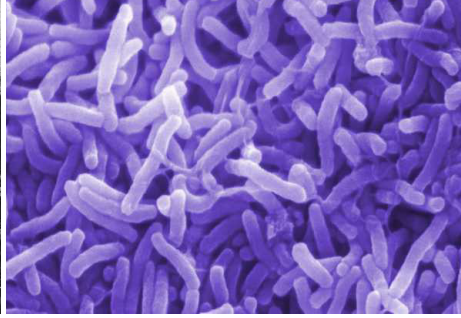


FIVE DEADLIEST PANDEMIC PAGE 1



In recent weeks, there has been a lot in the news about a potential swine flu pandemic. Do you know which have been the deadliest pandemics to strike mankind?

The five deadliest pandemics are named at the bottom of the page. Match them to the descriptions below.

- ___ This disease only exists in humans.
- ___ President Obama has declared that the United States, along with its world partners, will work to eradicate the disease by 2015.
- ___ This disease wins the prize for the Most Globally Devastating Epidemic.
- ___ It is said to have begun in Egypt nearly four thousand years ago.
- ___ When a human eats food infected with the bacterium that causes this disease, he or she can be dead in less than 4 hours.
- ___ Without treatment, this disease can kill its victim in less than two weeks by disrupting the blood supply to vital organs.
- ___ It was declared eradicated on May 8th, 1980.
- ___ The disease manifested itself in three forms: bubonic, pneumonic, and septicemic.
- ___ It causes sufferers to have fluid filled blisters in their throats, mouths and on their skin.
- ___ The world's first "vaccination" was created for this disease.
- ___ The first outbreak of this disease was in 1817 in Calcutta.
- ___ In 1919, 25% of Americans were infected with this disease.
- ___ This disease is spread by fleas.
- ___ The disease still kills over one million people per year in sub-Saharan Africa.

Scan the article below and check your ideas.

Highest Five

May 2009

Five Deadliest Pandemics

With the threat of a swine flu pandemic being reported around the world, we take a look at five

of the deadliest pandemics this planet has ever witnessed.

Smallpox

Smallpox, which only exists in humans, has been decimating populations for thousands of years. It is said to have begun in Egypt nearly four thousand years ago, and as people began to travel the world they began

to spread the disease to India, China, Japan, Europe, America, and even Australia. It causes sufferers to have fluid filled blisters in their throats, mouths, and on their skin. Depending on the constitutions of the carrier, smallpox would lead to blindness, disfigurement, and death. Of the two types of smallpox, Variola major and

1 Malaria

2 Smallpox

3 Black Death

4 Spanish Flu

5 Cholera

FIVE DEADLIEST PANDEMICS PAGE 2

Variola minor, the former causes most of the casualties as the rashes are more extreme and the fever much higher. In the last hundred years, smallpox has caused the deaths of over 300 million people across the globe.

In 1796, Dr. Edward Jenner in England discovered that by inoculating a young boy with the fluid from a cowpox lesion, the young boy became immune to smallpox. He is credited with the world's first "vaccination," as the word comes from the Latin word "vacca" meaning cow. Smallpox was declared eradicated on May 8th, 1980.

Cholera

When a human eats food or drinks water that has been infected with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*, he or she can be dead in less than 4 hours without the proper treatment. The cholera disease attacks the lining of the small intestine and causes incredible amounts of diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, dehydration, a critical drop in blood pressure, exhaustion and death.

The first outbreak of cholera reared its nasty head in 1817 in Calcutta, after the great Kumbh festival at Hardwar in the Upper Ganges of India. The festival attracted thousands of people from all over the country. During the 19th century alone Asia, Europe, Africa, and North America all reported death tolls from the hundreds of thousands, to the millions as a result of cholera. India got hit the hardest however, with estimated deaths

of nearly 40 million people.

Influenza

The prize for the Most Globally Devastating Epidemic goes to the influenza or Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-1919. Just as World War I was coming to an end, thousands of people around the world were suddenly getting sick with what they believed at the time to be a common cold. In less than two years, an estimated 20-100 million people around the world were dead from type A influenza, wiping out 2.5% to 5% of the world's population. By 1919, 25% of Americans were infected with influenza.

