

WHAT IS CANCER?

Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space.

Cancer is not a new illness. It has been around (1) _____ thousands and thousands of years. Plants can (2) _____ cancer. Dinosaurs probably had it.

People often think of "cancer" as one (3) _____ with one cause, like flu. This is not quite right. Cancer is any illness that results (4) _____ the body's cells grow out of control. There are lots of different kinds of cancer. DNA damage is the cause (5) _____ most cancers. Things that can damage DNA (6) _____ chemicals in cigarette smoke, and ultraviolet (UV) light. People (7) _____ have an unhealthy diet are more likely to develop cancer.

It (8) _____ a long time for doctors to start treating cancer. But treatment has developed (9) _____ in the last fifty years. IN 1953 Francis Crick and James Watson worked out the structure of DNA. Since then scientists have (10) _____ to study and understand the causes of cancer, and to invent new treatments. At the moment scientists are making new (11) _____ about cancer nearly every week.

