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## AoW # 7

### Directions:

1. Mark your confusion.
2. Show evidence of a close reading. Mark up the text with questions and/or comments.
3. Type a one-page reflection in Google Docs and Save it in your AoW Collection
4. Name your document- YourName\_AoW # 7 (example- John\_AoW # 7)
5. Your reflection will be organized into paragraphs

### **New Malaria Drug Could Save Millions**

Source: Allison dePeyster Morris/ PBS NewsHour/ November 04, 2011

Malaria, a disease responsible for nearly a million deaths per year, may have met its match. Researchers have created a vaccine against the illness, which is spread by mosquitos.

If you travel to parts of Africa, Asia or Latin America, you may have to take malaria drugs, sleep beneath a mosquito net and constantly reapply bug repellent.

That is because malaria is caused by a parasite spread by a certain type of mosquito, of the genus Anopheles.

Once a person is infected with malaria, symptoms can appear within ten days and include nausea, fever, headache and the chills, symptoms similar to the common flu.

Malaria is a curable disease, and with appropriate medical treatment an infected person can make a recovery. But in remote villages where medical treatment is unavailable, malaria deaths and illness can devastate entire communities.

### **New hope comes in a vaccine**

Recently released results of an ongoing trial for a new malaria vaccine, called RTS,S, showed that the vaccine offered subjects significant protection. In children ages 5-17 months, research scientists found the vaccine decreased the risk of malaria infection by 56% and reduced the chance of severe malaria by some 47%.

The creation of a malaria vaccine could have a profound effect on global health, since malaria infects roughly 250 million people each year, according to the World Health Organization.

"This is remarkable when you consider there has never been a successful vaccine against a human parasite nor obviously against malaria," said Tsiri Agbenyega, a principal investigator of the research, in a NewsHour global health article.

"This potentially translates into tens of millions of malaria cases in children being averted."

## **Infecting people across the globe**

Some 3.3 billion people live in regions across the world where they are at risk of contracting malaria.

For the most part, Malaria is found in parts of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, but it is most prominent in Sub Saharan Africa, where some of the highest rates of malaria transmission are found. Worldwide, 89 percent of the deaths caused by malaria occur in Africa, where after HIV/AIDS, malaria is next deadliest infectious disease.

Climate plays a key role in the transmission of malaria. Mosquitoes breed in water, so during rainy seasons, malaria transmission rates tend to increase.

In the United States, around 1500 cases of malaria are diagnosed each year and many of these cases involve travelers who have recently returned from abroad.

## **Combating the disease**

Currently, there are several antimalarial drugs that can be taken to prevent the disease. However, none of these drugs are 100% effective. Several strategies, including wearing full-body clothing and spraying the indoor walls of a home with insecticide to kill mosquitoes, are used to combat malaria in high risk areas.

In 2007, world health organizations set a target to decrease the number of malaria cases and deaths by 75% between 2010 and 2015, using some of the methods mentioned above. The creation of an effective malaria vaccine could prove extremely helpful in reaching that goal.

## **Reflection Ideas**

- Does the United States benefit from spending time and money on helping combat malaria abroad?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned? Explain.
- What topic from this article would you like to learn more about? Explain.
- Find a passage from the article and explain why it grabbed your attention.

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## New Malaria Drug Could Save Millions- Reading Questions

### Directions

- Read **New Malaria Drug Could Save Millions**
  - Make sure to answer every part of the question if there is more than one thing being asked
  - These questions are due at the beginning of class on Tuesday November 29, 2011.
1. In what areas of the world are people most likely to contract malaria? Explain why you think these specific places.
  2. What are some of the precautions people take to prevent them from contracting Malaria? Explain which of these methods you believe is the most effective.
  3. Why do you think scientists are so concerned with stopping the spread of malaria in children? Explain your answer.
  4. How many cases of malaria are there in the United States every year? Why do you think there are so few cases here as opposed to the rest of the world? Explain your answer.
  5. How does where a person lives affect their ability to overcome illness and disease? Explain your answer.