?

4. Do you think Dr. Carroll did a wise thing to let an infected mosquito bite him?

_____ Why or why not? _____

5. Describe the three things that were later learned about mosquitoes and yellow fever.

6. What two things were done to prevent yellow fever? _____

7. What is meant by the sentence "Yellow fever is now a rare disease"?

Research: Find *Cuba* on a map of North America. Describe what it is and where it is.