



Dr. Walter Reed (left), who proved in 1900 that yellow fever was transmitted by mosquitoes, was probably influenced by Dr. Carlos Finlay, a Cuban doctor who proposed the theory.

The other possible factor that directed Dr. Reed's research was the writings of a Cuban doctor by the name of Carlos Finlay. In 1881, Finlay had published a paper in which he proposed that yellow fever was transmitted by mosquitoes. Many members of the community thought that his idea was the answer to what was spreading the disease.

In September 1900, Dr. Reed proved without doubt that yellow fever was transmitted by mosquitoes. To test his theory, Dr. Reed used two groups of volunteer soldiers who were quarantined under different circumstances. One group was placed in a house filled with patients infected by yellow fever—along with their

MOSQUITOES

- Ⓜ Mosquitoes carry diseases such as yellow fever, encephalitis, heartworm, and malaria.
- Ⓜ There are over 3,000 different types, or species, of mosquitoes.
- Ⓜ Mosquitoes are cold-blooded.
- Ⓜ Only female mosquitoes bite humans in order to get protein, which is necessary for breeding and laying eggs.
- Ⓜ Mosquitoes do not bite in temperatures below 50 degrees.
- Ⓜ The life span of the average mosquito is two to three months.
- Ⓜ Mosquitoes that hibernate can live for as long as six to eight months.

filthy blankets and clothing, which were often covered with vomit and blood. The second group of volunteer soldiers was placed in a clean house where they were exposed to mosquitoes that had bitten yellow fever patients. Only the mosquito-bitten soldiers developed yellow fever.