



The Path of Yellow Fever: Matching

Directions:

Read each section and have students match the reading with the appropriate location: Philadelphia, Memphis, Cuba, and the Panama Canal by moving to stand in the corresponding place on the map.

Alternative: Copy the handout and cut selections into separate readings to distribute to students to read individually and then match with location.

01 In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt incorporated the Reed Commission's discovery into his plan to prevent the effects of diseases that halted the French project in this location.

02 After an earlier outbreak of yellow fever in New Orleans in 1878, more than half of this city's 47,000 residents flee when the disease reaches their city.

03 "Everyone who can is fleeing from the city, and the panic of the country people is likely to add famine to the disease." *Thomas Jefferson* (Refugees from a city affected by yellow fever found themselves quarantined and ignored by people in the countryside, for fear of the epidemic's spread.)

04 Carlos Finlay read his paper, "The Mosquito Hypothetically Considered as the Transmitting Agent of Yellow Fever," to an audience in Havana. His presentation was met with silence.

05 During the Civil War, Union blockades of southern ports reduced trade with the Caribbean and South America. As a result far fewer soldiers were felled by yellow fever.

06 Army efforts to eliminate breeding grounds for mosquitoes in Havana led to no cases of yellow fever from September 1901 to July 1902.

07 In 1793, this city was the nation's largest city, its capital, and its busiest port. It was also the site of the worst epidemic to strike the U.S. up to that time.

08 The mayor of the city imposed a quarantine that blocked railroad lines. Protests by local businessmen released goods brought by train from New Orleans.

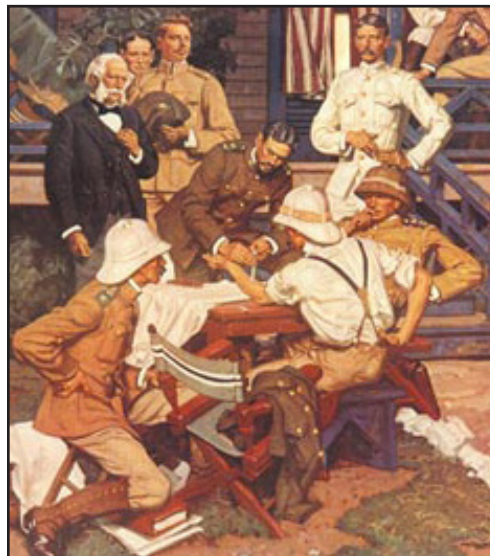
09 Disease killed more than five times as many American soldiers as enemy bullets.

10 William Gorgas, Chief Sanitary Officer, implemented programs such as the draining of ponds and swamps, fumigation, mosquito netting, and public water systems. These measures significantly prevented illness due to yellow fever and malaria among the thousands of workers involved in the building project.

11 "...Historian Gerald M. Capers would later write, "It can be suggested with some justification that Atlanta owes its present position as the 'New York of the South' more to the work of the *Aedes Aegypti* in [city name removed] a half century ago than to any other cause." "The American Plague," Molly Caldwell Crosby

12 Only two continents have cases of yellow fever today.

13 Experimentation to determine the cause of yellow fever.



14 Dr. Benjamin Rush, this city's leading physician and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, advised citizens to flee the city. His conscientious work with sick residents met with little success. A good portion of the population, along with members of Congress, President Washington, and his Cabinet, abandoned the city. It is estimated that the disease killed approximately one-tenth of the population.

15 Major Walter Reed, a physician in the U.S. Army, was appointed to lead the United States Army Yellow Fever Board. His board instituted various experiments, including soldiers who volunteered for exposure to mosquitoes that had fed on active cases of yellow fever.

16 Members of this city's African Society believed that black residents were immune to yellow fever. Offering their services to the aid and assistance of the city's white residents proved that a natural immunity (from Africa or the West Indies) was a fallacy. Two hundred forty black residents died of yellow fever.

17 "City officials wired President Rutheford B. Hayes for help; little was given. Hayes wrote in a personal letter on August 19, 'I suspect the. . . sorrow (yellow fever epidemic) is greatly exaggerated by the panic-stricken people. We do all we can for their relief.' On September 2, Mayor Flippin again telegraphed the President for assistance, but it was the last of such correspondence. Four days later, the mayor was down with the fever." *The American Plague*, Molly Caldwell Crosby

18 William Gorgas was assigned as medical officer. "President Theodore Roosevelt, a veteran of the Spanish-American War who could fully appreciate the devastating effects of yellow fever, fought to keep Gorgas in [country name deleted] in spite of political pressure to fire Gorgas and abandon his wild ideas about mosquitoes. Even Secretary of War William H. Taft pressured the president to remove Gorgas." *The American Plague*, Molly Caldwell Crosby

19 1905: fumigation.



20 "The 1878 epidemic had stretched from Brazil to Ohio. In the following months, the final death toll in the Mississippi Valley would prove to be 20,000 lives and the financial loss close to \$200 million. Two hundred communities in eleven states had been hit by the fever." *The American Plague*, Molly Caldwell Crosby