Black Death

In the four years between 1347 and 1351, 75 million people died as the result of a bacterium called *Yersinia pestis*, or the plague. Stories vary as to where the disease started, but some believe that it began in the lungs of the bobac variety of marmot in China. Fleas would then bite the marmots, and would subsequently infect every animal they would bite afterwards, especially rats. These diseased rats and fleas would follow merchants in ships as they sailed along trade routes across Asia and into Europe. Out of 40 million people living in Europe at the time, 25 million perished.

The plague manifested itself in three forms: bubonic, pneumonic, and septicemic. Sufferers of the bubonic plague would develop swollen lymph nodes or buboes on their necks,

armpits, and groin. These skin bubbles would ooze blood, puss, and would turn black as the skin decayed. Sufferers would usually die within a week. Pneumonic plague would infect the lungs causing victims to suffocate or drown, and the septicemic plague is a form of blood poisoning which rots the extremities and turns the skin black.

Malaria

As far as the animal kingdom is concerned, mosquitoes kill more humans than all the others combined. A tiny bite from this tiny insect is all it takes to infect someone with Plasmodium, a nasty little parasite which multiplies in the liver and then goes on to infect the red blood cells. If gone untreated, malaria can kill its victim in less than two weeks, disrupting the blood supply to vital organs. While the malaria pandemic has spread to the Americas and various parts of Asia, 85-90% of the fatalities occur in sub-Saharan Africa, where the parasite kills over one million people per year. Plasmodium has co-existed with humans for over 10,000 years, but President Obama has declared that the United States, along with its world partners, will work to eradicate malaria by 2015.



FIVE DEADLIEST PANDEMICS PAGE 3

Recall Without referring back to the article, tell your teacher about each of the pandemics.

Vocabulary focus Complete the gaps in these sentences with words from the article:

- 1 A burn can cause a _____ on your skin.
- 2 A person who has a disease and passes it on to other people is called a _____.
- 3 Another way of saying vaccinate is _____.
- 4 If you are resistant to a particular infection you are said to be _____ to the infection.
- 5 A sudden occurrence of a disease is an _____.
- 6 Fleas _____ people with the plague by biting them.

Language focus Look at this extract from the article:

*'...which multiplies in the liver and then **goes on** to infect the red blood cells.'*

What does the phrasal verb 'go on' mean in this context? What can it mean in other contexts?

There are a number of verb combinations with **go** in English. Complete the gaps with the prepositions below to make the phrasal verbs defined.

ahead along away back down off on out through with

- 1 go _____ to depart, especially from home for a holiday etc.
- 2 go _____ to agree to; take the same view as
- 3 go _____ (of a computer network etc.) to cease to function
- 4 go _____ (especially of foodstuffs) to deteriorate; decompose
- 5 go _____ (often followed by with) to be the boyfriend/girlfriend (of)
- 6 go _____ to experience; suffer (something)
- 7 go _____ to fail to keep (one's word, promise, etc.)
- 8 go _____ to proceed without hesitation

Practice 1 Make sentences about these pictures using the phrasal verbs above.



Practice 2 Make sentences about yourself with the phrasal verbs not used to describe the pictures.

FIVE DEADLIEST PANDEMICS PAGE 4

Teacher's notes

Total pages 4 / student pages 3 / week of 11.05.09 / mid-intermediate+ (B2+)

Vocabulary focus

- 1 blister
- 2 carrier
- 3 inoculate
- 4 immune
- 5 outbreak
- 6 infect

Language focus

In the extract 'go on' means 'to proceed to do something'.

In other contexts it can mean:

- a) to talk at great length
- b) to happen
- c) to continue

Get the students to give you examples for each of these meanings.

- 1 go **away**
- 2 go **along with**
- 3 go **down**
- 4 go **off**
- 5 go **out**
- 6 go **through**
- 7 go **back on**
- 8 go **ahead**

Practice 1 Suggested answers:

The fish has gone off.

They are going away on holiday.

Brad and Angelina are going out with each other.

Her internet connection has gone down.