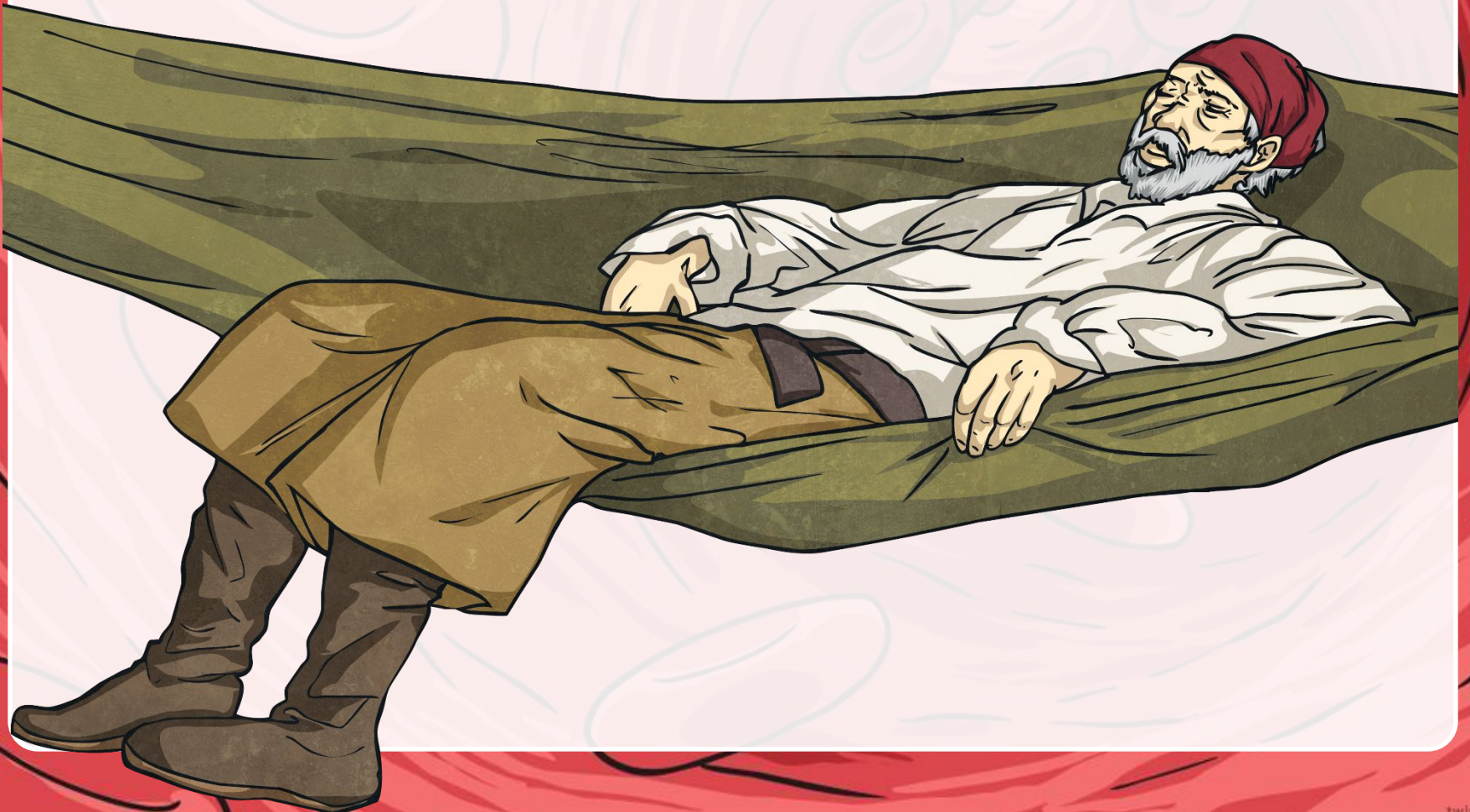


Cholera 101

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Disease of the Past

Watch the [video](#) to find out more about cholera and other diseases in the past. Pause the video to make notes.



Cholera 101

Cholera is one of many diseases that pirates would have been exposed to whilst on board ship and whilst visiting ports around the world. Other diseases included: dysentery, typhus, scurvy and malaria.



