Name: _____ Date_ _____

A MOLDY DISCOVERY

Alexander Fleming was a bacteriologist, a scientist that studies how bacteria made people sick. In 1914, during World War 1, he served as a medical doctor for the army. He saw many men die from infections in their wounds.

The doctors treated the wounds by pouring antiseptics, like iodine onto the wounds. Fleming notice the infections worsen. He realized that the antiseptics did not just kill bad bacteria, but good bacteria and anything that could help the body fight the infection. After the war, Fleming soon discovered a chemical called lysozyme, one of the body's natural germ killers.

He grew the bacteria in small dishes in his lab. He had a lot! One day he found a dish that had been missing, it had mold; but instead of throwing it away he observed it. He noticed wherever the mold grew, the bacteria did not. The mold stopped the bacteria from reproducing. This mold was in the penicillium family, so he called it penicillin. Today, penicillin is used to fight many kinds of bacteria.

1. QUESTION

Penicillin is

- ☐ an antiseptic
- ☐ iodine
- ☐ mold

2. QUESTION

What does penicillin do?

- ☐ It stops bleeding.
- ☐ It keeps bacteria from reproducing.
- ☐ It clean dishes.
- ☐ It kills mould.

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3. QUESTION

Antiseptics are used

- to grow mold.
- to kill germs.
- to clean first-aid kits.
- All of the above.

4. QUESTION

Type "**true**" or "**false**" next to the following statements.

Fleming helped injured soldiers during the World War II? _____

Iodine is a bacterial. _____

Bacteria are found only in labs. _____