

# The Discovery of Penicillin



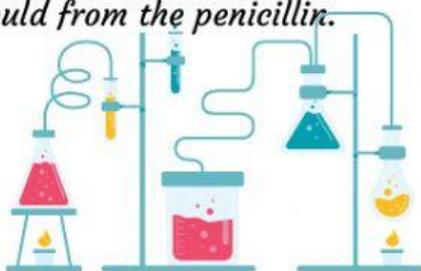
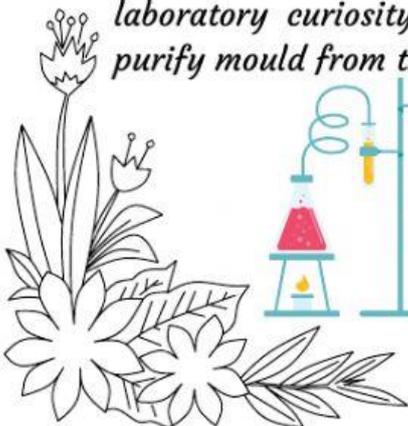
1. Write the correct form of the verb using Past Simple Active or Past Simple Passive

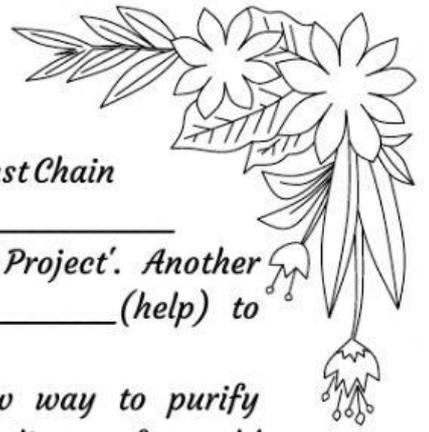
The discovery of Penicillin was one of the greatest scientific discoveries of the 1900s. Penicillin belongs to a group of medical drugs called antibiotics. These medicines fight infections caused by small living things called bacteria. Antibiotics are produced by bacteria and fungus. This feature of fungus \_\_\_\_\_ (know) many centuries ago. Ancient Egyptians \_\_\_\_\_ (use) mouldy bread to treat infected wounds.

But before the discovery of penicillin working in the backyard, making dinner \_\_\_\_\_ (can) be very dangerous. Because people \_\_\_\_\_ (can) get an infection from a simple scratch.

Alexander Fleming \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a captain in the Royal Medical Corps during World War I. He \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in the battlefield hospitals in France. When he \_\_\_\_\_ (return) to England, he \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to investigate properties of infectious bacteria.

It was 1929 year, Alexander Fleming's laboratory. Some of the Petri dishes \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) in the lab. And a group of mould spores \_\_\_\_\_ (land) on this Petri dish. And thus a medical revolution \_\_\_\_\_ (start). When Fleming \_\_\_\_\_ (return) from his vacation, he \_\_\_\_\_ (notice) this Petri dish. This dish \_\_\_\_\_ (have) colonies of Staphylococcus. But at that time it \_\_\_\_\_ (contaminate) with with a Penicillium fungus and inside there was a zone completely clear from bacteria. This bacteria growth \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) by this fungus. The name of the fungus was Penicillium notatum, and the substance that \_\_\_\_\_ (can) kill bacteria \_\_\_\_\_ (name) as penicillin. But one question \_\_\_\_\_ (leave). How to separate penicillin from the mould? The findings of Fleming \_\_\_\_\_ (publish) but none of the scientists \_\_\_\_\_ (interest) in this work at that time. Penicillin \_\_\_\_\_ (label) as laboratory curiosity and Fleming \_\_\_\_\_ (give up) any attempts to purify mould from the penicillin.





Nearly 10 years later in 1938 two doctors Howard Florey and Ernst Chain \_\_\_\_\_ (discover) the research of Fleming and \_\_\_\_\_ (gather) the group of scientists to work on the 'Penicillin Project'. Another notable figure was Dr. Norman Heatley who also \_\_\_\_\_ (help) to modernize technologies of getting antibiotic.

After three years they \_\_\_\_\_ (develop) a new way to purify penicillin. But this new way wasn't useful because many litres of mould \_\_\_\_\_ (require) to produce just a fingernail of penicillin. Soon other method of extracting penicillin \_\_\_\_\_ (develop). In 1941 Florey and Heatly \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) to the USA to see if they could interest American pharmaceutical industry to produce penicillin on larger scale.

From January to May in 1942, 400 million units of pure penicillin \_\_\_\_\_ (manufacture). After successful trial on people Fleming \_\_\_\_\_ (popularize) as the discoverer of penicillin and the roles of Florey, Chain and Heatley \_\_\_\_\_ (ignore). In 1941 Fleming, Florey, and Chain, but not Heatley, \_\_\_\_\_ (award) the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. In 1990 Heatley \_\_\_\_\_ (award) the first honorary doctorate of medicine by the Nobel committee's. In his acceptance speech Fleming \_\_\_\_\_ (warn) that overuse of penicillin can lead to bacterial resistance.

On September 28 as we celebrate Alexander Fleming's great discovery we can also remember the great work of Florey, Chain and Heatley, as well as an army of laboratory workers.

## 2. Complete the sentences from the text:

1. The discovery of penicillin was one of the greatest scientific \_\_\_\_\_ in 1900s.

2. When Fleming travelled from his vocation, he \_\_\_\_\_ this dish.

3. The findings of Fleming were published but none of the scientists was \_\_\_\_\_ in this work.

4. In 1941 Florey and Heatley \_\_\_\_\_ to the USA.

5. After three years they developed a new \_\_\_\_\_ to purify penicillin.

6. In 1941 Fleming, Forey and Chain were \_\_\_\_\_ the Nobel prize.

7. Penicillin \_\_\_\_\_ infections caused by bacterias.

8. And there was a zone completely \_\_\_\_\_ from bacteria.



noticed

way

discoveries

awarded

clear

interested

travelled

figths