THE APPEARANCE AFTER DEATH OF A VICTIM TO THE INDIAN CHOLERA
WHO DIED AT SUNDERLAND

Cholera 101

These diseases still exist today but there are now treatments for them, meaning that many fewer people suffer and die from them than in the past.

However, people in many parts of the world still get these diseases because of poor sanitation and a lack of mosquito nets and vaccination programmes.

Cholera is a disease spread by bacteria (germs) in water. It is known as a water-borne disease.

If bacteria gets into the water supply – usually by poo and wee mixing with clean water – people drinking the water can contract the disease.



Cholera 101

The cholera bacteria infects the gut and begins to attack the body. The main symptoms are:

- Diarrhoea – that's when your poo is really watery and you can't stop going to the toilet;
- Constant vomiting – being sick;
- Stomach cramps – gripping pains in your stomach and gut.

Three quarters of people don't get any symptoms at all but they excrete (poo or wee) the bacteria and can infect others.

When the body is dehydrated, further symptoms occur in the body:

- Extreme tiredness
- Extreme thirst
- Irregular heart
- Weight loss
- Can't wee
- Sunken eyes
- Irritability (easily annoyed)

Cholera 101

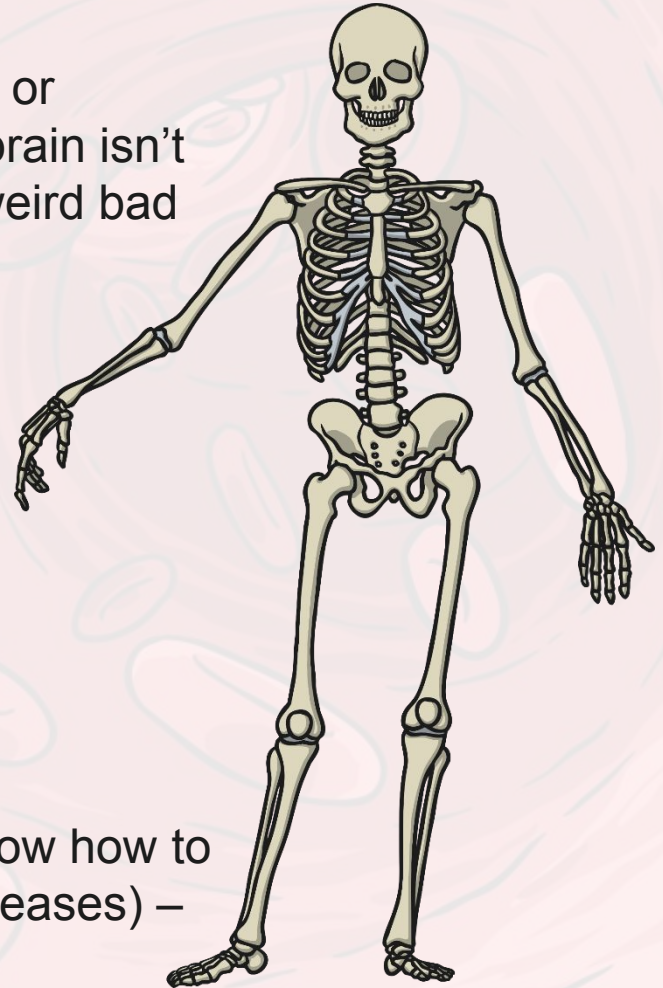
Cholera can also result in altered states of consciousness – that’s when you start seeing or hearing things that aren’t there. It’s like your brain isn’t working properly. It’s bit like having a really weird bad dream.

Cholera can cause death by either:

- Severe dehydration (not enough water in your body);
- Kidney failure.

Cholera can kill within hours!

In The Golden Age of Piracy, people didn’t know how to treat or cure cholera (or many of the other diseases) – that’s why so many people died.



Cholera 101

Nowadays, cholera can be treated through intravenous rehydration (saltwater fed straight into the blood) and antibiotics (drugs to kill the bacteria).

It can be prevented by separating drinking water from sewage (poo and wee) and by washing hands. This is called good sanitation.

