

# DISEASE

Divide the words into 2 groups

## Key Words:

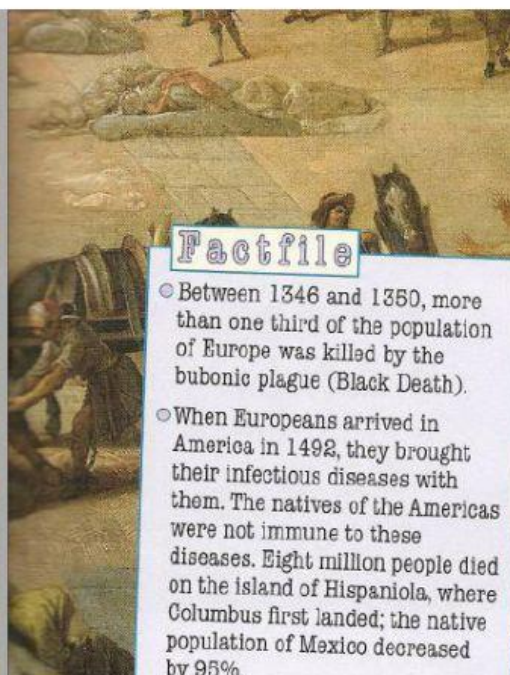
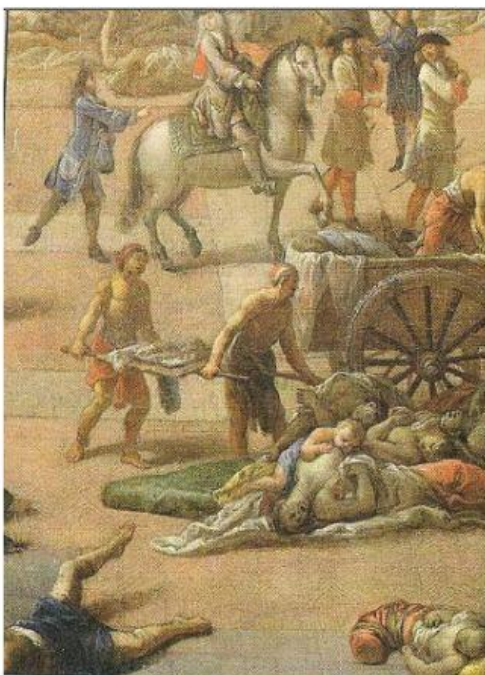
AIDS, chicken pox, cholera, malaria, measles, mumps, the plague, polio, rabies, smallpox, tuberculosis( TB ), whooping cough

Common in your country	Dangerous diseases

## Reading

2 Look at the pictures and read the factfile and the text. Choose the best title.

- a) **NEW DISEASES**
- b) **FIGHTING DISEASE**
- c) **AVOIDING INFECTIONS**



### Factfile

- Between 1346 and 1350, more than one third of the population of Europe was killed by the bubonic plague (Black Death).
- When Europeans arrived in America in 1492, they brought their infectious diseases with them. The natives of the Americas were not immune to these diseases. Eight million people died on the island of Hispaniola, where Columbus first landed; the native population of Mexico decreased by 95%.



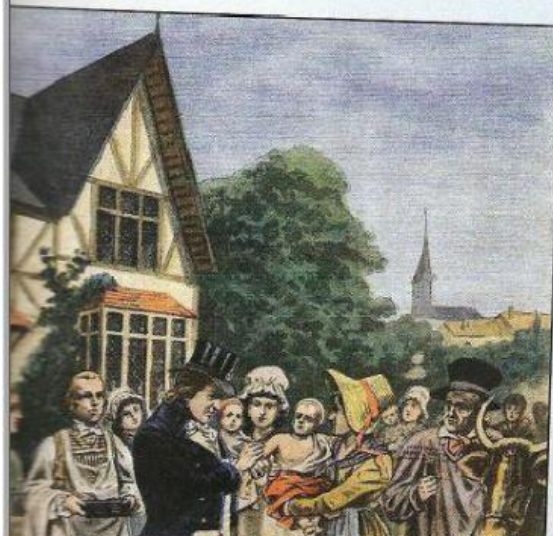
For thousands of years, there were no epidemic diseases. However, when people started living in towns, infections could spread more easily. When traders and armies travelled from city to city, they brought bacteria and viruses with them and spread infections to new populations. Children were in the greatest danger: in the nineteenth century, 50% of children died before the age of five.

Most infections are spread in the same way: bacteria or viruses are passed on by coughing, sneezing or by touching food with infected hands. People began to understand this as early as the 1300s. During the plague in Milan, the streets were regularly cleaned and the clothes of plague victims were burned.

In the nineteenth century, Ignaz Semmelweis observed that infection was spread by doctors' dirty hands and recommended washing hands before touching patients.

Another early way of avoiding disease was quarantine – sick people were isolated from healthy ones.

Vaccines were first used in the eighteenth century. In 1796, Edward Jenner vaccinated people against smallpox. Nowadays, in many countries, people are vaccinated against many common diseases, such as measles or TB.



3. In what way do diseases spread? How can we avoid them? Make 2 lists.

## Grammar: The passive

4 Find the sentences in the text and complete them with the correct verb forms.

### Present Simple passive

Nowadays, people 1 \_\_\_\_\_ against many common diseases.

How is an infection **passed** on?

AIDS **isn't spread** by coughing or kissing.

### Past Simple passive

Sick people 2 \_\_\_\_\_ from healthy ones.

When was penicillin **discovered**?

Vaccines **weren't known** until the fifteenth century.

## Passive Voice: Present Simple

English has two voices: **active** and **passive**. **The active voice** is used when the subject of the sentence does the action. In the example, **A** is the subject and **B** is the object.

For example: My mom sings that song.

**A**

**B**

**The passive voice** is used when we focus on the object of the sentence. In the example, B becomes the subject.

For example: That song is sung **by** my mom.

**B**

**A**

## Passive Voice: Present Simple

**S** + **am/is/are** **V**<sub>3 / ed</sub> **by ...**

e.g The new student **is helped by** the teacher.

## Passive Voice: Past Simple

**S** + **was/were** **V**<sub>3 / ed</sub> **by ...**

e.g The new student **was helped by** the teacher.