

One day, maggots might save your life. How? Watch this clip to find out! (WARNING: this video contains pictures of maggots that you might find disgusting.)

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises to check your understanding. If you need help, you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the number 1–8.

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|---------------------|--|
| 1..... to decay | a. a very young form of an insect that looks like a worm |
| 2..... a wound | b. to be slowly broken down by the natural processes that destroy a dead plant or body |
| 3..... a larva | c. an injury, especially one that is made by a knife or a bullet |
| 4..... infected | d. something that makes you better when you are ill |
| 5..... to sterilise | e. to make something clean and without bacteria |
| 6..... a remedy | f. containing germs that cause disease |
| 7..... a surgeon | g. the material that forms the parts in a plant or animal |
| 8..... tissue | h. a doctor who performs medical operations |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to complete these sentences.

- What kind of animal is a maggot?
1. a fly / a crocodile / a snake
- What are maggots being used for?
2. to lay eggs / to eat healthy tissue / to clean wounds
- Where were maggots first used as a remedy?
3. in Kansas / in America during the Civil War / in Western hospitals
- How long are maggots left in the infected tissue?
4. a day / two days / a week
- Why are maggots good at cleaning wounds?
5. They only eat decaying tissue. / They are sterilised. / They are starving.

2. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Maggots have soft bodies. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Maggots are a transitional life stage for flies. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Maggots lay eggs. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Maggots make good pets. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Maggots eat rotting tissue. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Maggots need a week to clean a wound. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | Some people think maggots are disgusting. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | Maggots could save your life. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

3. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Complete the gaps with an adjective from the box.

healthy	friendly	soft-bodied	infected	complete	sterilised
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- A maggot is the _____, worm-like larva of a fly.
- You may not think of maggots as being especially _____.
- Starving, _____ maggots are placed inside the wound.
- Maggots eat the _____ tissue.
- Maggots leave the _____ tissue behind.
- The maggots' work is more clean and _____ than a surgeon with a scalpel.

4. Check your grammar: gap fill

Write the word or words to fill the gaps. Use passive or active verb forms.

- Flies _____ (**lay**) their eggs in living or decaying tissue.
- Starving maggots _____ (**place**) inside wounds to eat the infected tissue.
- Maggots only _____ (**eat**) the rotting tissue.
- After two days, the maggots _____ (**remove**).
- Your life might just _____ (**save**) by maggots.

Discussion

- Would you be brave enough to try maggot medicine?
- Do you know of any other interesting or unusual kinds of medicine?