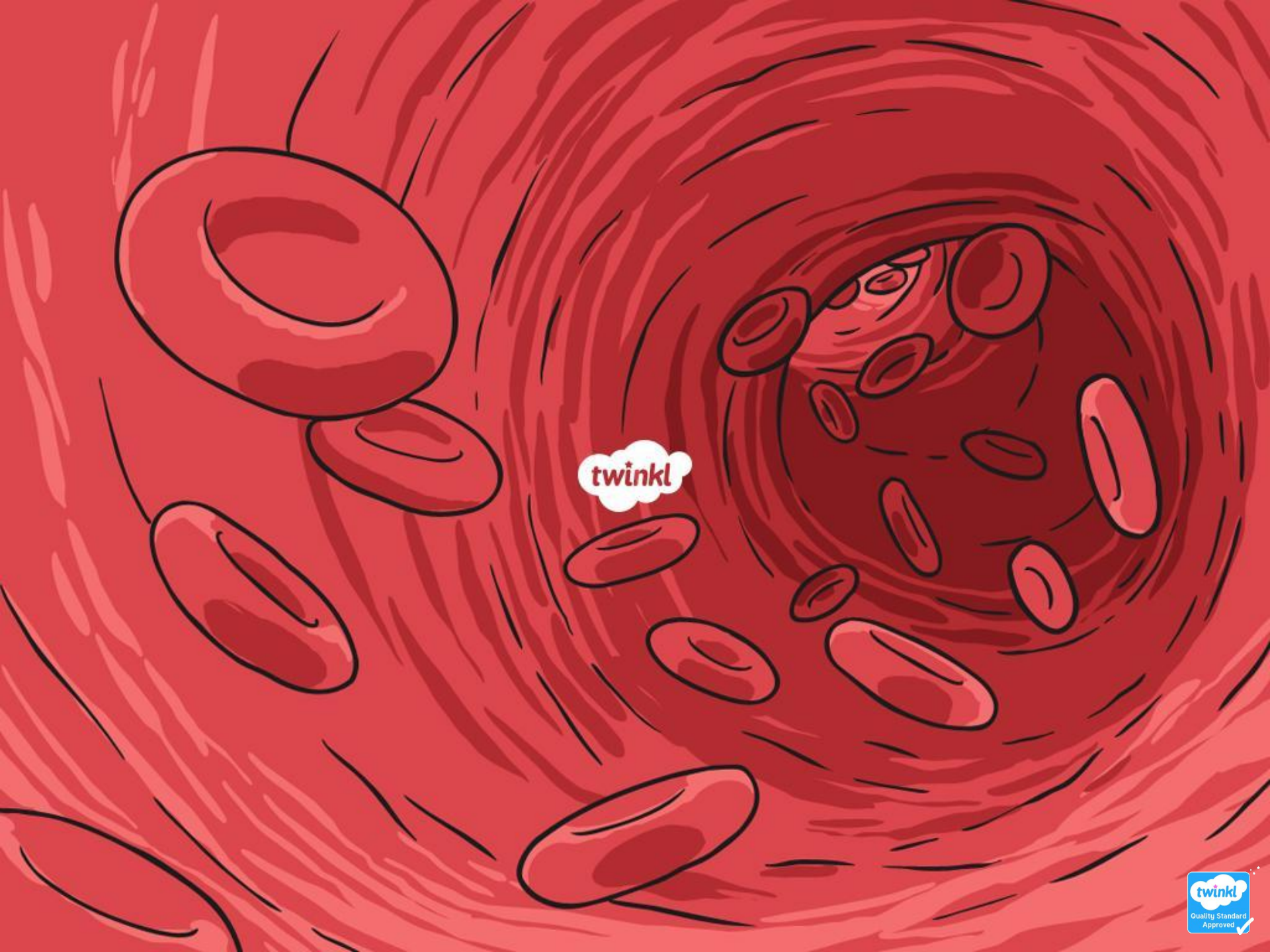
It can also be prevented by simple vaccination (drugs to stop you getting cholera in the first place).

Now you know everything you've always wanted to know about cholera.

Want to know more?

Watch this [video](#) from Ghana about cholera and how to prevent it





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