

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Tuberculosis in America: Antibiotic Treatment of Tuberculosis

Essential Questions

What obstacles did scientists have to overcome to find a cure for tuberculosis?

Why is the disease still a worldwide problem?

Before you watch

Work with a partner to answer this question.

- What do you know about antibiotics and antibiotic resistance?

Vocabulary

Review these vocabulary words and their definitions before watching the video

- **antibiotic**—a medicine that destroys or inhibits the growth of microorganisms, such as bacteria
- **penicillin** and **streptomycin**—types of antibiotics used as medicines to treat infectious diseases
- **resistance**—the ability to withstand the effect of something; some microorganisms are resistant to antibiotics and can survive exposure to them
- **infection**—the invasion and multiplication of microorganisms, such as bacteria or viruses, that are not normally present in the body

While You Watch

Answer these questions while watching the video. You may want to watch the video more than once and consult the [transcript](#).

1. How was the first effective treatment for tuberculosis discovered? Where did scientists search?
2. Fill in the blank in the following quote from the video narration: “Scientists would come to understand that Streptomycin does not destroy all the bacteria in the body, and the organisms that do survive grow stronger and more _____ to the drug.”
3. Why has tuberculosis become increasingly common?

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After You Watch

Answer the following questions.

1. What does it mean for bacteria to be drug-resistant?

2. As of 2015, one-third of the world's population is infected with tuberculosis (although only about 10 percent of those will become ill). How do you think scientists, doctors, and public health officials can address the problem of drug resistance?