

Dozens of countries poised to drive out malaria by 2020

Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

1 Warmer

The creatures below can all kill humans. Put them in order from 1 to 5, 1 being the creature that kills the most humans and 5 the fewest.

- crocodile
 - snake
 - tiger
 - mosquito
 - shark
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

decade

transmitted

patient

eradicate

parasite

1. A _____ is a period of ten years. (para 1)
2. If people _____ a disease, they destroy it completely and it never returns. (para 2)
3. A _____ is a small animal that lives in or on another animal and feeds on it. (para 3)
4. Malaria is _____ from one person to another by mosquitoes. (para 3)
5. A _____ is someone who is receiving medical treatment. (para 6)

resistant

insecticide

determination

alternative

tool

6. If a mosquito is _____ to a drug, the drug does not have any effect on it. (para 7)
7. A _____ is something you use in order to achieve an aim. (para 7)
8. If you show _____, you do not let anything stop you from doing what you have decided to do. (para 7)
9. An _____ is something you can choose instead of something else. (para 7)
10. An _____ is a chemical for killing insects. (para 7)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. How many people does malaria kill each year?
2. What percentage of the population of Sri Lanka live in rural areas?
3. By what percentage did the number of new malaria cases fall between 2000 and 2015?
4. Which two African countries suffer more than 40% of all malaria deaths?
5. How many cases of malaria were there in Sri Lanka in 1963?
6. How many cases of malaria were there in Sri Lanka in 1998?

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9 September, 2016

- 1 Malaria may soon disappear from more than 30 countries with a total population of two billion after the successful removal of the disease from Sri Lanka. Thirteen countries, including Argentina and Turkey, have reported no cases for at least a year and may follow the success of Sri Lanka. By the end of the decade, another 21 countries, including China, Malaysia and Iran, could be free of the disease, which kills 400,000 people, mostly babies and pregnant women, every year.
- 2 In years to come, people will probably see the disappearance of the disease from Sri Lanka as the beginning of the end for malaria. "The people of Sri Lanka wanted to eradicate malaria even with the problems they had in the last decade. They paid for it themselves," said Dr Pedro Alonso, director of the World Health Organization's global malaria programme.
- 3 More than 80% of Sri Lanka's 22 million people live in rural areas, which provide ideal conditions the type of mosquitoes that are one of the main carriers of malaria in the region. It was not possible to kill all the mosquitoes in jungle areas so the government focused instead on the parasite which causes the disease in humans and is transmitted from person to person by the mosquito.
- 4 The quick diagnosis of malaria in children meant they could be treated earlier so mosquitoes could not pass on the parasites in their blood and transmit the disease to other people. Sri Lanka also sent mobile clinics into the worst-affected areas and spent time, money and effort on educating the public.
- 5 Other countries, including China, Mexico, South Africa and Iran, have also been doing well. The number of new malaria cases worldwide fell by 37% between 2000 and 2015 and death rates dropped by 60% overall and by 65% among children under the age of five.
- 6 In 2015, the UN and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation formed a plan to eradicate malaria worldwide by 2040. The countries where the problem is most difficult are in sub-Saharan Africa, which is suffering most of the child deaths. "There should be no deaths from malaria if you have the right health system and identify patients early on," Alonso said. The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria suffer more than 40% of all malaria deaths.
- 7 Mosquitoes are becoming resistant to drugs so new tools are needed. But most important is the sort of determination shown by Sri Lanka's government. "Eradication is the only solution to malaria," says Bill Gates. "The alternative is endless investment in new drugs and insecticide. The world can't afford that approach."
- 8 The reason why Sri Lanka's success is so symbolic is because we have been here before. In 1955, the UN promised to end malaria. It was optimistic because it thought there were effective tools. The pesticide DDT killed the mosquitoes that spread the disease in US army camps in the Pacific during the Second World War. DDT ended malaria in many countries in the Americas, Europe and parts of Asia. Then, in 1962, Rachel Carson published her book *Silent Spring*, telling the world about the environmental damage caused by DDT. The UN officially dropped its malaria eradication plan in 1969.
- 9 Sri Lanka had been so close. Two million cases a year had dropped to just 17 in 1963. But, when control efforts ended, the numbers rose quickly and malaria returned. By 1998, there were more than 250,000 cases a year. "In the world of malaria, Sri Lanka is the example of what happened during the first malaria eradication programme," says Alonso. "They didn't complete the job and malaria came back. We need to learn from the past so we don't repeat the mistakes."

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4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. People hope that the disappearance of malaria from Sri Lanka ... | a. ... eradication is the only solution to malaria. |
| 2. Malaria is ... | b. ... just 17 cases of malaria in Sri Lanka. |
| 3. Malaria kills ... | c. ... will be the beginning of the end for the disease. |
| 4. Most of the child deaths from malaria ... | d. ... more than 400,000 people each year, mainly pregnant women and babies. |
| 5. Bill Gates believes that ... | e. ... are in sub-Saharan Africa. |
| 6. In 1963, there were ... | f. ... transmitted from person to person by mosquitoes. |

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

- end the of beginning the
- end the by of decade the
- under children five the of age
- have before we here been
- the War during World Second
- the learn need from past to we

6 Phrases with prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions:

to to at from on of

- free _____ the disease
- focus _____ something
- resistant _____ drugs
- the only solution _____ malaria
- learn _____ the past
- for _____ least a year

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7 Word-building

Complete the table using words from the text.

	noun	adjective
1.	symbol	
2.	environment	
3.	success	
4.	optimist	
5.	effect	
6.	democracy	

8 Discussion

Should governments spend more money to eradicate diseases like malaria? Why? Why not?

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KEY

1 Warmer

1. mosquito
2. snake
3. crocodile
4. tiger
5. shark

2 Key words

1. decade
2. eradicate
3. parasite
4. transmitted
5. patient
6. resistant
7. tool
8. determination
9. alternative
10. insecticide

3 Find the information

1. 400,000
2. more than 80%
3. 37%
4. the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria
5. 17
6. more than 250,000

4 Comprehension check

1. c
2. f
3. d
4. e
5. a
6. b

5 Chunks

1. the beginning of the end
2. by the end of the decade
3. children under the age of five
4. we have been here before
5. during the Second World War
6. we need to learn from the past

6 Phrases with prepositions

1. of
2. on
3. to
4. to
5. from
6. at

7 Word-building

1. symbolic
2. environmental
3. successful
4. optimistic
5. effective
6. democratic