

# Alexander Fleming

8 During the First World War, scientist Alexander Fleming  
16 noticed that standard medicine wasn't helping to keep  
24 infection away in soldiers that had serious injuries.  
35 Knowing that it was a type of bacteria that was causing  
46 these infections, he started looking for a way to kill the  
47 bacteria.

56 After returning from holiday, he noticed that there was  
66 mould growing in the small dishes of bacteria that he  
73 had been conducting his experiments in. Amazingly,  
81 Alexander discovered that the mould (now known as  
89 penicillin) had eliminated the bacteria. He named this  
93 new mould an 'antibiotic'.

103 Today, penicillin can be prescribed by a doctor and used  
112 to treat bacterial infections that won't get better on  
114 their own.



## Questions



1. What did Alexander Fleming name the new mould?  
 a bacteria  
 an infection  
 an antibiotic  
 a small dish



2. Find and copy one word which means the same as **recommended**.

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3. Describe how you think Alexander Fleming felt when he saw that the mould had eliminated the bacteria.

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4. Using 15 words or fewer, summarise Alexander Fleming's discovery.

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# Answers



What did Alexander Fleming name the new mould?

- a bacteria
- an infection
- an antibiotic**
- a small dish



1. Find and copy one word which means the same as **recommended**.

**prescribed**



2. Describe how you think Alexander Fleming felt when he saw that the mould had eliminated the bacteria.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Alexander Fleming felt incredibly excited because he had made a discovery that would help soldiers with serious injuries.**



3. Using 15 words or fewer, summarise Alexander Fleming's discovery.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: He discovered that a mould called penicillin could kill bacteria that was making soldiers ill.**