

# Bricks

# 240

# Reading



BIRTHDAYS



TRUFFLES



LEVEL



MARS ROVERS



SOCIAL MEDIA



E-BOOK



CODING



SKATEBOARDING



MP3

**Bricks**

# NONFICTION



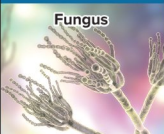
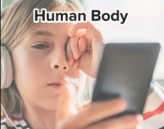


240

# Bricks Reading



NONFICTION

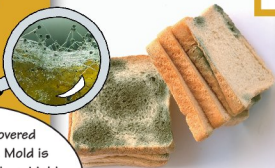
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# Mold, the Green Lifesaver!



The bread is covered with green mold. Mold is everywhere around us. Mold spoils food, items, and even buildings. But some molds are very helpful.

**Think?!**  
**& Talk**

- What is mold?
- Who discovered penicillin from mold?

# Build Vocabulary

Track 02

## fungus

*n.* a living thing that often looks like plants but has no leaves or flowers, (*plural*) fungi

## spoil

*v.* to damage or ruin the freshness of something

## bacteria

*n.* (*plural*) very small living things

## infection

*n.* a disease in the body caused by germs

## discover

*v.* to find or see something before anyone else

## substance

*n.* a particular kind of solid, liquid, or gas; matter

## extract

*v.* to get something from something else by the use of a machine or chemicals

## treat

*v.* to cure or make someone get better

### **VISUALIZE** | Look and match to complete the sentences.



- The mushroom is ● a **fungus** that can be eaten.
- People **extract** ● make a hole in your teeth.
- Bad **bacteria** can ● oil from olives.

### **APPLY** | Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.

infection    spoil    discover    treat    substance

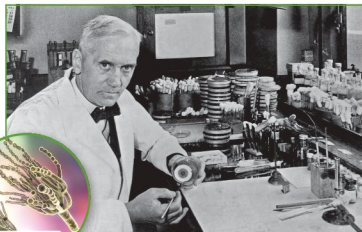
- Bacteria will \_\_\_\_\_ milk if you don't put it in the fridge.
- My brother had an eye \_\_\_\_\_ caused by germs.
- The doctors went to Africa to \_\_\_\_\_ sick people.
- Scientists \_\_\_\_\_ new facts through hundreds of tests.
- Sugar is a sweet \_\_\_\_\_ that comes from plants.

# MOLD,

## the Green Lifesaver!

What's that green, fuzzy thing on your bread? Or those black dots on your bathroom wall? It's mold! Mold is a kind of **fungus** that can **spoil** food and cause disease. But not all kinds are bad. In fact, some mold can save human lives.

During the early 1900s, a doctor named Alexander Fleming was busy in his lab. He wanted to find out how to kill **bacteria**. Back then, many people died from bacterial **infections**. A person could even die from a small **scratch** that bacteria got into. Fleming worked hard, but he couldn't find anything that could fight bacteria.

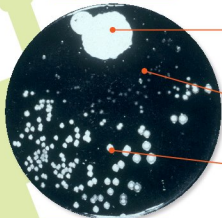


Penicillium

Alexander Fleming (1881 – 1955)

In the summer of 1928, he came back from a family vacation and entered his lab. The window had been left open. When he went to close it, he saw something very annoying. There was green mold growing on the dishes that he grew bacteria in. When he took a closer look, he was shocked by what he found. There were no bacteria around the mold! He **discovered** the mold was “penicillium” and that a **substance** from the mold had killed the bacteria. He called it penicillin and tried to **extract** enough penicillin from the fungus to produce medicine. But it wasn't easy to do.

Original Experiment (Fleming, 1928)



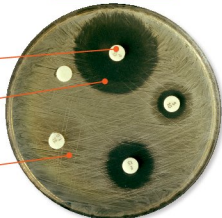
Penicillium

Penicillin

No bacteria growth  
(Zone of inhibition)

Bacteria growth

Modern Experiment



**WORD CHECK** ✓

What is the closest meaning for the word “scratch”?

- small wound     thin mark

More than ten years later, scientists Howard Florey and Ernst Chain were finally able to get enough penicillin out of the mold. They successfully changed penicillin into medicine! Penicillin **treated** millions of wounded soldiers during World War II. Fleming, Florey, and Chain received the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1945. Even today, penicillin keeps us safe from many painful infections.



Howard Florey & Ernst Chain



Penicillin is used to treat different kinds of infections.

**READING CHECK** ✓

Which paragraph describes the use of penicillin in real life?

- 2nd     3rd     4th

**Read a Chart****Fungi in Human Life**

People often think all fungi are harmful to humans, but some fungi play an important role in human life. Helpful molds are all around us.

**Fungi in food:**

e.g., blue cheese, soy-based foods, mushrooms

**Fungi in medicine:**

e.g., penicillin, other antibiotics

**Fungi in the environment:**

e.g., mushrooms as a decomposer  
They break down dead plants and animals and give back nutrients to the soil.

**VISUAL CHECK** ✓

Which food is made using fungi?

- blue cheese  
 butter

## Comprehend It!

Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the passage mainly about?**
  - a. how many people have died from infections
  - b. how long scientists have studied bacteria
  - c. how mold saved millions of lives
- 2 In the early 1900s, Alexander Fleming studied to find \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. the best environment to grow bacteria
  - b. a way to kill bacteria
  - c. something that could get rid of mold
- 3 When was penicillin discovered by Alexander Fleming?**
  - a. in 1900
  - b. in 1928
  - c. in 1945
- 4 What is NOT true about penicillin?**
  - a. It is a kind of mold that causes disease.
  - b. Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin by accident.
  - c. It was changed into medicine by Howard Florey and Ernst Chain.
- 5 What can be inferred from the passage?**
  - a. Eating moldy bread can treat some wounds.
  - b. Penicillin is no longer used to treat disease.
  - c. Before the 1920s, there was no medicine for bacterial infections.

## Write It!

how to ...

- 1 Number the underlined words in the correct order.**

Alexander Fleming wanted to find out kill to how bacteria.  
( ) ( ) ( )

- 2 Unscramble and complete the sentence.**

The recipe \_\_\_\_\_.

cook tells how you chicken soup to